Syllabus—Fall 2011

Geography 1103—Introduction to Geography

Department of History and Geography

University of Central Oklahoma

MW 4:15-5:30 pm, 220 Liberal Arts Building, CRN 16094

Professor:  Adam A. Payne
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday
Office: LAR 202
Phone: 405-974-5277
E-mail: apayne1@uco.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

Undergraduate Catalog: This course introduces all major fields of geography. Included, are examinations of physical phenomena such as weather and climate, landforms and natural resources, as well as human phenomena such as population, culture, political organization, economic activities, and cities.

Many people think that geography is simply going to places, describing those places, and memorizing the names and locations of what you see. In actuality, geography is like other social and physical sciences in that it attempts to explain how the world really works. This course introduces students to some of the basic concepts involved in the study of geography. In doing so, the course examines diverse concepts in the geographic study of climate, landforms, population, language, religion, culture, politics, and more. The intent of this material is for you to develop an understanding of the geography of the world around you. The hope is that this course will provide you with the knowledge to not only describe the world in which you live, but also to explain why.

Required Books:


Course Requirements:

(1) **EXAMS:** There will be three exams worth 100 points each. They will be composed of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams will cover the material discussed in class and all readings that are assigned. The final will not be “comprehensive,” but will include geographic principles studied throughout the semester. No make-up exams will be scheduled unless the professor is contacted prior to the class period of the scheduled exam. Make-up exams, if granted, will be all essay.

(2) **ONLINE QUIZZES:** There will be 12 quizzes comprised of questions concerning material over specific chapters. All answers may be found in the book *Introduction to Geography* 5th ed. Each quiz will be timed and you will have 2 hours to finish the quiz. Moreover, you will have only one attempt at each quiz. The quizzes may be found on WebCt by clicking the assessment tab. Each quiz will be available from 8:00 am Monday to 11:59 pm Saturday of the week the quiz is due (the quiz must be finished by 11:59 pm or you will not be able to turn it in). *If you miss a
quiz it will not be available in the future and you will receive a zero for that quiz grade! It is your responsibility to complete the quizzes, so plan accordingly.

(3) PROJECTS: Two projects will be assigned throughout the semester. Each will provide for in-depth study of themes introduced in lecture. All projects are due at the beginning of class on the due date stated in the course schedule unless otherwise noted. Any project that is turned in past the due date will be docked five points a day for up to one week, unless otherwise noted. After that one week you receive a zero. (Ex. If a project is due on Friday and you turn it in on Monday you will only be able to receive a maximum of 20 out of 25 points. If it is turned in on Tuesday, you will only be able to receive a maximum of 15 points.)

Make Up Policy:
If you miss a test for any reason you must notify the professor prior to the test date or within 24 hours of the date. If no notice is given then you will not be able to make up the missed test. If notice is given and the reason is a valid university approved excuse then you may take the make-up test on, and only on, Monday, December 5 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm or at 5:45 pm. You must e-mail me at least one week prior to this date. If you fail to do so you forfeit your right to the makeup. If you fail to appear, you forfeit your right to the makeup.

Grading:
Exams (3): 300 points  A=(100-89.5%)=670-600 points
Online-Quizzes (12): 240 points  B=(89.4-79.5%)=599-533 points
Projects 1: 30 points  C=(79.4-69.5%)=532-466 points
Project 2: 100 points  D=(69.4-59.5%)=465-399 points
Total: 670 points  F=(59.4-0%)=398 and below

Class Attendance and Participation:
It is expected that you will come to class prepared. Attendance is vital to succeeding in Geography 1103. While there is no grade attached to attendance, it is expected that you come to class and be prepared to participate. Also, respect the rights of others to learn by not disrupting class (talking, reading a newspaper, sleeping, allowing your phone/pager to ring, etc.). If you are seen with a cell phone out you will be asked to leave the class. If you use a Laptop/ipad, you must show me the notes that you type after class. If you fail to do so or if I believe that the laptop/ipad is used for anything other than notes you will not be allowed to use said device. If you are absent for some reason you will be responsible for getting the note from a friend in class. (I do not for ANY reason give my notes to students). Therefore, I recommend getting to know someone in the class that you can get notes from if you miss class.

WebCT:
To keep up with grades and to download study material or turn in assignments log on to WebCT via http://learn.uco.edu. As I do not give back tests or quizzes, this site will allow you to see your grade quickly. You may still come in a look at you test or quiz in person during office hours.
Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1 (week of August 22):
Course Introduction
The Five Themes of Geography
READ CHAPTER 1
QUIZ 1

Week 2 (week of August 29):
Weather and Climate
READ CHAPTER 2
QUIZ 2

Week 3 (week of September 5):
Land Forms
READ CHAPTER 3
QUIZ 3
PROJECT 1 DUE Wednesday, September 8 in class
No class: Monday, September 5—Labor Day

Week 4 (week of September 12):
Cycles and the Biosphere
READ CHAPTER 4
QUIZ 4

Week 5 (week of September 19):
Cycles and the Biosphere Cont.
EXAM 1 Wednesday, September 21 in class

Week 6 (week of September 26):
Cultural Geography
READ CHAPTER 6
QUIZ 5

Week 7 (week of October 3):
Population
READ CHAPTER 5
QUIZ 6

Week 8 (week of October 10):
Language
READ CHAPTER 7
QUIZ 7

Week 9 (week of October 17):
Religion
READ CHAPTER 7
Week 10 (week of October 24):
Religion Cont.

EXAM 2 Wednesday, October 26 in class

Week 11 (week of October 31):
Agriculture and Food
READ CHAPTER 8
QUIZ 8

Week 12 (week of November 7):
Industrial Revolution and the Economy
READ CHAPTER 12
QUIZ 9

Week 13 (week of November 14):
Urban Geography
READ CHAPTER 10
QUIZ 10

Week 14 (week of November 21)
The Nation-State and Politics
READ CHAPTER 11
QUIZ 11

PROJECT 2 DUE Monday November 21 WebCT
No class: Wednesday, November 23 Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (week of November 28):
Energy and Resources
READ CHAPTER 9
QUIZ 12

Week 16 (week of December 5):
The Road and Automobile
Neolocalism and Microbreweries

EXAM 3
MW 4:15-5:30 pm: Final on Friday, December 16, 3:00-4:50 pm
MW 5:45-7:00 pm: Final on Wednesday, December 14, 5:30-7:20 pm
**Academic dishonesty includes, but is not confined to: plagiarizing; cheating on tests or examinations; turning in counterfeit reports, tests, and papers; stealing tests or other academic material; knowingly falsifying academic records or documents of the institution; accessing a student’s confidential academic information without authorization; disclosing confidential academic information without authorization; and, turning in the same work to more than one class without informing the instructors involved. Each student is expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. More information concerning this policy can be found on page three of the UCO Student Code of Conduct located at: http://broncho2.uco.edu/academicaffairs/StudentInfoSheet.pdf. See me if you have any questions concerning the meaning of academic dishonesty.**

**The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations should make their requests by contacting the Coordinator of Disability Support Services at 974-2549. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the DSS has verified the need for accommodations to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.**

**If a university emergency occurs that prevents the administration of a final examination, the student’s final course grade will be calculated based on the work in the course completed to that point and the faculty member’s considered judgment. Final exams will not be rescheduled, and a grade of “I” will not be given as a result of the missed exam.**

**It is expected that a full-time college student will spend time each week in class attendance and study out of class approaching a 40-hour work week. A person employed on a full-time basis should not simultaneously expect to maintain a full-time schedule. At the undergraduate level, this means that for each hour in class, a student is expected to spend at least three hours doing homework.**

**The notes presented in conjunction with this class are the copyrighted intellectual property of the professor. Sale or distribution of these notes is not permitted without prior written consent from Adam A. Payne. This clause expressly forbids students from selling or being paid to take notes during this class.**

**Please read and keep this syllabus. This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Provisions found in the UCO Student Information Sheet apply to this course. See http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-staff/syllabus.asp (click on “Syllabus Attachment”) for more details.**