



Bowie State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History and Government



Course Title: Elements of Geography

Course #: GEOG 101.001

Credits: 3

Semester: FALL 2021

Hours: MWF 10:00-10:50 AM

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Building (MLK) 227 and other days and times by in-person appointment or virtual appointment

Instructor: Dr. Sumanth Reddy

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Phone: (301) 860-3614

Office Hours: MW 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

I. Course Prerequisites: None

II. Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the field of geography, including tools and techniques used by geographers to study the Earth and the discipline's traditional interests in location, space, spatial interactions, regions, and humans' relationship with the environment.

III. Required Text: Gettis, Arthur; Mark Bjelland; Victoria Getis. Introduction to Geography (15th edition). McGraw Hill Publishers, 2018. It can be purchased/rented from the BSU bookstore or online.

IV. The Five General Education Competencies and Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Written and Oral Communication: Competency in written and oral communication includes the ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written language, the ability to use a variety of modern information resources and supporting technologies, the ability to differentiate content from style of presentation, and the ability to suit content and style to the purpose of communication.
 - a. Analyze and discuss critical issues and recurring themes in the discipline.
 - b. Make personal judgments and respond to literature by drawing conclusion and stating opinions.
 - c. Make interpretations and present those ideas in writing.
 - d. Employ appropriate word choices and diction in oral and written communication.
 - e. Use suitable current technologies to demonstrate knowledge of concepts.
 - f. Conduct research and evaluate information using the appropriate methods of the discipline.
 - g. Critically evaluate his or her own work and conduct peer reviews of other classmate's work.

2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning: Competency in scientific and quantitative reasoning includes the ability to locate, identify, collect, organize, analyze and interpret data, and the ability to use mathematics and the scientific method of inquiry to make decision, where appropriate.
 - a. Analyze and understand the physical and biological world.
 - b. Solve scientific problems and synthesize scientific information.
 - c. Apply scientific methods of inquiry during investigation.

3. Critical Analysis and Reasoning: Competency in critical analysis and reasoning includes the ability to arrive at reasoned and supportable conclusion using sound research techniques, including inference, analysis and interpretation.
 - a. Systematically evaluate facts, opinions, assumptions and theories from the discipline.
 - b. Apply skills in analysis, synthesis and problem solving.
 - c. Apply logical reasoning in the examination and resolution of tasks.

4. Technological Competency: Technological competency includes the ability to use computer technology and appropriate software application to produce documentation, quantitative data presentations and functional graphical presentation appropriate to various academic and professional settings.
 - a. Create a document using word processing software.
 - b. Produce a quantitative visual representation of data using mathematical computation software.
 - c. Construct a presentation using presentation software.
 - d. Manipulate large amounts of data using a database management system

5. Information Literacy: Information literacy includes the ability to identify, locate, and effectively use information from various print and electronic sources.
 - a. Identification of key concepts and terms that describe the information needed.
 - b. Selection of the most appropriate investigative methods for accessing needed information.
 - c. Recognition of the cultural, physical, or other context within which the information was created and understanding the impact of context on interpreting the information.
 - d. Understanding of the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology.

- V. Course Objectives:** On completion of the course, among other things, students will be able to:
1. Define with examples the five themes in geography, describe what geography is and how it impacts us every day, and analyze and explain why geography matters. These objectives address general education competencies 1acef, 2a, 3ac, 4a, 5ac.

 2. Define geospatial technology and analysis and cite several example of how geospatial technologies can be used to help people. These objectives address general education competencies 1acde, 2ab, 3a, 4a, 5cd.

 3. Label the various types of resources and analyze what the future might hold for human beings. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcdg, 2a, 3ab, 4a, 5ac.

4. Identify and characterize the major population clusters of the world and summarize the demographic transition model. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcdg, 2abc, 3ac, 4a, 5cd.
5. Differentiate between popular and folk culture and understand how cultures, customs, and traditions vary around the world. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcd, 2ac, 3ac, 4a, 5c.

VI. Emerging Issue

This class will address the emerging issue requirement through a term paper on climate change and its impacts on humanity and the future. There will also be several short assignments throughout the semester that tie in climate change and its impact on livelihoods. More details of these assignments will be provided in class.

VII. Modes of Instruction: PowerPoint lectures, discussions, short videos, textbook and short article readings, written papers, and library and internet research.

VIII. Evaluation and Assessment: This class will be made up of a total of 500 points.

Class Total = 500 Points

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 = 100 points (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News = 50 points (10%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 = 100 points (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In/out of class assignments/Video questions/Blackboard quizzes & misc. = 100 points (18%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map quizzes = 60 points (12%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance = 50 points (10%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class paper/project = 50 points (10%) 	

Ten percent (10%) of your class grade will be based on news participation. 10% is a whole letter grade and will make a significant difference in your overall class grade. At the beginning of every class, we will spend the first few minutes discussing important issues that are in the news. You are required to read the news any time before class and discuss it in class. In order to get full participation points for the semester, you are required to talk about the news 4 times throughout the semester. I will only pick 4 volunteers/day for the news. You are not allowed to use your laptops or cell phones for news. At the end of class, you will need to sign the news sheet which enables me to keep track of news points. There are just enough spots for all students to go exactly four times for the semester. Discussions will add variety and will also give students the opportunity to speak rather than just listen to the lectures.

The following scale will be used to determine your final class grade:

90% or greater = A; 80% - 89.9% = B; 70% - 79.9% = C; 60% - 69.9% = D; 59.9% and below = F

- IX. **Course Schedule:** Although we will try to maintain this schedule as much as possible, the instructor reserves the right to alter some dates based on the speed of progress in class. Any changes will be announced in class.

DATE(S)			TOPIC(S)/EVENTS	Suggested Readings (required readings)
WEEK 1	8/30 9/1 9/3	M W F	Class Overview Syllabus & Class Introductions Syllabus & Class Introductions	
WEEK 2	9/6 9/8 9/10	M W F	LABOR DAY – No Class Intro. to Geography (Ch. 1) Syllabus Quiz	Pgs. 1-19 (6-7, 17)
WEEK 3	9/13 9/15 9/17	M W F	North America Map Quiz	
WEEK 4	9/20 9/22 9/24	M W F	Maps (Ch. 2) South America Map Quiz	Pgs. 20-45 (32, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42)
WEEK 5	9/27 9/29 10/1	M W F	The Geography of Natural Resources (Ch. 12)	Pgs. 334-373 (338, 343-344, 353-354, 364, 371)
WEEK 6	10/4 10/6 10/8	M W F	Europe Map Quiz	
WEEK 7	10/11 10/13 10/15	M W F	Exam # 1 review	
WEEK 8	10/18 10/20 10/22	M W F	Exam # 1 Population Geography (Ch. 5) Europe Map Quiz. Term paper instructions	Pgs. 110-140 (115, 119, 120, 123, 128, 129)
WEEK 9	10/25 10/27 10/29	M W F	Africa (1) Map Quiz	
WEEK 10	11/1 11/3 11/5	M W F	Africa (2) Map Quiz	
WEEK 11	11/8 11/10 11/12	M W F		
WEEK 12	11/15 11/17 11/19	M W F	Cultural Geography (Ch. 6) Asia Map Quiz	Pgs. 141-184 (145, 153, 157, 163, 166, 168, 172, 179, 182)
WEEK 13	11/22 11/24 11/26	M W F	Term Papers due by midnight (submit online) Thanksgiving – No Class	No Late Acceptance
WEEK 14	11/29 12/1 12/3	M W F	Exam # 2 Review Exam # 2	

WEEK 15	12/6	M	Movie	
	12/8	W	Movie	
	12/10	F	Movie	
WEEK 16	12/13		Last day of Classes	
	12/15		University Final Exams Week (No Final Exam in this class)	
	12/17			

X. Policies on Plagiarism, Attendance, Deadlines, and Conduct:

1. Plagiarism: It will be taken for granted that any work, oral or written, that a student does for any course is his/her original work. Any violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism includes any form of cheating on examinations, tests, quizzes and any unacknowledged and/or undocumented use of another's writing or ideas published or unpublished, including copying or rewording information found on the internet. A student who plagiarizes will receive a failing grade for the particular assignment and may also be expelled from the course. Students should consult the 2010-2011 Bowie State University Undergraduate Catalog (page 102) for more details.
2. Attendance: The attendance policy allows unexcused absences up to two times the number of lecture hours for a course. A student who has unexcused absences exceeding two times the number of lecture hours for a course has surpassed the number of allowable unexcused absences and is in violation of the class attendance policy. The student who exceeds the allowable number of **unexcused absences (5 classes) may receive an F** for unsatisfactory class attendance. Absences will be excused for school sponsored activities, medical emergencies, or funerals with a written note from a doctor, an obituary that lists the date and time of the funeral, or a signed memo from a school official. Regular doctor appointments, work absences, family vacations, etc., are not acceptable. Absent students with written verification must make up all work and are responsible for contacting the instructor immediately (before the absence or no later than the next class) to find out about assignments missed during their absence. Students with an excused absence must make up any missed work within the **next two classes**. If you are absent without a written verification, you will not be allowed to make up any missed class work or take online quizzes. **You will not be allowed to make up any missed points due to unexcused absences.**
3. Tardiness: Students must come to class on time. Roll will be taken every single day at the beginning of class. **You will receive 1 point/day for coming in on time (when your name is called during roll).** If you arrive after I call your name, you will receive a zero out of one point for the day. Tardiness and a lack of attendance/participation will lower one's grade for the course. Approximately 10% of your class grade comes from attendance. If you come in after your name has been called, please come up to me at the end of class to inform me that you were in attendance so that I don't mark you absent for the day.
4. Deadlines: All assignments/quizzes are to be turned in by the due date and time. Late work will not be accepted. On the rare occasion that you are not able to submit an assignment on time due to an emergency, please contact your instructor immediately. Makeups will only be allowed with a **written verification** and it is completely up to the discretion of the instructor to determine if the reason is an emergency.

5. Conduct: Cellular telephones must be silenced/turned off and put away in your bags/pockets during class. **Any use of cell phones will result in an automatic deduction of 50 points (10% of class grade) from the student's overall grade.** Students that need to leave class prior to the end of the class period must indicate that to the instructor prior to the beginning of the class.

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the course, students acknowledge their responsibility to know and comply with all course requirements and policies.

- XI. **Special Accommodations:** Bowie State University supports all students in their academic endeavors. Should you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact BSU's Disability Support Services Program (DSSP) Coordinator - Dr. Michael Hughes, to register for reasonable accommodations. Dr. Hughes is located in the Thurgood Marshall Library, Lower Level, Suite 082, Room 8212. He can be reached at (301) 860 – 4067 and/or mhughes@bowiestate.edu. Please go to the following website for more information: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-support-services/> If already registered with this program, please provide the DSSP accommodation forms to the professor immediately to describe what accommodations you are requesting. **It is the student's responsibility to contact your instructor at the beginning and again throughout the semester in order for the instructor to make appropriate accommodations.** Bowie State University maintains a policy of equal opportunity for all persons. No person shall be subject to discrimination under any program or activity of the university on the basis of gender, sexual preference, race, age, color, religion, national origin, or disability.
- **BSU Counseling Services** is an additional but vital resource students can use for support. All information regarding their office can be found on their website <https://www.bowiestate.edu/campus-life/health-and-wellness/counseling-services/>
 - Bowie State University shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or veteran status.
 - Please refer to the BSU Academic Calendar for important dates <https://bowiestate.edu/about/administration-and-governance/division-of-enrollment-management/registrars-office/2021-2022-academic-calendar.pdf>
- XII. **Bibliography and Glossary:** The assigned text contains excellent bibliographies, organized by subject matter, which hereby are incorporated into this course as requisite reference material for students. In addition, below is Dr. Reddy's Top 10 list of suggested readings that will be useful in understanding geography and its importance in our everyday lives.
- Alvarez, K, et al. 2005. *Why Geography is Important.*
<http://geography.vt.edu/Why%20is%20Geography%20Important.pdf>

- Canadian Council for Geographic Education. 2017. *Top 10 Reasons to Study Geography*.
http://www.cangeoeducation.ca/programs/geoliteracy/docs/GeoLiteracy_letters.pdf
- de Blij, H. 2008. *The Power of Place*. Oxford University Press.
- de Blij, H. 2012. *Why Geography Matters: More Than Ever*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press.
- Diamond, JM. 1999. *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Friedman, TL. 2006. *The World is Flat: The Globalized World in the Twenty-First Century*. Penguin. London.
- Globalisation. <https://globaldimension.org.uk/articles/globalisation/>
- McDougall, W. 2003. *Why Geography Matters...But So Little is Learned*. *Orbis* 47(2):217-233.
http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0030438703000061/1-s2.0-S0030438703000061-main.pdf?_tid=15205184-e329-11e6-a658-00000aab0f27&acdnat=1485367807_bb018b1e1f70c740821db17381e61e73
- Monmoier, M. 1996. *How to Lie with Maps*. 2nd ed. University of Chicago Press.
- Thompson, PJ. 2017. Place Matters, and So Does Race. *Urban Affairs Review* 53(1):210-218.