

Global Geography

ENVI 419 – 001 (CRN: 51407), TR 2-3:15 pm, Dreiser Hall 0305, fall 2018 (8/21—12/14/2018)

Foundational Studies (Upper Division Integrative Electives, 3 Credit Hours)

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Course Purpose & Description: Geography is an interdisciplinary field of study straddling nature and culture. It integrates a range of academic disciplines and intellectual approaches designed to acquire and create knowledge. Global geography takes students into an educational world tour of twelve major geographic regions with a number of stopovers at selected landmarks of global culture and geopolitics. The course combines a global perspective, a regional framework, and a critical thinking approach to ensure that the students will be able to (1) analyze problems, (2) think critically and creatively, (3) integrate multiple ways of knowing (e.g., scientific, historical, artistic, literary, ethical, social behavioral), (4) recognize the ethical, social, and cultural implications of issues, and (5) communicate professionally, persuasively, and effectively. The course fulfills the Foundational Studies (Integrative and Upper Division Electives) course requirements at Indiana State University. Course materials include (1) class presentations and discussions, (2) textbook and online short readings, (3) PowerPoint slides, (4) in-class and online videos, and (5) current global affairs¹ that affect and reflect the dynamics of rivalries and confrontations between TWO loose international coalitions of states or geopolitical axes (defined in this course as Axis 1 and Axis 2). The current LEADING members of Axis 1 include the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the State of Israel, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. The current LEADING members of Axis 2 include Russia, China, Iran, and Syria. The current MAIN adversaries within the TWO axes are the United States & Israel against Iran & Syria (because Iran & Syria support Palestinian Hamas and Lebanese Hezbollah in their armed resistance against the US-backed Israeli occupation of Palestine). Other leading states (including Russia and China) come and go according to their geopolitical goals. For example, Russia supports the Syrian government but has also normal relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, which all support the Israeli-inspired US goal to overthrow the Syrian government. US support for overthrowing the pro-Russian government in Ukraine in 2014 and the rise of media-inspired Russophobes in the US are all targeting Russian relations with Syria and Iran. Similarly, China has used the veto power at the UN Security Council to deflect actions against Syria while the US continues to challenge China's claim in South China Sea. Even US hostility toward Venezuela and North Korea has links to US support for Israel.² Understanding the global geopolitics and dynamics of the Axis1-Axis2 rivalries and confrontations will provide answers to puzzling questions such as why did the United States, Israel, ISIS, and Al-Qaida fight on the same side (<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/are-al-qaeda-affiliates-fighting-alongside-u-s-rebels-in-syrias-south/>) for years to overthrow the Syrian government? Why did the United States have to spend \$6 trillion (according to President Trump, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYLUIi7Aefo>) on pro-Israel Middle East wars in recent years (especially in Iraq) instead of spending the money to assist some 43 million [US Census Bureau, Poverty in 2015] Americans in poverty and rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure? Why did President Obama organize a series of international coalitions to overthrow governments in Libya, Syria, & Yemen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSBRk10E5R8> for some undeclared goals, some of which were later found buried inside the over 30,000 emails & email attachments in the Hillary Clinton Email Archive https://wikileaks.org/clinton-emails/Clinton_Email_November_Release/C05794498.pdf leaked by WikiLeaks on the eve of the US 2016 election?

Course Requirements & Grading: **First**, there will be **6 quizzes** (worth 24% of the final grade) and a **final exam** (worth 26 percent of the final grade) consisting **mostly** of multiple-choice questions, with some true/false and fill-in-the-blank questions drawn from the textbook (except possible questions drawn from online/in-class videos). Study guides for the quizzes & the final exam are posted on Blackboard. **Second**, there will be **5 microtheme** [short writing-to-learn] **essays** (worth 25 percent of the final grade) focused on critical

¹ "Inter-state strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in U.S. national security... Iran continues to sow violence and remains the most significant challenge to Middle East stability," *US National Defense Strategy 2018*, <https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>

* Israel Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman: "The three main problems with which we have to deal are **Iran, Iran, Iran**." Israel National News, 2/17/2017, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/225191>

* US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issues threatening demands that Iran (<http://www.leader.ir>) must end support for all its anti-Israel allies in the Middle East, including the **Syrian government** (<https://sana.sy/en>), **Lebanese Hezbollah** (<https://www.moqawama.org>), **Palestinian Hamas** (<http://hamas.ps/ar>), **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** (<https://saraya.ps>), **Yemeni Ansarullah** (<http://www.ansarollah.com>), and the **IRG Quds Force** within the Iranian Armed Forces (<http://aja.ir/Portal/Home>). After the Deal: A New Iran Strategy, The Heritage Foundation, 5/21/2018, <https://www.heritage.org/defense/event/after-the-deal-new-iran-strategy>

* Iranian President Hassan Rohani in response to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech on Iran: "Who are you to decide for Iran and the world?" Radio Free Europe, 5/21/2018, <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-us-pompeo-to-outline-strategy-after-u-s-withdrawal-from-nuclear-deal/29239822.html>

* In 1979 Iran ended its alliance with Israel, severed all diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel, expelled the Israelis from Iran, declared that Israel is an illegitimate state, and began its concrete support for the Palestinians by designating the annual International Day of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, turning the Israeli embassy in Iran into the Embassy of Palestine in Iran, and enacting a new constitution which stipulates (in Article 16) that the Arabic Language must be taught "in all classes of secondary school and in all areas of study" and stipulates (in Article 146) that "the establishment of any kind of foreign military base in Iran, even for peaceful purposes, is forbidden." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65xpvMCSm-c>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArW8BGvIRyM>; <https://www.ipost.com/Middle-East/Iran-News/Rouhani-to-Swiss-president-Israel-is-illegitimate-561443>; http://en.mfa.ir/uploads/Constitution_8032.pdf

* US General Wesley Clark: *The US will attack 7 countries* (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran) in 5 years, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUCwCgthp_E

² Israel said the [Syrian nuclear] reactor [Israel claims to have destroyed in 2007] was being built with help from North Korea, Haaretz, 3/21/2018, <http://www.businessinsider.com/israel-admits-bombing-syria-nuclear-reactor-warn-iran-2018-3>; <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/report-n-korea-asked-israel-for-1-billion-to-stop-missile-sale-1.6249205>

Venezuela ordered the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and some embassy staff on Tuesday to protest Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, CBS News, 1/6/2009, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/venezuela-expels-israeli-ambassador/>

issues in some of the 12 geographic regions. **Third**, there will be **2 critical thinking research essays** (worth 25 percent of the final grade) focused on one global religion and one global conflict. There will be no late submission or make-up work for any of the 13 low-point assignments (6 quizzes, 5 microthemes, and 2 essays). But you have the opportunity to earn up to 10% extra credits of the final grade to help offset possible loss of points when missing assignments due to emergency or health reasons, computer or browser crash, Internet connection or Blackboard access, or other technical or non-technical problems you may encounter during the semester (**take care of your health, time management, and IT equipment!**). Final grades will be based on scores obtained out of a total of 100 points PLUS 10 possible extra credit points. Each quiz includes ONE extra credit question (worth 0.5 points) while the final exam includes ONE or more extra credit questions (worth 3 points) drawn from any course materials (study guide, PowerPoint slides, videos, current issues, etc.). Another 4 extra credit points could be earned by participating in one introductory discussion board & completing course evaluation. Grades are assigned according to the following scale: A+ (100% and above), A (96 to 99%), A- (90 to 95%), B+ (86 to 89%), B (83-85%), B- (80 to 82%), C+ (76 to 79%), C (73 to 75%), C- (70 to 72%), D+ (66 to 69%), D (63 to 65%), D- (60 to 62%), & F (below 60%). See Blackboard for assignment instructions & deadlines, which are part of this syllabus. At least the 10% extra credits should help offset missing assignments, and at best they should make all grades in this course jump up one full grade letter.

Course Standards & Policies: Students are responsible for instructor announcements on Blackboard, via email, or during class meetings. Students are expected to enter class on time and remain during the entire scheduled period. By 2:00 pm, each student should have printed his/her FULL name on the attendance sheet. Each student is entitled to THREE absences with no question or grade penalty during the semester. Each additional absence (with or without justification) means missing some course content and will incur a grade penalty of 2 points, which will be deducted from the student's score. Tardiness (coming late or leaving early) with or without justification will incur a grade penalty of 1 point. Therefore, you should manage your absences efficiently! All electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) must be TURNED OFF before entering the classroom and kept OUT OF SIGHT. Taking class notes should be only on a piece of paper. While the University has chosen to require laptops of its students, the University also recognizes and respects the right of faculty to conduct their classes as they deem appropriate. In this course, laptop and cell phone usage is forbidden in the classroom. Be courteous, treat class members with respect, and try to keep the same classroom seat throughout the semester. Avoid anything (including eating, drinking, sleeping, reading, recording class, using phones or computers, coming late, leaving early, triggering fragrance sensitivity/allergy, or conversing during lectures) that can disturb the class learning process, distract you, or distract others. A student who does not comply with course standards and policies will be asked to leave the classroom, will be reported absent, and his/her action could be reported (to the Office of Student Conduct and Integrity) as a classroom disruption and/or an academic misconduct. Academic dishonesty: 'In the academic community the high value of honesty mandates a corresponding intolerance of dishonesty', which includes cheating, plagiarism, falsification, forgery, obstruction, multiple submission, facilitating academic dishonesty, misconduct in research and creative endeavors, misuse of academic resources, misuse of intellectual property, and violation of ethical and professional standards (See the Code Of Student Conduct at: <https://www.indstate.edu/code-of-student-conduct/academic-policies/defining-misconduct>). Microthemes and essays must be uploaded (by the deadline) through the TurnItIn link, which can help detect plagiarism (email and other forms of submissions will NOT be accepted). Academic dishonesty will subject its author(s) to 0 points on the given assignment or failure in the course, and could lead to further disciplinary action. University policies regarding documented disabilities, academic freedom, expected personal responsibilities, student disclosures of sexual misconduct, it's on blue online education program, and other matters apply to this course and are available at the following links: <https://www.indstate.edu/services/student-success/cfss/student-support-services/disability-student-services>; <https://www.indstate.edu/student-conduct/code-of-student-conduct/standards>; <https://www.indstate.edu/administration/ogc/policy-index/921>; <http://faculty.indstate.edu/melyassini/recommended%20syllabus%20statement.pdf>

Course Required Textbook: Jan Nijman, Peter Muller, and Harm de Blij, *Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts*, **17th Edition, 2017**. Get an e-book bundle (9781119447573) from ISU Bookstore.

Course Blackboard Documents (assigned short readings, PowerPoint slides, videos or video synopses, current issues in the news, study guides, assignment instructions, and deadlines for assignments) are available at: <http://blackboard.indstate.edu>. **Check your Blackboard course site & email on a daily basis for further instructions, announcements, and details not in the syllabus.**

Course Calendar (details about assignments and deadlines are posted on Blackboard):

Week 1 (8/21-23): Introduction to syllabus and course

Week 2 (8/28-30): Textbook Introduction/Appendices/Glossary/Index, **Quiz1, due 8/30**

Week 3 (9/4-6): North America (Chapter 1), **Microtheme1, Quiz2, due 9/6**

Week 4 (9/11-13): Middle America and South America (Chapters 2 & 3) **Quiz3, due 9/13, 3-week attendance reporting**

Week 5 (9/18-20): Europe and Russia/Central Asia (Chapters 4 & 5), **Microtheme2, Quiz4, due 9/20,**

Week 6 (9/25-27): North Africa/Southwest Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (Chapters 6 & 7) **Quiz5, due 9/27, interim grading**

Week 7 (10/2-4): South Asia and East Asia (Chapters 8 & 9), **Microtheme3, Quiz6, due 10/4**

Week 8 (10/9-11): Southeast Asia and Austral Realm (Chapters 10 & 11) **Microthem4, due 10/11**

Week 9 (10/16-18): Pacific realm and Polar Futures (Chapter 12), **Microtheme5, due 10/18**

Week 10 (10/23-25): Critical thinking essay1 (global religion)

Week 11 (10/30-11/1): **Critical thinking essay1 (global religion), essay1 due 11/8**

Week 12 (11/6-8): Critical thinking essay2 (global conflict)

Week 13 (11/13-15): Critical thinking essay2 (global conflict)

Thanksgiving Break, 11/20-22, No classes

Week 14 (11/27-29): **Critical thinking essay2 (global conflict), essay2 due 11/29**

Week 15 (12/4-6): Study Week: Review and conclusion

Week 16 (12/11-13): **Final Exam will be deployed online on Blackboard between 12/12/18 at 11:59 pm and 12/13/18 at 11:59 pm**