

GEO 2203 / POL 2205 Survey of World Geography – Summer 2025

Dr. Bryce M. Woerner

Office Hours

Tuesday 2:45 -3:45 pm or by appointment. Please e-mail me convenient time slots if you cannot meet during the office hours; I am happy to meet when you can.

Course Description and Goals

Welcome to the Survey of World Geography! This is a survey course of World Geography in which we explore ways in which geography influences human activity and vice versa. We will study selected regions of the world with emphasis on physical geography, demographic, cultural, political, economic, and historic patterns. In the process, students will:

1. Examine physical and human geography and the interplay between the two
2. Acquire the fundamental concepts of geography
3. Demonstrate geographic analysis skills
4. Gain a good grasp of the physical and human characteristics of the world's various regions
5. Understanding the patterns of human interaction with their environments and their consequences
6. Gain ability to apply geography and interpret the past and the present and plan for a better future

By focusing on regional case studies that illustrate basic geographic concepts, the location of countries/cities within the world, and the political and cultural aspects of each region, this course will provide students geographical literacy and facilitate understanding of global development. Using major course themes such as population, gender, development, food, water, urbanization, globalization, democratization, and climate change, students will explore significant issues of globalization that are affecting humanity and their environment.

Other learning goals of this course include:

1. Critical reading, thinking, and analysis as well as careful listening
2. Skills in civic discussion
3. Research skills
4. Persuasive writing
5. Collaboration
6. Public speaking
7. Digital literacy

Required Textbooks: (Please get the correct editions.)

*World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives, 7th Edition by Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher, Alex Pulsipher, and Ola Johansson. Publisher: W. H. Freeman; Seventh edition, 2017. ISBN-10: 1319048048 ISBN13: 978-1319048044 [Indicated in Course Schedule as WRG]

*There are articles and web readings assigned for the course which you will find on the Moodle course website

Requirements:

❑ **E-mail Account and Internet Requirements:** All students must be on Randolph College e-mail and check your RC address frequently as announcements will be circulated via e-mail. Feel free to forward your e-mail address that you check regularly; I am happy to add it to my class list.

During the first week of class, please acquaint yourself with the GEO 2203 / POL2205 Moodle course site. If you have difficulty accessing Moodle, you need to get in touch with the IT department ASAP. For tech support please contact via email helpdesk@randolphcollege.edu, call at 434-947-8103, or e-mail helpdesk (helpdesk@randolphcollege.edu).

Grading

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows

- Attendance and Participation-----20%
- Lesson Plan (for future educators) and presentation for (non-future educators) -----15%
- Quizzes and Homework -----25%
- Tests -----40%

Attendance and Participation

A portion of your grade is based on attendance and active participation, which includes asking appropriate questions, effectively answering questions, drawing comparisons, relating, concepts, etc. Participation is 20% of your grade, and you will lose up to 10% off your grade's attendance portion for each absence after two absences

Course Policies

- You are responsible for all announcements made in class, over email, and on Google Classroom
- I use Google Classroom extensively. I post readings, articles, and instructions there. You will also use Google Classroom to turn in assignments, papers, and some tests. Please become familiar with it.
- I encourage students to challenge the ideas discussed in this class. Everyone must give their fellow students full respect and courtesy in discussions
- Late Assignments: please avoid turning in your work late. If you need to turn it in late, please let me know. If you do not inform me about your late work you may be docked 5% each day.
- Technology in the classroom: I place great trust in my students. That comes with privileges and responsibilities. I understand that laptops are important tools in the classroom. Please use them for class purposes only. Cellphones use in class is highly distracting, not only for you and other students but also for me. Please avoid all cellphone use in class

College-Wide Policies

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct As instructors, one of our responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. We have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to our role as faculty members. It is our goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. We will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, we are required to share

information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on Randolph's campus with the College's Title IX Coordinator, Jaclyn Beard (jbeard@randolphcollege.edu, 434-947-8031). We do this to make sure that you can get all the information and support you may need.

The Health Center and Counseling Center staff are not mandated reporters (counselingcenter@randolphcollege.edu, 434- 947-8130). As such, they are not required to share information about sexual misconduct and will keep your information private and confidential.

Accommodations

Randolph is committed to providing learning experiences that are accessible for all students and will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a learning difference or a disability — mental health, medical, or physical impairment — contact Larvail Jones, Coordinator of Access Services at ljones@randolphcollege.edu or 947-8132 for more information.

Mobility Impairments and Physical Accessibility

If you have a disability that makes accessing a faculty member's office difficult for you, please let me know and I will arrange to meet you at an alternative location.

Religious Observance

Students who wish to request academic accommodation for a religious observance should submit their request to faculty by email as far in advance as possible. If you have questions or concerns about your request, contact the Chief Diversity Officer, Charles Gibson at cgibson@randolphcollege.edu or 947-8579. Note: Accommodations do not relieve you of the responsibility for completing coursework you miss due to religious observance.

Academic Services

Academic assistance is available for free to all Randolph students via peer tutoring and one-on-one consultations with the Director of the ASC and Writing Program. Students can register for these services at randolph.mywconline.com. From there, instructions and appointments are available for writing, academic strategies, and subject tutoring. Students can also access a wealth of writing and academic resources via the Writing Program & ASC's website:

<https://sites.google.com/randolphcollege.edu/writing-asc/home>. Contact Grant Kittrell at gkittrell@randolphcollege.edu or 947- 8827 for more information.

Honor Code, the Honor Pledge, and Plagiarism

The Student Handbook describes the Honor Code and the Honor System. Randolph students take the following pledge: "I pledge absolute honesty in my academic work and in all personal relationships at Randolph College. I will maintain the integrity of my word and I will respect the rights of others. Realizing that these standards are an integral part of life at Randolph College, I assume my obligation to uphold this honor pledge. If at any time I fail to live up to my obligations of this pledge, I will report myself to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee. I will also ask others to report themselves for any infraction of this pledge." If you have questions about the Honor Code, it is your responsibility to ask them.

Plagiarism, an act that violates the College's Honor Code, is using another's words or ideas without properly acknowledging the source. Ignorance of documentation conventions is not a defense for plagiarism. See the Student Handbook for more information:

www.randolphcollege.edu/studenthandbook. You can educate yourself even more by speaking about the topic with faculty and Writing Lab tutors.

Free Pantry

Randolph's food pantry, located in Moore Hall 107, is available to students, faculty, and staff. The pantry provides nonperishable and perishable items through assistance from our partner, Parkview Community Missions. For more information regarding the Food Pantry, please contact the Dean of Students Office at deanofstudents@randolphcollege.edu.

Randolph Rummage Room

The Randolph Rummage Room, also called the Free Store, is a sustainable space on campus providing our campus community the opportunity to donate items and allowing our students to take items they need at no cost. These donations help in assisting the needs of students (ex: school/crafting supplies, textbooks, cleaning/hygiene products, clothing/footwear, holiday/room decor, etc.), as well as help individuals and the campus as a whole lower our carbon footprints by mitigating items that go to landfills. The Rummage Room is located on the 4th Floor of Main Hall in the lounge area. It can be accessed through the Main Hall elevator or the 3rd floor West Annex staircase. To learn where to donate or for more information, contact the Sustainability Coordinator at sustainability@randolphcollege.edu

Course Outline

We will stick to the course outline's general spirit, but changes will likely occur. Also, please note the due dates are suggestive and may change. I will announce any changes ASAP. I ask you to be adaptable and patient

Week 1

- Introductions and review of syllabus
- The Geographer's World
 - o Study Geography, Earth in Space, Weather and Climate, Landforms, Water, Natural Resources, Human Geography, Human Geography, Human Systems

Week 2

- The United States and Canada
 - o Natural Environments of North America, The United States, and Canada
- Middle and South America
 - o Mexico, Central America, The Caribbean, and South America

Week 3

- Europe

- Natural Environments of Europe, Northern Europe, Western Europe, Central Europe, Southern Europe and the Balkans

Week 4

- Russia and Northern Eurasia
 - Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Central Asia
- South West Asia
 - The Persian Gulf and Interior, The Eastern Mediterranean
- Africa
 - North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South Africa
- South Asia
 - India, The Indian Perimeter

Week 5 (Finals Week)

- Presentations
 - Lesson Plan project and presentation