



Course Syllabus

COURSE NUMBER: SOCS 5260	COURSE TITLE: (Topics in Geography)	TERM: Fall 2009
SITE: On-Line	INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION: (James Ewing, EdD Use WebCT class email)	CREDIT HOURS: (3)

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A combination of work with experiential units in geography as well as geographical concepts, the course is of interest to teachers seeking ways to make geography relevant to the lives of students.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the concepts of geography and be familiar with the terms which comprise this field. To understand the concept of Region and how it works. To know some of the factors that make up the look and feel of a place and what makes it different from another location. To use Passports (W.U. Online library electronic databases) to enhance knowledge of online research available in the field of education and relevant to continuously developing educational technology issues

Schedule of required readings, class preparations and assignments, lectures, discussions, student presentations, out-of-class assignments and exams.

Topical Overview, Activities, and Readings: (subject to change)

1	Introduction to and overview of the course; Definition of Geography and the concept of Region, assign work schedule.
2	Physical and Cultural Geographic factors will be covered. Readings: Chapter 1 & pp. 116-

	120, educational exercise #1 due.
³	Geography of North America. Readings: Chapter 2, educational exercise #2 due, thought question #1 due.
⁴	Latin America Part 1 - Central & Middle America. Readings: Chapter Chapter 3 pp. 112-166, country inventory #1 due-A, current event #1 due-B, thought question #2 due.
⁵	Latin America Part 2 - South America. Readings: Chapter 3 pp. 166-176. country inventory #2 due -B, current event #2 due - A, thought question #3 due.
⁶	Europe Part 1 - West & South Europe. Reading: Chapter 4 pp.181-226, country inventory #3 due - A, current event #3 due - B, thought question #4 due.
⁷	Europe Part 2 - North & East Europe. Reading: Chapter 4 pp. 227-233, country inventory #4 due -B, current event # 4 due - A, thought question #5 due.
⁸	Russia & Central Asia Part 1. Readings: Chapter 5 pp. 226-269, country inventory # 5 due - A, current event # 5 due - B, thought question # 6 due.
⁹	Russia & Central Asia Part 2. Readings: Chapter 5 pp269 - 281, country inventory # 6 due - B, current event # 6 due - A, thought question #7 due.
¹⁰	North Africa & Southwest Asia. Readings: Chapter 6, country inventory # 7 due - A, current events #7 due - B, thought question #8 due.
¹¹	Sub-Saharan Africa. Readings: Chapter 7, country inventory # 8 due - B, current event # 8 due - A. thought question # 9 due.
¹²	South Asia. Readings: Chapter 8, country inventory # 9 due - A, current event # 9 due - B, thought question #10 due.
¹³	East Asia. Readings: Chapter 9, country inventory #10 due - B, current event #10 due - A, thought question #11 due.
¹⁴	Southeast Asia. Readings: Chapter 10, country inventory #11 due -A, current event # 11 due - B, thought question #12 due.
¹⁵	Oceania. Readings: Chapter 11, country inventory # 12 due - B, current event # 12 due - A, thought question # 13 due, discuss educational exercise #3.
¹⁶	Educational Implication. Recap class, educational exercise # due, thought question #14 due.

3. RESOURCES:

Required Text(s):

- Pulsipher, Lydia M., (2008), **World Regional Geography**, W.H. Freeman and Company. ISBN: 13-978-0-7167-7792-2.
- **Atlas of the World**, (2007), Rand McNally & Company, ISBN: 0-4292-1221-7

4. EVALUATION: (basis of evaluation with explanation regarding the nature of the assignment and the percentage of the grade assigned to each item below)

Inventory of Assigned Countries:

Each student will select 6 countries during the term to complete a detailed inventory. This inventory should include both cultural and physical geographic aspects of the country. The inventories should include not only a list of facts about the country but how cultural and physical geographic situations have impacted the country, its history and its relationship with its neighbors and the world. Each inventory should be approximately 500 words. You will have the ability to select the country you have an interest in or want to learn more about. The country selected will be made from the area of the world that we are studying at that particular time. Each inventory will have 10 points assigned towards the total grade.

Current Events:

You will be asked to submit 6 current event reviews during the term. Each current event will be assessed 5 points. Each current event should be approximately 250 words. The current event which is selected must relate to the area of the world we will be studying when the assignment is given. The event selected should relate to the physical and cultural aspects of the geography of the country.

Thought Questions:

Each student will submit answers to 14 thought questions during the term. Each question will be evaluated at 5 points. Each answer should be 250 words long and will demonstrate how geographic concepts impact various cultural and physical geographic systems in the world. The assigned questions will relate to the location of the world which is being studied at that time.

Educational Models:

You will be given 3 educational models to complete during the term. These models will relate to the concept of Region in geography. Each assignment is valued at 8 points toward the total grade points.

Classroom Applications:

Each week you will be asked to complete a Classroom Application exercise. Each will be an example of exercises that you can use in the classroom with your students when teaching geography. These exercises will reinforce the geographic concepts we are covering in class and allow the students to see the value of material, they are experiencing in the classroom. You will receive 5 points for correct completion of each of these exercises.

Participation:

One point for each class will be assigned for participation in class activities. Participation should be active, informed and timely. Response should demonstrate a knowledge of the concepts that are being covered in class.

5. GRADING SCALE:

Grading Procedures			
	• Inventory of assigned countries	6 assignments at 10 points each	60 points
	• Current events.	6 assignments at 5 points each	30 points
	• Thought questions.	14 assignments at 5 points each	70 points
	• Educational Models	3 assignments at 8 points each	24 points
	• Class Participation	16 assignments at 1 point each	16 points
	• Classroom Application	16 assignments at 5 points each	<u>80 points</u>
			<u>280 Total</u>

Note: ALL PAPERS/PROJECTS MAY BE RETURNED VIA A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. PAPERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE SOE OFFICE.

6. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Students at Webster University are expected to practice academic honesty.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is intentionally claiming that another person's work is his/her own or implying that another person's work is his/her own (through inadequate or inaccurate citations of reference material.)

Students:

- Should not copy whole portions of text from another source as a major component of papers or projects.
- Should identify the title, author, page number/webpage address, and publication date of works when directly quoting small portions of texts, articles, interviews, or websites.
- Should appropriately identify the source of information when paraphrasing (restating) ideas from texts, interviews, articles, or websites.
- Should follow the guidelines of the American Psychological Association Style Guide when referencing all research sources.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

For further information about the consequences of academic dishonesty please consult the Webster University Student Handbook.

7. ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS POLICY:

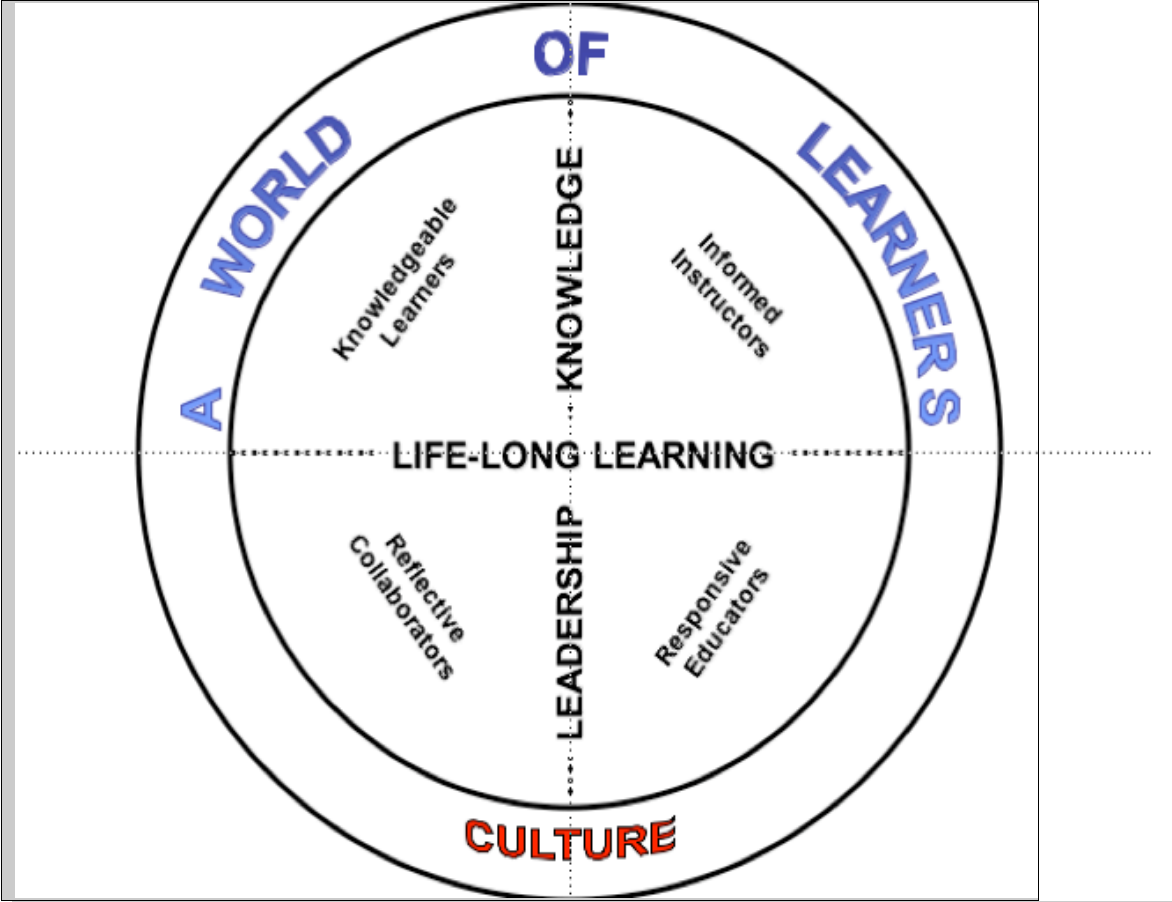
If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations contact the Director of the Academic Resource Center, Dr. Pat McLeese, at (314) 968-7495.

**WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Vision: “. . . We all must work to make this world worthy of its children.” (Casals, 1970)

Mission: The School of Education at Webster University provides its students with the knowledge, experiences, and practical tools that help them guide both themselves and others toward lifelong learning. The School of Education is a community of educator-scholars who apply critical reflections and creative energies to enhance learning in schools and other educational settings. The faculty strives to support this community by modeling effective teaching practices based on sound theory and research. Personalized approaches create a challenging, yet supportive environment that permits the risk-taking necessary for learning and growth. The School of Education encourages its faculty and students to work actively toward this end, keeping in mind that action must be rooted in visionary, yet realistic, thinking. This thought and action process underscores the development of an inner-directed self-understanding, an outer-directed global perspective, and an appreciation of human diversity that arises from both.

Theme: Developing a world of learners through knowledge, leadership, and life-long learning.



The universal mandala (a circle with intersecting vertical and horizontal lines) graphically represents the conceptual framework of the School of Education. The outer circle provides the framework for a "world of learners" in cultural settings. The two axes represent the theme components of knowledge, leadership, and life-long learning. These lines are broken to emphasize the fluid relationship of the goals and integrated concepts. Each quadrant represents one of the school's four goals for its candidates: to develop knowledgeable learners, informed instructors, reflective collaborators, and responsive educators.

Goals

1. Education candidates will demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter, knowledge of the learner, and knowledge of pedagogy based on inquiry and scholarship.

The knowledgeable learner:

- 1.1 knows content that supports conceptual understanding;
 - 1.2 applies tools of inquiry to construct meaningful learning experiences;
 - 1.3 identifies developmental factors in student learning; and
 - 1.4 understands theoretical principles of effective instruction to plan learning experiences.
2. Education candidates will incorporate multiple assessment and instructional strategies to support effective educational practices based on research and theory.

The informed instructor:

- 2.1 designs curriculum based on students' prior knowledge, learning styles, strengths, and needs;
 - 2.2 understands and uses a range of instructional strategies;
 - 2.3 uses a variety of communication modes, media, and technology to support student learning; and
 - 2.4 employs a variety of formal and informal assessments to monitor learning and modify instruction.
3. Education candidates will reflect on the roles educators take as leaders of change through collaboration with colleagues, students, and families in schools and communities.

The reflective collaborator:

- 3.1 values and integrates reflection to grow as a professional;
- 3.2 promotes communication and collaboration with colleagues, families, and community leaders;

- 3.3 seeks relationships with families and students to support student learning; and
 - 3.4 initiates change that benefits students and their families.
4. Education candidates will demonstrate respect for diversity through responsive teaching and learning that values individual differences.

The responsive educator:

- 4.1 understands and responds appropriately to issues of diversity
- 4.2 acknowledges social and cultural contexts to create effective teaching and learning environments;
- 4.3 adapts instruction to the learner's knowledge, ability, and background experience; and
- 4.4 identifies resources for specialized services when needed.

Dispositions:

NCATE defines dispositions as "the values, commitments and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and communities and affect student learning, motivation, and development as well as the educator's own professional growth. " (Professional Standards, p. 53) There is significant value in focusing attention on qualities that make an effective teacher.

- 1. Understands and Respects Self
 - 1.1 Understands and respects that s (he) may be different from others
 - 1.2 Embraces an openness to change (adaptability, flexibility)
 - 1.3 Exhibits curiosity
 - 1.4 Engages in reflection
- 2. Understands and Respects Others
 - 2.1 Understands, respects, and responds appropriately to diversity in a variety of settings
 - 2.2 Exhibits empathy
 - 2.3 Commits to fairness and honesty
 - 2.4 Listens respectfully to other points of view
- 3. Understands and Respects Professional Communities
 - 3.1 Commits to professional behavior in university and school cultures
 - 3.2 Practices informed decision-making in university and school cultures
 - 3.3 Communicates and collaborates in university and school cultures
 - 3.4 Accepts academic rigor (willingness to work/ high expectations)
 - 3.5 Affects change with courage and confidence

(Attach Specialty Program Area Professional Standards, MoSTEP General Standards, and MoSTEP Subject specific competencies if desired).