Office Hours

I will hold digital office hours every Wednesday from 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM and Tuesday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. I will be available through Zoom at your request. My goal is to break the hurdles of the online setting by using technology to communicate. If you prefer another time/day or method of virtual communication, send me an email and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to key core geographic regions of the world from a geographic perspective. Students will increase their geographic literacy and further learn to think and write critically about cultural and physical processes affecting how we live. Furthermore, this course shows the geographical blend of the world’s “regions.” Through a series of lectures and guided by the main textbook, we will cover both the physical and cultural geography of our world at various scales, emphasizing how humans interact with their environment, the global exchange of goods and ideas, and the numerous geographical diversities we recognize across the world. We will also discuss contemporary geopolitical problems, issues on resource use and exploitation, and demographic challenges.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Retain important information about patterns, processes, and landscape features present in the major regions of the world. Locate places within each region, including countries, cities, and physical features.
- Develop an understanding of the world’s major regions that move beyond stereotypical or over-generalized portrayals of those regions and the people that occupy them.
• Understand and apply basic geographic concepts and skills using current data and
trends in different parts of the world.

Course Resources

We will use the textbook ‘Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World,
6th edition’ by Marie Price, Martin Lewis, William Wyckoff, and Lester Rowntree. The
book has been made available as an e-book available through Canvas. You can
purchase an access code in the USU bookstore or directly on Canvas. The e-book
version is a lot cheaper than the printed version and it is relatively easy to use
especially within the online context of this class.

Learning Experiences

The course will be segmented into modules. Each week a new module will be available
on Canvas with the materials and instruction for activities and assignments to be
completed within each particular module. Materials in each module will include reading
assignments, video presentations, discussions about a particular topic, or quizzes.

Activities and Exams

Throughout the semester you will complete the following activities which will directly
count towards your grade:

• Quizzes (7)
• Discussion board participation (7)
• Exams (2)

Each quiz has a total of 10 points for a total of seven quizzes for the entire semester.
Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and will be based on the reading
assigned for a particular module. You may only take each quiz once, although the
questions should be rather straightforward if you’ve taken care to complete the
readings.

Discussion board participation is worth 10 points and they will also be assigned every
two weeks for a total of 7 boards. In order to get full points for your participation, you will
need to write an original post and then write two replies to posts made by your peers.
Discussion boards are student-driven, and therefore require timeliness and dedication
for everyone to be successful. If everyone waits until the last available day to post
and/or respond, the whole class suffers. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUBMIT POSTS
AFTER DUE DATES. Deadlines for each discussion board will be provided in each
module.
Discussion boards will dig in further to the countries/regions we cover by participating in conversations with other students. To begin these conversations, you will first watch a “Starting Point” video(s) about an issue within respective areas/regions. These short videos (10-20 minutes) are to complement our readings and online lectures, digging into topics such as international borders, immigration, refugees, crime, conflict, and more. All of the videos come from VOX, an American news website known for its explanatory journalism (a form of reporting that attempts to present nuanced, ongoing news stories in a more accessible manner with images, video, and text). VOX has created two series we will be drawing mostly from VOX Borders and VOX Atlas.

Exams are 70 points for the first exam and 10 for the final. Content for the exams will come from the reading assignments and other information distributed throughout the semester.

Grade Distribution

- Quizzes = 70 points
- Discussion boards = 70 points
- Exams = 80 points

P.S. you shall be notified and/or the syllabus be updated if any changes on the points mentioned above occur.

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80.0 % to 77.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77.0 % to 73.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 73.0 % to 70.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70.0 % to 67.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67.0 % to 60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.0 % to 0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. (Links to an external site.)

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (Links to an external site.) for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations

To ensure that you receive the appropriate accommodation for COVID-19 related challenges, the University requires you to fill out the COVID-19 Questionnaire (Links to an external site.). Upon doing so, the University COVID CARE Team (Links to an external site.) will contact you to determine your needs and how to support you. The CARE Team will also contact your instructors and provide important direction on how best to accommodate your needs. For additional reference, please see USU’s Attendance and Excused Absence (Links to an external site.) policy and the COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations (Links to an external site.) page.

Reducing COVID-19 Risk

You can help keep classes, events, and activities happening in person this semester by following these steps:

1. **Get vaccinated if you're able.** Vaccines are the best available tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are safe, free, and easy to access.
2. **If you are vaccinated, let USU know.** Please upload your proof of full vaccination (Links to an external site.) to AggieHealth. If you are exposed to COVID-19, USU’s case containment will not require you to quarantine if they know you are vaccinated and you do not have symptoms.
3. **Stay home if you're sick** and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been exposed. It’s important to not bring any illness to campus.
4. **Wear a mask indoors.** Public health experts recommend that even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in high COVID-19 transmission areas, which includes most of Utah.
If USU’s COVID Case Containment team identifies an uncontained situation in the classroom, you will be notified of any temporary changes to your course delivery method through a Canvas announcement. Please make sure you are receiving immediate notifications of new Canvas announcements. The situation will be handled according to protocols on the COVID Classroom Exposure (Links to an external site.) page.

Class Seating Charts (For In-Person Classes)

In classes with more than 10 students, a seating chart will be used to track where you are sitting. After the first week of classes, your instructor will tell you how to enter your seat number in Canvas. You must sit in the same seat for the rest of the semester. This is extremely important for tracking cases of COVID-19 and helping classes remain in person.

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (Links to an external site.) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating**: using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”

- Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
- Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
- Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism**: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.)

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (Links to an external site.) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting. The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Office of Equity (Links to an external site.) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (Links to an external site.)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.
Students with Disabilities
USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (Links to an external site.) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

Diversity Statement
Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu, TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu; TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode (Links to an external site.)

Grievance Process
Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (Links to an external site.).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (Links to an external site.)
- Student Code (Links to an external site.)
- Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.)
- USU Academic Policies and Procedures (Links to an external site.)
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy (Links to an external site.)
Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (Links to an external site.). Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (Links to an external site.) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.