

SOC141: World Regional Geography I

THIS COURSE DOES NOT REQUIRE A FINAL EXAM

SYLLABUS

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS NOW!

Keep work organized by week, clearly labeled and typed or copy/paste onto your syllabus. Math and hand done projects: photograph, scan or screenshot and copy/paste to your syllabus. Keep images small so your file isn't too large to submit or save work as a PDF. Go to "Student Services" online for any issues with this course. If you need Microsoft Word, request an email from Student Services and follow the steps given to you.

- **SUBMITTING WORK: YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL WEEKS AT ONCE on one file.** Your syllabus may be submitted separately if you chose not to add your work to it. Go to the website and select "Submit Work", complete the form and attach your work. You may also share a public link such as Gdocs. You have two attempts at receiving a passing grade of "C" or better so submit your full effort original work. Do not mail work. You will receive a reply in about 5 business days. Do not call or email asking for us to verify your work. All components of your course must be completed by the end of the 8th week from the time of your registration; 12 weeks for a 2 credit class. If you have a medical emergency or disability preventing you from completing your class, contact "Student Services" and send an email to request up to a 2-week extension

Course SOC141: World Regional Geography I: The study of physical and human characteristics that make the regions of our world distinctive. As you progress through the course, the units will discuss each major world region in detail, placing particular emphasis on cultural and societal structures. For this class – Part One; the focus is on the following

- * Spatial analysis of natural and human cultures
- * Earth science
- * Area studies
- * Human-landscape interactions

The major forms of study within physical geography:

- Geomorphology (the study of the earth's surface features)
- Glaciology (the study of glaciers)
- Coastal geography (the study of the coastal regions)
- Climatology (the study of climates and climate change)
- Biogeography (the study of the geographic patterns of species distribution)

LOCATIONS

1. Europe (Eastern Europe and Western Europe)
2. The Russian Realm (Russian republic of the former Soviet Union)
3. North America (United States and Canada)
4. Middle America (Caribbean, Mexico, Central America)
5. South America

Week 1: Chapter One

Using your textbook with your downloads as a resource to complete the following

- 1.) Summarize the grid system of latitude and longitude and how it relates to seasons and time zones.
- 2.) Use Google Earth to locate your current school or residence. <https://www.google.com/earth/>
- 3.) Draw a map of your state or province and include lines of latitude and longitude. Take a photo or scan and copy/paste the image onto your syllabus.
- 4.) Research and determine when the last three earthquakes nearest where you live occurred. What damage did they cause?
- 5.) How is the cultural landscape influenced by the physical landscape?
- 6.) What is the planet's current human population? What happens when overpopulation occurs? Do we know the earth's carrying capacity? Where are the earth's three main high-density population regions?
- 7.) What is ethnic cleansing? Where has ethnic cleansing occurred in the world during your lifetime?
- 8.) Outline the four basic shapes of population pyramids. What do they indicate?
- 9.) Approximately how many languages are there in the world? Which continent has the most? What are the five most widely spoken languages in the world? Where would each be mainly spoken?
- 10.) What prompted the first major wave of rural-to-urban migration in modern history? What are the three main economic core areas of the world that have dominated the global economy? How is it that countries with strong or stable economies run up a high national debt?

RESEARCH: Research and outline the main migration pattern for people moving into or out of your current location. What do you notice? Why do you think this pattern exist?

ADD ALL RESPONSES TO THIS SYLLABUS IN THE SPACE BELOW

Week 2: CHAPTER 2 - EUROPE

Using your textbook with your downloads as a resource to complete the following

- 1.) How do Europe's landforms and natural resources provide wealth, opportunities. And advantages to the European community? Why is there a higher concentration of acid rain in northern Europe? How is acid rain affecting the environment?
- 2.) How does agricultural production vary with physical landforms or climate changes? How are Europeans addressing the decline in the North Atlantic fishing industry?
- 3.) How did the Industrial Revolution affect Europe's population and employment opportunities?
- 4.) What was the purpose of the Iron Curtain? How did it divide Europe?
- 5.) Why aren't all European countries members of the EU?

- 6.) Outline the main economic activities for each of the regions of Western Europe.
- 7.) Why is there an increased level of cultural diversity in France and other parts of Western Europe?
- 8.) What are the key factors that make Western Europe an economic core area of the world?
- 9.) What were four of the main reforms that occurred in Eastern Europe with the collapse of the Soviet Union?
- 10.) How did the larger Slavic population of former Yugoslavia five hundred years ago become the existing subgroups of the Slovenes, Croats, Bosnians, Montenegrins, and Serbs?

MAP PROJECT: Complete the map of Europe with your class downloads. Label and color code all locations with a "*". Take a photo or scan and copy/paste the image onto your syllabus

ADD ALL RESPONSES TO THIS SYLLABUS IN THE SPACE BELOW

Week 3: CHAPTER 3 - RUSSIA

- 1.) What physical feature provides a divide between European and Asian Russia? What are Russia's main physical regions?
- 2.) What were Soviet Socialist Republics, and why were they created? What are some of the major environmental problems in Russia? Why did so many of the Soviet republics separate and become independent in 1991?
- 3.) Describe some of the conditions of life in the Soviet Union.
- 4.) Briefly explain why the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) collapsed.
- 5.) Describe the post-Soviet economic and political situation.
- 6.) What were some of the main features of Karl Marx's philosophy? What were two main economic policies of the Soviet Union?
- 7.) Who was fighting the Cold War? Where were major conflicts fought during this war? How did the Cold War end? What leaders were in power in the United States and the Soviet Union when it ended? What are some reasons for Russia's population decline?
- 8.) Describe the physical attributes of Siberia and the Far East.
- 9.) Explain why Chechnya has been at war with Russia twice since 1994.
- 10.) What are Russia's four main regions and what are the main qualities of each?

ADD RESPONSE/S HERE

Week 4 CHAPTER 4 – NORTH AMERICA

- 1.) What are the current populations of the United States and Canada?
- 2.) What problems have been caused by urbanization in North America?

MAP PROJECT: Identify the following key places on your USA Physical Map: Take a photo or scan and copy and paste to this syllabus.

- Appalachian Highlands
- Canadian Shield
- Great Lakes
- Great Plains
- Gulf-Atlantic Coastal Plain
- Interior Lowlands
- Intermontane Basins and Plateaus
- Mississippi River
- Pacific Mountains and Valleys
- Rocky Mountains

3.) Explain the concepts of the cultural melting pot and the American Dream and how they have contributed to American society and culture.

4.) What is a remittance, and how are remittances significant for immigrants to the United States?

5.) Describe the spatial pattern of the African American population. What was the Great Migration, and what were some of its long-term impacts on the United States?

6.) What are the French-speaking and English-speaking areas of Canada and discuss the key activities in the effort to promote French culture in Canada.

7.) Discuss the economic sectors at the core of the Canadian economy and how the Canadian and US economies are connected.

8.) Where are large deposits of fossil fuels found in Canada? What are tar sands? Where is the highest rainfall found in Canada? Where is the least amount of precipitation found in Canada? Explain this precipitation pattern.

9.) Where is the largest US megalopolis located? What region is it part of?

10.) What makes the Pacific Coast region an unstable place for human development? Why does the Pacific Coast region have both high agricultural production and large high-tech urban cities?

MAP PROJECT: Complete your Canadian Map Project (Pdf), take a photo or scan and copy and paste your image to this syllabus

ADD RESPONSE/S HERE

Week 5 CHAPTER 5 – MIDDLE AMERICA

- 1.) Define the differences between the rimland and the mainland.

- 2.) Summarize the impact of European colonialism on Middle America.
- 3.) Distinguish between the Mayan and Aztec Empires and identify which the Spanish defeated. Describe how the Spanish influenced urban development.
- 4.) Explain how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and maquiladoras have influenced the economic and employment situations in Mexico.
- 5.) How have the drug cartels impacted the Mexican economy and political situation.
- 6.) What are the main physical features of Mexico? Describe how the physical environment has affected human activity in the region.
- 7.) Outline the various ways in which colonialism has impacted the islands.
- 8.) Explain why the United States has an economic embargo against the socialist country of Cuba.
- 9.) Explain how tourism has become the main means of economic development for most of the Caribbean. .
- 10.) Why is Puerto Rico a commonwealth of the United States?
- 11.) How is Haiti different from its neighbor, the Dominican Republic?
- 12.) Describe how and why hurricanes form. Explain why hurricanes mainly occur in the tropics. When is the main hurricane season in the North Atlantic? How does the hurricane season impact tourism in the Caribbean?

MAP PROJECT: Identify the following key places on your Middle America map Pdf, take a photo or scan and copy and paste your image to this syllabus

- Belize
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Cuba
- Puerto Rico
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Cayman Island
- US Virgin Island
- British Island

ADD RESPONSE/S HERE

WEEK 6 – South America

1. What are the two main physical features of South America? Where are they located?
2. What two main European colonial powers dominated South America?

3. What are the majority ethnic groups in each of the Guianas?
4. How do most people in the Guianas make a living?
5. Where are the five main cultural regions of South America?
6. What are the majority ethnic groups in each of the cultural regions of the continent?
7. Why would the Southern Cone have a stronger economic position than other regions?
- 8.) Summarize the production of the three main export products of Colombia and explain the US role in their export.
- 9.) Why is coffee not grown in the continental United States? Where are the main types of coffee grown?
- 10.) What environmental problems result from the cocaine production process?
- 11.) What types of agriculture are found in the north and western regions of South America?

LEARNING BY DOING

ASSIGNMENT: Visit each online Geography game below. Try it out. Give a critique of what you liked and disliked for each site and if you would play them again. Clearly label your work.

ADD YOUR LIST HERE

Online Geography Games:

- 1.) I was prompted to make this list today after I learned about a particularly good new game called [Map Race](#). It shows you views from the air of different cities, and you have to pick which city it is. You can put it in multiple choice mode or harder ones. It's a good game that can be played with the whole class. Thanks to Google Maps Mania for the tip.
- 2.) [Scribble States](#) is fun. Players have to "connect the dots" with a virtual pencil, and then have to answer a multiple-choice question about which state (in the United States) they just drew. And the whole thing is timed, to boot!
- 3.) [The Traveler IQ Challenge](#) is probably going to be just about the most difficult map game you'll ever play. But it's a lot of fun, and there are "Challenges" from all parts of the world.
- 4.) [Placespotting](#) is number four. Students are shown a spot on the map, and given a series of riddles to help them determine what it is. All these geographic riddles are user-generated, and students can create their own, too.
- 5.) [Map Battle](#) is a very easy-to-use tool to create geography games online.
- 6.) [GeoGuessr](#) shows you an image from Google Street View, along with a map of the world. You click on the map indicating where you think the photo might be from, and then you're shown the actual location. You're given points based on how close your guess was to the original location.
- 7.) In [Pursued](#), you have escaped from being kidnapped and have to figure out which cities you've been taken. You explore the area through Google Street Views, and are given hints of

what to look for. There are different levels of difficulty, and you can create your own level, too.

8.) [GR8CTZ — Great Cities of the World](#) challenges you to guess which cities you're seeing in Google Street View. It has different difficulty levels.

9.) [LocateStreet](#) is a similar game using Street View. One nice feature is that it offers clues.

10.) [Earth-Picker](#) is a new online geography games that's somewhat similar to other ones using Google Street View that can be found on this list. You're shown a location and have to identify on a map where you think it is in the world. You're told how close you are, and how your guess compares to the ones made by other players.

11.) [Spacehopper](#) is a new online game that isn't easy but, after showing you a Google Street View image of a location, provides clues that make it less difficult. You're shown a map with various dots on it, as well as the map outline of the country. After three guesses, you're given the answer along with information on the location.

12.) [Smarty Pins](#) is a new online geography game from Google. It's similar to some of the better ones on this list — you're asked a question, provided a hint, and then have to put a "pin" on your guess for the answer. One of the nice things I found — at least, in the questions that I answered — is that you're only shown the region of the world where the answer can be found.

13.) [The View From Above](#) is a fun geography game using satellite images

14.) [Traveling The World](#) is an online geography game from Air France that works like a sort of scavenger hunt. You've got to register in order to play it, but it takes seconds and, like me, you can log in with a fake name and made-up email address quickly.

15.) [Quizzity](#) is an online geography game where you have to choose the city in which a photo has been taken. You can read more about it at [Richard Byrne's blog](#).

16.) [Earth-Picker](#) is a new online geography game that works similar to a number of other games on this list.