

Course Syllabus
Geography 266-01 (4789)
World Regional Geography: Latin America, Africa & South Asia
3 credit hours
Fall Semester—2007

Classroom: LBD 321
Class time: TTh 11:00-12:20

Instructor: Dr. Velvet Nelson
Office: LBD 334
Phone: 294-4065
Email: vnelson@shsu.edu
Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00am
T & Th 8:00-10:00am
W 1:00-2:00pm
Other times—stop by or make an appointment

Course Description: This is an introductory course giving a general overview of the land and people. The topics discussed will include the physical environment, cultural characteristics, and the various ways people live and make their living. Attention will be focused on the relationships that exist between the location, the physical environment, and human activity. Examples of countries covered include Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Republic of South Africa, Israel, Iran and India. This is a **writing enhanced** course.

Objectives: This course is intended to a) introduce geographic concepts that will be applied in a regional context, b) improve geographic literacy for each of the major world regions discussed, and c) articulate ideas about conditions in these regions through writing.

Methods of Instruction: This course is structured as a combination of lectures, participatory activities and discussions, and writing exercises in order to achieve the objectives stated above.

Textbook: Essentials of World Regional Geography, 5th Edition, by Joseph J. Hobbs and Christopher L. Salter, published by Thomson Brooks/Core, 2006.

Attendance: The University requires each instructor to keep a record of student attendance. Attendance will be taken in the form of participation in in-class activities. Failure to attend class will have a negative impact on your final grade. In addition, students are responsible for all lecture notes, assignments, schedule changes, and any other information covered in class.

Grading: Final grades will be based on a total of 352 points. 250 points will come from 5 tests over the course of the semester made up of multiple choice, true/false and matching questions which will require a Scantron 882-E, as well as map and/or essay questions. 32 points will come from attendance and participation in in-class activities. 50 points will come from writing exercises. All writing exercises must be typed in order to receive credit. Students should use good grammar and spell-check their work before it is submitted. 20 points will come from one current events assignment (instructions TBA). Letter grades will be assigned on the following scale: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = less than 60%.

Missed Work: If a student knows ahead of time that s/he will miss an assignment or a test, it must be completed prior to the missed class. In the case of extreme and unavoidable circumstances, the

student must contact me immediately, provide me with appropriate documentation, and make up the assignment prior to the next class meeting.

Academic Conduct: *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 the 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 any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.*

Course Behavior: *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.*

Visitors in the Classroom: *Unannounced visitors to class 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.*

Americans with Disabilities Act: *SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Therefore, 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.*

Religious Holy Days: *If a student desires to be excused from class, assignments, or a test to participate in activities associated with a religious holy day, then the student must notify me of each scheduled class that s/he will miss for religious reasons. 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 and I have agreed to those reasons.*

Special Circumstances: *If unusual circumstances arise during the semester, such as a medical problem, death in the family, etc., that adversely affects your attendance, please discuss this with me immediately and provide the appropriate documentation. Under these conditions, I will do my best to accommodate your situation. However, there is nothing I can do if you wait until after the fact, at the end of the semester, to let me know that you were experiencing adverse circumstances.*

Tentative Course Outline: (schedule may be subject to change)

Unit 1: Introduction

Chapter 1—Objectives & Tools of World Regional Geography
Chapter 2—Physical & Human Processes that Shape World Regions
Test 1—Sept. 11

Unit 2: Latin America

Chapter 19—A Geographic Profile of Latin America
Chapter 20—Middle America: Land of the Shaking Earth
Chapter 21—South America: Stirring Giant
Test 2—Oct. 4

Unit 3: Sub-Saharan Africa

Chapter 17—A Geographic Profile of Africa South of the Sahara
Chapter 18—The Assets and Afflictions of Countries South of the Sahara
Test 3—Nov. 1

Unit 4: Middle East & North Africa

Chapter 8—A Geographic Profile of the Middle East and North Africa
Chapter 9—The Middle East and North Africa: Modern Struggles in an Ancient Land
Test 4—Nov. 20

Unit 5: South Asia

Chapter 10—A Geographic Profile of Monsoon Asia
Chapter 11—Complex and Populous South Asia
Test 5—Thurs. Dec. 13 11:00-1:00 (Final Exam Schedule)