Instructor: Dr. Elham Hoominfar
Email: Elham.hoominfar@gmail.com and Elham.Hoominfar@usu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30-11:20 am; Classroom: Zoom

TA: Jordan Nesbitt, Email: jordan.nesbitt@usu.edu
Office Hrs: by appointment

Covid-19 Crisis Adaptation:
In this course, students will be divided in three different groups and each group will have to attend a virtual class (on Zoom) once a week, on the specific day for their group. The needed materials will be available on Canvas. You have access to all of the class Power Point contents and also videos on world regional geography on Canvas. During the Zoom meetings, instructor will talk about Power Point contents briefly and there will be discussions and questions throughout the class involving all students. All students should attend the discussions and be active in the class. Each week we will talk about one chapter, and students will take a quiz (students have fourteen quizzes, the sum of which will be their exam score). In some weeks you will watch a documentary film and answer some related questions or participate in discussions on the topic of the film, on Canvas.

Course Specific Information

Overview

USU Catalog Course Description: Survey of world cultural regions, with an analysis of political, economic, and resource patterns in their physical setting.

In this course we explore various issues of global significance facing our earth, through the diverse lenses of geography and through the geographic organizing concepts of location, place, space, region, movement, scale, and human-environment interactions. Our primary foci are the following three overarching themes:

1. Globalization and the linkages between places, as well as between the “local” and the “global;”
2. Unevenness in development and in indicators of human wellbeing; and
3. The relationships between societies and environments at various scales, and the human impact on the environment across the earth.

These themes run through a more systematic approach to the earth, based on traditionally defined “world regions.” To explore our organizing themes and the regions of our world, the course combines readings, lectures, homework assignments, documentary films, and in-class activities and discussions.
**Course Learning Objectives**

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject [World Regional Geography] (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories), IDEA Objective 1
2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures, IDEA Objective 2

These two objectives are pursued through the course lectures and discussions, films, readings, and homework assignments, and will be assessed through unit tests. The “current events journal” assignment highlights the application of world geography facts and principles to contemporary world events.

In addition, this course carries the USU General Education designation of Breadth Social Science (BSS) and therefore carries associated learning outcomes that link to the above core course objectives. The **USU-defined BSS Learning Outcomes** are detailed below, with application to this course in underlined text:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of similarities and differences among individuals at different life stages, between social groups within a society, between societies, and/or during different historical periods.
2. Demonstrate how different disciplines in the social sciences use alternative approaches to the “Big Questions” facing societies and social groups [Geography’s perspectives on and approaches to the big questions of development/poverty/human wellbeing, globalization, and environmental change].
3. Gain a basic understanding of relevant social science methodologies and how they are used to understand or explain human interactions or human relations [Human Geography’s methodologies and their application to World Regional Geography].

**Canvas**

We use Canvas in this course as a means for students to access any supplemental readings and to track assigned course readings and assignment due dates. Canvas is also our portal to accessing the e-textbook (see below).

**Course Textbook and Supplemental Readings**

Our textbook is *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World* (6th edition), by Price, Lewis, Wyckoff, and Rowntree. You have access to this textbook in Canvas through auto access in order to secure the lowest price. It is available in bookshelf. However, the last day to opt out for students is 02/08/2021. In addition, I provide some supplemental readings (also through Canvas) and students regularly read a nationally distributed newspaper (see below). Students are expected to complete reading assignments by the specified class meeting.

**Test: Fourteen quizzes**

There will be weekly quizzes for each chapter and the sum of these quizzes (total of 14 quizzes) will define the score for your final exam. Quizzes are open book and notes but are time limited.

**Documentary Films**

We use a considerable portion of our time to view both short and long documentary films. These films provide a means to “travel” to distant places, often allowing us to see scenes different from those most dominant in our media. These films also present specific perspectives on issues of particular concern to this course, stimulating class discussion and providing empirical evidence in relation to
the course’s organizing themes.

**Current Events Journal**

You will start working on this assignment shortly after the course begins. Students are required to daily or weekly review news stories in a nationally distributed newspaper (e.g. *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*) with good international coverage, for direct relevance to the themes and topics of our class. Students can review newspapers online (free content) or in the library, or students may purchase a student digital subscription for $1/week ([https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education?campaignId=7KL9U](https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education?campaignId=7KL9U)). Students keep a “Current News Journal” in concert with their newspaper reading. Current Events Journal Due is Apr 16, midnight. For this journal, students collect 2-3 news analysis stories per week, appending a paragraph (4-6 sentences) with personal reactions and critical reflection for each story. In addition, I try give students an opportunity during class throughout the semester to share these news stories for discussion with the class.

**Grade Scheme**

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100% to 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93% to 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90% to 87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87% to 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83% to 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80% to 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77% to 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 73% to 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70% to 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67% to 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59% to 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evaluation will be weighted as follows:

- Participation & attendance in Zoom meetings 25 %
- Readings and Quizzes 25%
- Current Events Journal 25%
- Documentary Films 25%

**Attendance and Excused Absences Policy**

Attendance will result in improved learning outcomes. You should be in class (Zoom) once a week. If you are marked down for more than 3 missed classes without prior excuse from the instructor or a written medical excuse, your attendance and participation grade will be zero.

**Nonattendance Policy**

**Students May Be Dropped for Nonattendance**

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. *(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)* This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see 2018-2019 General Catalog (Links to an external site.)).

**Assumption of Risk**

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: http://www.usu.edu/riskmgt/ (Links to an external site.)

**Library Services**

All USU students attending classes in Zoom, 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
University Policies & Procedures

**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 (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) 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.) (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**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.) (http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) 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.) (https://equity.usu.edu/) 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.) (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), 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.) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide 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 (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services(Links to an external site.) (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu(Links to an external site.) (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
Multicultural Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture(Links to an external site.) (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
LGBTQA Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa(Links to an external site.) (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
Provost’s Office Diversity Resources: https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity(Links to an external site.) (https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/), (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.) (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)

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.) (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:
- Student Conduct(Links to an external site.) (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code(Links to an external site.) (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- Academic Integrity(Links to an external site.) (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)
- USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures(Links to an external site.) (http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm)
- USU Academic Policies and Procedures(Links to an external site.) (http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546)
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy(Links to an external site.) (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf)

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE, INCLUDING DUE DATES
This is a student-centered course, so according to your situations and progress, I may change the schedule in class. The changes will be announced to students in advance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What's going on and what you need to prepare:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week#1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>W</strong> Jan.20</td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Jan.22</td>
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<td><strong>Week#2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>M</strong> Jan.25</td>
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<td><strong>W</strong> Jan.27</td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Jan.29</td>
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<td><strong>Week#3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>M</strong> Feb.1</td>
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<td><strong>W</strong> Feb.3</td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Feb.5</td>
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<td><strong>Week#4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>M</strong> Feb.8</td>
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<td><strong>W</strong> Feb.10</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Feb.12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week#5

M  Feb. 15  Presidents' Day
W  Feb. 17
F  Feb. 19

Chapter 4: Latin America
Watch the documentary and discuss: El Cacao from Kanopy

Quiz 4: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#6

M  Feb. 22
W  Feb. 24
F  Feb. 26

Chapter 5: The Caribbean

Quiz 5: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#7

M  Mar. 1
W  Mar. 3
F  Mar. 5

Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa

Quiz 6: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#8

M  Mar. 8
W  Mar. 10
F  Mar. 12  No class

Chapter 7: Southwest Asia and North Africa

Quiz 7: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#9

M  Mar. 15
W  Mar. 17
F  Mar. 19

Chapter 8: Europe

Quiz 8: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#10

Current Events Journal
Chapter 9: Eurasia

Quiz 9: deadline: Friday, midnight

Current Events Journal

Week#11

Mar.22
Mar.24
Mar.26

Chapter 10: Central Asia

Quiz 10: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#12

Mar.29
Mar.31
Apr.2

Chapter 11: East Asia

Watch the documentary and discuss:

China Blue

Quiz 11: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#13

Apr.5
Apr.7
Apr.9

Chapter 12: South Asia

Watch the documentary and discuss:

Bitter Seeds

Quiz 12: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#14

Apr.12
Apr.14
Apr.16

Current Events Journal Due: Apr.16 midnight.
Chapter 13: Southeast Asia

Watch the documentary and discuss:
They call it Myanmar

Quiz 13: deadline: Friday, midnight

Week#15

M Apr.19
W Apr.21
F Apr.23

Chapter 14: Oceania

Watch the documentary and discuss:
Eating Up Easter

Quiz 14: deadline: Friday, midnight