

1a. COURSE SYLLABUS

1b. GEO 265.01 CID 1535

1c. World Regional Geography-Europe, Asia, Australia

1d. 3 Credit Hours

1e. Spring, 2008

2. Class Meeting Room: LDB 321

3. Class Time: TUTH 12:30-1:50

4. Instructor Name: Donald Albert

5. Office Location 325 LDB

6. Instructor Contact Information

Phone: 936-294-1453

E-mail: geo_dpa@shsu.edu

7. Office Hours

M FR 12-1; W 10-11, TU 11:00-12:50; TH 2-3:30 – and other times by appointment

8. Course Description

This is an introductory level course giving a general overview of the land and people. Topics discussed will include the physical environment, cultural characteristics and the various ways people live and make their living. Attention will be focused upon the relationships which exist between location, the physical environment and human activity. Examples of countries covered are the former Soviet Union, Germany, France, China, Japan, and United Kingdom. No prerequisites; lecture method of instruction supplemented with videos, current events, short activities, three exams; and textbook readings.

9. Course Objectives

- Explore the regional geography of Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Learn basic regional geographic concepts
- Use geographic models to assess the demographic and economic status of countries
- Locate significant place names pertaining to Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Explore various environmental issues pertaining to Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Appreciate the influence of supranational and international organizations on economics, defense, culture, and environmental regulation and policies
- Examine production and consumption patterns for selected agricultural products
- Visualize places and regions through the use of short films and slide presentations
- Interpret current events from the standpoint of a geographic perspective

10. Required Textbook(s) and/or References:

Hobbs and Salter. 2006. Essentials of World Regional Geography, 5th ed. Thomson: Brooks/Cole

11. Optional texts, References or Supplies: Test scores and other materials may be posted on Blackboard <http://blackboard.shsu.edu/webapps/login>

12. Attendance Policy – This course abides by University Policy and Regulations (APS 800401). Accordingly, “regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.” For each absence in excess of FOUR, for whatever reason, 10 points will be deducted from the course grade. Attendance is necessary to do well in the course and is **REQUIRED. Each tardy in excess of FOUR will result in 10 points being deducted from your total grade. Coming into class more than 10 minutes late will be counted as an absence. If you leave early, without having cleared this with the instructor, you will be counted absent. Also students that sleep, read the newspaper or other nonrelated materials, and that are otherwise inattentive, disruptive (i.e., talking during lectures) in class will be counted as absent. Students are responsible for checking whether they were marked “absent” or late immediately after class is dismissed; no corrections will be made at other times. Only under extreme circumstances and with appropriate documentation will the instructor consider excusing an absence.**

13. Exams – Three *examinations* will be given with each counting 33 1/3rd towards the final course grade. Make-up exams are strongly discouraged. Make every attempt to take exams on the scheduled dates. All make-up exams will be given sometime towards the end of the semester at a time set by the instructor. Be prepared to provide documentation supporting your absence if asked for by the instructors. Documentation may be required before a student is allowed to take a make-up.

14. Grading Plan – The grading scale is as follows:

<59.9%=F; 60-69.9%=D; 70-79.9%=C; 80-89.9%=B; 90-100%=A.

Test scores will be posted on Blackboard. No extra credit is available.

15. Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

16. Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Students are subject to all University policies including The Student Guidelines, Academic Policy Statements, and SHSU's Policy and Procedures (see <http://www.shsu.edu/students/>).

- 1) Come to class on time—there is no reason to be late to class on a frequent basis. Habitual tardiness **is unacceptable.**
- 2) Remain in class until it finished. **Leaving early will count as an absence unless you have cleared it with me or unless it is an emergency.**
- 3) Again, do not bring food or drink into the class
- 4) **You cannot leave the class during an exam** unless there is a medical emergency. If you think you will need a Kleenex during the test, and then bring it with you to class.
- 5) Hats must be removed and put away during exams.
- 6) During tests, cell phones and any other equipment capable of receiving, recording and/or transmitting information, must be put away in a book bag or purse. (In short, it must not be readily accessible or accessed during an exam.)

17. Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

18. Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720. Any student seeking accommodations should go to the *Counseling Center and*

Services for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner and complete a form that will grant permission to receive special accommodations.

19. Religious Holidays: Students that are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early—unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

20. Course Outline and Chapter Readings in (): Other readings may also be assigned.

Part I.

Introduction (Chapters 1 and 2)
Europe (Chapter 3)
Russia and the Near Abroad (Chapter 6)
Examination # 1

Part II.

Monsoon Asia (Chapter 10)
Southeast Asia (Chapter 12)
China (Chapter 13)
Examination # 2

Part III.

Japan and the Koreas (Chapter 14)
Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia (Chapter 15)
Australia and New Zealand (Chapter 16)
Examination # 3 (Final)

21. Study Tips

21a. **Always come to class.** You will probably not do well in the course if you skip class.

21b. **Take good notes:** This gives you a basis for doing well in the course.

21c. For those students who want to do well in college, **reading their textbooks is a necessity.** So, **read the chapters** in the book at the time they are being covered in lecture and highlight the key concepts. Highlighting as you read helps you to stay focused on the material and helps you to actively process the information. In addition, it requires you to read the key points twice, and it also enables you to easily review for tests because you can simply reread the highlighted material rather than an entire chapter.

21d. **Review the notes** from the previous lecture at least once a week. This should greatly enhance your understanding of the material because it enables you to see the continuity and structure of the material. You also learn the material in small amounts, which is much easier to do than trying to learn it all at once just before the exam.

21e. When it comes time to **review for an exam**, first read the highlighted portions of the text, and then concentrate on your notes. You might also want to follow the procedures below:

1. The first time you review your notes, concentrate on absorbing the key ideas and understanding the organization of the material - why certain ideas followed others in the class and how they are related.
2. **Pretend that you are teaching the material to someone else.** If you can present an imaginary lecture in an organized, comprehensive manner, then you understand it. If you cannot, then you need to review some more.

The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the syllabus, per his discretion, to accommodate unforeseen and unusual circumstances. 01/010/08