

Geography 15000-01: World Regions in Global Context

Spring 2023

Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00am to 11:15am

Instructor: Brendan O'Connor

Email: boconnor@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Office Hours: Fridays, 11:30pm to 12:30pm or by appointment

Room: North Building 510

Course Overview

In this course, we will learn about world history at the level of the region, considering how physical geography shapes (and is shaped by) economic, social, and political relations within different regions, why different regions have developed (or been underdeveloped) in different ways, and how the world's regions have influenced each other at a global scale. We will work primarily from a textbook—a PDF of which will be posted on Blackboard—that will take us across ten distinct regions: Europe; the Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus; the Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; the U.S. and Canada; Latin America and the Caribbean; East Asia; South Asia; Southeast Asia; and Oceania.

As we move across these different regions, we will consider how the unique histories of specific places are tied to broader, more general experiences, and vice versa—how the particular and the universal are indelibly linked. We will practice thinking critically about current events by contextualizing and historicizing them. By the end of the course, students will have begun developing the tools to answer what Ruth Wilson Gilmore identifies as the fundamental question of the geographer: “Why do things happen where they do?”

Required textbook: *World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments* (6th Edition) by Sallie A. Marston, Paul L. Knox, Diana M. Livermant, Vincent Del Casino Jr., and Paul F. Robbins.

Grading

Participation (30%) – Students are expected to show up to every class on time, having done the reading, prepared to contribute to class discussion. That being said, life gets in the way: trains get delayed; your boss holds you late at work; families have emergencies. Unexplained absences will be counted against your participation score, so if you need to miss a class, please let me know *ahead of time*.

Also, students will be required to post on Blackboard once per chapter. Students may start a thread with a discussion question or reply to someone else's thread. By “discussion question,” I really do mean a question for discussion—that is to say, not a question whose answer may be readily looked up on Google, but one that may require some further research, theorization, or speculation. While reading, something may make you sit up and think: “But how? And why?”

There—you have found the beginning of a discussion question. Likewise, if you have a lingering curiosity about material covered in the lecture, or something is unclear, articulate that as a discussion question. You're probably not the only one wondering about it!

Finally, you are expected to read the questions that others post. If one is compelling, you should respond; this will count towards your post quota. In turn, if someone's response is stimulating or provocative to you, engage with them—always with respect, patience, and care. On class days dedicated to group discussion, we will use the most interesting and lively threads from Blackboard as a jumping-off point.

Three passes will be allowed. As there are 11 chapters, this means students must post eight times throughout the semester. This counts for half of your participation grade; attendance is the other half.

Quizzes (30%) – There will be four short, multiple-choice quizzes posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. They will be open notes and open book. You will have seven days to complete each quiz. Quizzes will be posted online after class on the following days:

- Friday, February 10 – First Quiz (World Regions; Europe)
- Friday, March 17 – Second Quiz (Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus; Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Tuesday, April 4 – Third Quiz (U.S. and Canada; Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Friday, April 28 – Fourth Quiz (East Asia; South Asia)

Final Exam (40%) – The final exam will be posted to Blackboard on Wednesday, May 17. You will have seven days to complete the final exam.

Email Policy

Please feel free to email me with any questions you have about the class, about the readings, about my own research—anything at all! However, if you do so, please use your @myhunter email address, and please include “GEOG 15000” in the subject line. On weekdays, I will respond within 24 hours, but please allow me 48 hours over the weekend.

Names and Pronouns

Everyone has the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, you will have the chance to indicate the name that you prefer to be called and to identify pronouns with which you would like to be addressed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

Preliminary Course Schedule

Week 1

- Friday, January 27 – Introductions

Week 2

- Tuesday, January 31 – Chapter 1: World Regions in Global Context
- Friday, February 3 – Chapter 2: Europe

Week 3

- Tuesday, February 7 – Chapter 2: Europe
- Friday, February 10 – Discussion: Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3

- Tuesday, February 14 – Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus
- Friday, February 17 – No class

Week 4

- Tuesday, February 21 – No class (Monday schedule)
- Friday, February 24 – Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus

Week 5

- Tuesday, February 28 – Discussion: Chapter 3
- Friday, March 3 – Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa

Week 6

- Tuesday, March 7 – Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa
- Friday, March 10 – Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 7

- Tuesday, March 14 – Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Friday, March 17 – Discussion: Chapters 4 and 5

Week 8

- Tuesday, March 21 – Chapter 6: The U.S. and Canada
- Friday, March 24 – Chapter 6: The U.S. and Canada

Week 9

- Tuesday, March 28 – Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean
- Friday, March 31 – Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean

Week 10

- Tuesday, April 4 – Discussion: Chapters 6 and 7

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- Friday, April 7 – No class (spring recess)

Week 11

- Tuesday, April 11 – No class (spring recess)
- Friday, April 14 – Chapter 8: East Asia

Week 12

- Tuesday, April 18 – Chapter 8: East Asia
- Friday, April 21 – Chapter 9: South Asia

Week 13

- Tuesday, April 25 – Chapter 9: South Asia
- Friday, April 28 – Discussion: Chapters 8 and 9

Week 14

- Tuesday, May 2 – Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
- Friday, May 5 – Chapter 10: Southeast Asia

Week 15

- Tuesday, May 9 – Chapter 11: Oceania
- Friday, May 12 – No class (reading day)

Week 16

- Tuesday, May 16 – Last class

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: [\(212\) 772-4857](tel:212-772-4857) or [\(212\) 650-3230](tel:212-650-3230).

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources available at Hunter College to assist you. The Counseling and Wellness Services division at Student Affairs offer free and confidential short-term counseling to students. Please visit their website for all contact information: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/cws/counselingservices/welcome>.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

For the full CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct:
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>