

Geography 2203: Survey of World Geography

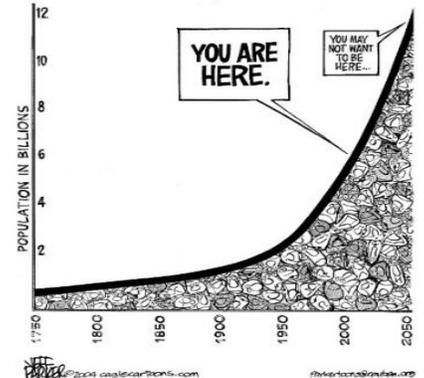
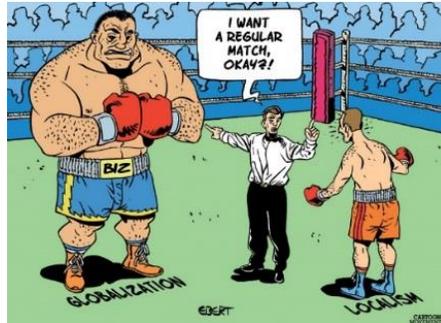
Summer

Professor Tim Matthews

Email: tmatthews@randolphcollege.edu

Office Hours-1 hour each weekday based on student's needs and schedules on Zoom Conference-*optional*
Group Discussions will take place weekly on Zoom Conference/Google Classroom

Personal Meeting ID: 672-498-9827; <https://zoom.us/j/6724989827>



I. Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to:

1. Examine the physical and cultural geography in the world
2. Introduce you to the fundamental concepts of geography
3. Demonstrate the relevance of geography
4. Acquaint you with the physical and cultural characteristics of the world's various regions
5. Explore the concept of economic development and factors in global disparities
6. Examine the relationship between the physical environment and human culture

This introductory course to World Geography will study selected regions of the world with emphasis on demographic, cultural, political, economic, and historic patterns. By focusing on tangible and concrete materials that include basic geographic concepts, the location of countries/cities within the world, and the political and cultural aspects of each region, this course will provide a complex structure to understand global development and enhance students' geographical literacy.

However, going beyond the fundamentals of each region of study, this course will also analyze both the positive and negative consequences of global development. Using nine major course themes of population, gender, development, food, water, urbanization, globalization, democratization, and climate change, this course will look into some of the larger issues that have surfaced due to globalization and illustrate how humans have continually influenced their environment.

A major goal of this course is to encourage and foster *critical thinking* about the similarities and differences in the contemporary world by examining the concepts of development and globalization. To reflect on the course's organizing themes, we will use a variety of materials including textbooks, articles, documentaries, multimedia, activities, and most importantly, in-class discussions. **You are expected to study the assigned readings every week.** Since this course is quite comprehensive, and reasonably fast-paced, **it is imperative that you stay current with all readings and assignments.**

II. Required Readings and Course Materials

Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and Alex Pulispher. *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives, 6th ed.* W.H. Freeman and Company. 2013.

Tim Marshall. *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything About the World.* Scribner, 2016.

You are also responsible for reading supplementary articles assigned in class. They will be printed, posted, and/or emailed to you throughout the year.

III. Computer Requirements

Access

- Access to a computer with internet is required for this course. If you do not have access to a computer, many public libraries have computers with internet access you can use for free.
- You will need an up-to-date browser, operating system and some additional software on your computer to take this class. I use Google Classroom, Moodle, Zoom Conference, and documents in documents in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, please download it by going to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

IV. Course Communication

Announcements

- Announcements will be posted on our Google Classroom page and Moodle page on a regular basis. I will use both platforms to communicate with you. However, typically I will only use Moodle only as a grade book.
- I will post my lectures, notes, and other classwork on Google Classroom.
- I know that it may be difficult using two different platforms for an online course, so a general rule is to always check **Google Classroom** and only use **Moodle when prompted**.

V. Turning in Assignments

- All assignments are due on **Sunday at 11:59 PM** of the week they are assigned. Any assignment turned in after 11:59 PM on Sunday will receive a zero. Students are encouraged to stay current on all assignments, to work throughout the week.
- **Please be advised that assignments will vary in length, difficulty, and the time required to complete them successfully. DO NOT wait until Sunday to start working on the current week's work!**
- Group Discussions are designed to answer any questions that you all may have as you look over the content, so please don't wait to get work done until the last minute! This course is unique in its structure, but is heavily dependent on your ability to work independently and responsibly.

VI. Course Structure

Grades will be based on **1,000** points in the following categories:

A. Class Assignments (300 points-30%)-This will be the vast majority of assignments for this course which include labeling maps, vocabulary, reading questions, current event discussions, and completion of study guide for tests. See below for specific course outline.

B. Group Discussions (100 points-10%)-These will take place once a week on the topic listed on the course outline below. You are expected to participate in all of the discussion forums for this course and each discussion will be given a grade based on your active/verbal participation and your written response. For each discussion, I will create a Google Document and invite all to contribute. On this document, I will ask that you respond to the written prompt and that you comment on at least two other classmates' discussions. In addition to this writing portion, I expect you to attend the Zoom Conference discussion to engage with other students and the professor. Both of these components will comprise your weekly Group Discussion grade.

C. Tests-(450 points-45%)-Three tests will be given throughout this course based on the readings, lectures, current events, class discussions and online maps. The three tests will be on Chapters 1-6, Chapter 7-9, and a final comprehensive exam that covers Chapters 1-11. All tests are open notes and will be completed using Google Forms.

D. Course Project-(150 points-15%)- Throughout the course, we will focus on nine major themes including global development including population, gender, food, development, urbanization, globalization, democratization, climate change, and water. These topics provide a framework to compare and contrast regions throughout the world in how they have encountered and addressed challenges brought up by a more globally connected world. Your course project will involve a more detailed study of how **one** of these core issues have surfaced and influenced a particular region's development. This will be an individual project that will be turned in at the end of the fourth week of this class. For this project, I ask that you complete two things detailed below.

Part I-PPT on your topic (50pts) I want you to create a PPT presentation on an academic, peer-reviewed article relating to your theme and region. In your PPT, provide context for the article, the author's main argument, line of reasoning, evidence, and overall conclusion that they make. In addition, include your analysis and opinion on the article and explain how this applies to this course. Please feel free to include pictures, maps, and charts to help the audience understand. Also, make sure to find recent articles that help to contextualize at least one of your themes for your region. For example, if a student's topic was "Food in Russia," here is an appropriate article.

Venkuvienea, Vitalija and Masteikieneb, Ruta. "The Impact of Russian Federation Economic Embargo on the Central and Eastern European Countries Business Environments." *Procedia Economic and Finance Vol 26 (2017) 1095-1101*. Accessed August 1, 2017. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2212-5671\(15\)00935-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2212-5671(15)00935-1)

Part II-written analysis (100pts) –For this section, write a 2-3 page, paper that includes your analysis and thoughts on your academic article. For this section, **you are not giving me a summary of your article as you did in Part I. Instead, you are providing an analysis of what you believe to be the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument and specific examples of where you agree and disagree with their conclusions.** For this section, I want you to use at least **two other academic sources** that either support or challenge your article. Feel free to use quotes and specific sections that demonstrate a connection to your topic. Think of this assignment as a miniature **literature review** in which you are showing how your article is involved in the "conversation" of study related to your topic. Please use correct grammar, mechanics, and format. Cite all of your sources and use your best academic writing.

Use the following lists to pick from to use for your Course Project

Regions of the world

- North America
- Middle and South America
- Europe
- Russia and the Post Soviet States
- North Africa and Southwest Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Oceania

Course Themes

- Population
- Gender
- Development
- Urbanization
- Democratization
- Food
- Globalization
- Water
- Global Warming

(Depending on the size of the class, the instructor reserves the rights to limit the options to students based on a first come first serve basis to ensure students present on a diverse range of topic)

E. Final grades will be computed as follows:

A 93-100	C+ 77-79.9	D- 60-62.9
A- 90-92.9	C 73-76.9	F 0-59.9
B+ 87-89.9	C- 70-72.9	
B 83-86.9	D+ 67-69.9	
B- 80-82.9	D 63-66.9	

F. Course Expectations:

- **-Come to class:**-You are expected to turn in work on time and participate in our weekly group discussions.
- **Make-up assignments**- I do not accept late assignments for unexcused absences. However, if a student has an approved and documented excused absence, I will allow students extra time at my discretion to turn in any missing work.
- **Be prepared to discuss the material**-Class participation is critical to this course. Be sure you are ready to share in class discussions. Remember that attendance is not simply “being here” but includes actively listening and participating to class lectures and discussions.
- **Take pride in your work:** All submitted work should be proofread, spell-checked, printed in 12-point font, double spaced, and stapled if more than one page

G. The Honor Code

Please note that all tests and written assignments in this class are pledged work under the Randolph College Honor Code. I encourage you to study with other students in the class; however, your tests and written assignments should be your work alone. Please note that it is a violation of the honor code in this course to look at exams from other offerings of this course, whether concurrent or past, regardless of the instructor of the course. If you need clarification or have question or concerns about how the honor code applies in this course, I will be happy to meet with you to discuss this.

H. Plagiarism

When writing, If you use someone’s else’s words, unique thoughts, or general sentence structure without crediting the source, you are committing plagiarism, which can best be described as a form of academic theft. Plagiarism is an honor violation and can be avoided by properly acknowledging the sources you consult using MLA/Chicago style. **Internet sources are not exempt. I expect you to be familiar with the College’s policies on plagiarism.**

***When paraphrasing, it is not enough to substitute a few words or change them around in order to make a paraphrase. A paraphrase must be in your own words and sentence structure.

I. Students with disability requiring special consideration

Please provide me with the appropriate letter from the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Academic Center, indicating what accommodations you require, and I will make every effort to meet your needs.

J. Course Outline

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Week 1 85 points total

Classroom notes-Introduction to World Geography and Professor Matthews –Classroom notes

Complete PPT assignment on who you are 8 slides –Classroom –**Assignment #1 (10 points)** -food, travel, birthplace, major, interests, animals, time for group discussion

Read Chapter 1-3 in World Regional Geography –textbook

Class activities-labeling the world map-lines of longitude –**Assignment #2 (10 points)**

Take down lecture notes on Chapter 1-3 –Google Classroom

Vocabulary for Chapter 1-3-turn in –Google Classroom –**Assignment #3 (20 points)**

Reading Analysis Questions -Chapter 2-3—Google Classroom –**Assignment #4 (10 points)**

Map online assignments for Chapter 1-3-turn in screenshot –Classroom –**Assignment #5 (10 points)**

Reading Analysis Questions Chapter 3 and 9 in Prisoners of Geography -**Assignment #6 (10 points)**

Group Discussion-topic #1: Do you think that a course on World Geography is still needed in the 21st century? Why? (15 points)

Week 2 245 points total

Read Chapter 4-6 in World Regional Geography-textbook

Vocabulary for Chapter 4-6-**Assignment #7 (20 points)**

Read Chapter 4 in Prisoners of Geography

Reading Analysis Questions on Chapter 4-Prisoners of Geography –**Assignment #8 (10 points)**

Online map assignments for Chapter 4-6-**Assignment #9-(10 points)**

Take down lecture notes on Chapter 4-6

Email link to your academic article based on one of the course themes and region-**Assignment #10-(10 points)**

Current Event summary-**Assignment #11 (20 points)**

Study Guide on Chapter 4-6-**Assignment #12 (10 points)**

Test Chapter 1-6-open notes and book –**Assignment #13 (150 points)**

Group Discussion topic #2-Be prepared to give a brief overview of your article in a group chat discussion on the following questions (15 points)

Everyone discusses their academic article and be prepared to answer the following questions?

- What region and topic are you discussing?
- Why did you chose this topic and region of the world?
- What do you hope to learn from your article?

Week 3 245 points total

Read Chapter 7-9 in World Regional Geography

Notes on Chapter 7-9

Vocabulary for Chapter 7-9-**Assignment #14 (20 points)**

Online map activities on Chapter 7-9-**Assignment #15 (10 points)**

Reading Analysis Questions--Chapter 7-Sub-Saharan Africa-**Assignment #16 (10 points)**

Read pages 182-208, Chapters 2 and 7 in Prisoners of Geography

Reading Analysis Questions-Chapter 2 and 7 in Prisoners of Geography, –**Assignment #17 (10 points)**

Current Event summary on East Asia-**Assignment #18 (20 points)**

Study Guide for Chapter 7-9 –**Assignment #19 (10 points)**

Test on Chapter 7-9-**Assiengment #20 (150 points)**

Group Discussion #3 Current Event discussion-be prepared to discuss your current event and how it relates to East Asia-(15 points)

Week 4 235 points total

Read Chapter 10-11 in World Regional Geography

Notes on Chapter 10-11

Reading analysis questions on Chapter 10-11 in World Regional Geography-**Assignment #21 (10 points)**

Online map activities for Chapter 10-11 –**Assignment #22 (10 points)**

Current Event summaries on Oceania-**Assignment #23 (20 points)**

Read Chapter 10 in Prisoners of Geography

Reading Analysis questions on Chapter 10 in Prisoners of Geography-**Assignment #24 (10 points)**

Vocabulary for Chapter 10-11-**Assignment #25 (20 points)**

Turn in PPT and article review-**Assignment #26 (150 points)**

Group Discussion #4-Be ready to discuss your article summary and how your article relates to the current literature on your topic

Week 5 190 points total

Critical Thinking assignment –**Assignment #27-(10 points)**

Read Chapter in Why Geography Matters More than Ever and answer questions-**Assignment 28 (10 points)**

Study Guide for Final –**Assignment #29 (20 points)**

Final Exam-**Assignment #30 (150 points)**

Group Discussion #5-Discuss Reading Analysis Questions-Answer any questions that you have for your Final Exam