

Webster University

Course Syllabus

Course Number and Section

SOCS: 5260.01

Instructor

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Course Title

Topics in Geography

3 Credit Hours

Site: WGHS Room 355

Term: Fall 2003 Spring 2003

Time: 5 PM – 9 PM - Tuesdays

Topics in Geography

1. Course Description: This course will be geared towards the instruction her to propose new methodologies and concepts which will aid the classroom teacher in expanding regional and global concepts of geography into the primary, middle and secondary school systems. The class is designed to give the student both knowledge and specific skill sets, which can be utilized in the development or restructure of a concept centered course. * The course includes a combination of experimental units in geography as well as geographical concepts, the courses of interest to teachers seeking ways to make geography more relevant to the lives of students. * There are no prerequisites to the course.

The major goal of this course is to explore the field of geography and to discover various work avenues or methodologies to incorporate geography in the classroom and lives of students.

2. Learning Outcomes: Students are expected to:

1. Incorporate knowledge of various geographic systems including mapping, geographic vocabulary, and the **18 National Standards**. (IRA 1:1; MoStep 1:1;1:2; 1:3; 1:4)
2. The **5 fundamental themes of geography** (recognized by the National Council for Geographic Education). (MoStep 1:1; 2:2; 3:4; 9:1; 9:2; 9:3)
3. **Geography's 4 unifying traditions**. (MoStep 1:4; 1:5; 2: 4)
4. **The relationship between regional and systematic geography**. (12 areas of geographic study). (MoStep 1:1; 1:3; 3:4; 4:1)
5. **Hearths of diffusion** (cultural, religious, political). (MoStep 2:4; 3:1)
6. **The physical science of geography** (maps, landforms, and environment). (MoStep 1:1; 1:4; 3:4)

7. **The cultural aspects of geography** (human movement and interactions (infusion and diffusion, populations and urban density problems, the human impacts on civilization and migration) (MoStep 1:1; 1:3; 4:2; 5:1; 5:2; 7:1; 7:2; 7:4)
8. **Geomorphology**, environmental impacts on the earth's resources
9. **Local, regional and global interactions**, the development of sovereignty and nation states. (MoStep 1:1)
10. **Economic** independencies vs. the interdependencies of world regional systems. (MoStep 4:1; 4:2; 4:3; 5:1)

3. Course Outline

The class will consist of 8 weeks, utilizing the following format:
Reading and discussion – Professor and Student implementation - student modeling

Week #1: Course Introduction, Methodology and Timelines: geographic concepts, NGS standards, the 5 themes of geography, the 4 traditions of geography, geographic jargon, regional and systematic geography. How should geography be taught in schools today?

Homework: Read Chapter 5

Week #2: Hearths of Diffusions: the human movement (population, religion, culture) from Pangea to the present – geomorphic evolution

Regional Developments: the human impact on the environment

Homework: Read Chapter 6

Week #3: Population and Demographic Distributions: density and its effects on urbanization, overpopulation and regional outlooks, controls and preventions of overpopulation. Interpreting graphic data, mortality vs. morbidity.

Video Presentation

Homework: Read Chapter 7

Week #4: Principals of Culture: regional identities, acculturation and assimilation patterns, language customs, ethnicity and historical practices. Religion and geo-political complexities. Realms. Online resources.

Video Presentation

Homework: Read Chapter 9

Week #5: The Development of the Nation State

Regional and international alliances. Military, economic and political organizations, NATO, WHO, ASEA, OPEC, NAFTA, OAS, EEC, UN, UAR, CAF, Commonwealth of Nations, WTO, UNESCO, EFTA, Former Warsaw Pact, etc. Homework: Read Chapter 10

Week #6: The Introduction of Economic Geography: quaternary, tertiary, secondary and primary activities, economic systems: subsistence, commercial and planned economics, supply and demand, marginalization. Trade, industrial vs. agricultural economics, world markets.

Week #7: **Continuation – Economics:** transnational corporations. Humans as resources, renewable and non-renewable resources and their affects on national economies.

Week #8: **Projects due / Class assessment**

Student Classroom Presentations, and Course Description.

* **Students will make a classroom presentation consisting of a regional or global concept of geography, which they will teach to the class utilizing a methodology gain from this course.** (MoStep 3:1; 3:3 2; 4:1; 4:2; 5:1; 7:3)

Presentations may include a specific lesson or concept of which the student would teach within their present grade level geography assignment (see Primary, Middle, Secondary school or college-level). (MoStep 2:1; 2:2; 4:1; 4:2; 5:1; 5:2)

The practical must be demonstrated within a 45 to 60 minute time span. Students must provide a lesson plan and a short written rationale for the lesson. * Copies of the lesson plan should be distributed to classmates. (MoStep 5:1; 5:2; 6:1; 6:3; 7:1; 7:3; 7:4; 8:1; 8:2; 8:3)

4. * Students will be expected to:

1. **Read** extensively from the texts: (MoStep 1:1)
 - 1) **Introduction to Geography**, 7th Ed. By Getis, Getis, and Fellmann © 2000, McGraw Hill publishers.
2. ***** Develop** a deeper understanding of the 10 course objectives, to formulate a teaching methodology for their specific level of geography. (MoStep 4:2; 4:3; 5:1; 5:2)
3. **Develop** an appreciation for geography through data gathering and analysis in various formats including library research, internet, and classroom discussions. 4:1; 4:2; 4:2; 5:1,6:1)
4. **Move** from a regional to a **global perspective** of geography. (MoStep 1:5; 2:4; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1; 5:2; 6:2; 6:3)
5. **Students are expected to vigorously participate in class discussions, and the sharing of concepts and practical activities.** (MoStep 6:3; 7:1; 7:2; 7:4; 9:12)
6. **Become** more cognizant of the geographic world around us through various news, documentaries and educational broadcasts, such as **A&E, The Learning Channel, CNN-World Report, Public Broadcast stations, The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, BBC, and The National Geographic Channel.** (MoStep 5:1; 5: 2; 7:2; 7:3)

5. Course Evaluation

The course assessment will consist of:

Student attendance – attendance is mandatory for all students.

- Should a student be absent from a class, the student is responsible for prior notification to the instructor either by phone call or e-mail.
- If more than 2 absences occur, the student may be dropped from the course.

10%	Classroom Discussion and Participation
40 %	Student Classroom – Unit Presentation
50%	Geographical Unit Project (may be individualized or a collaborative project)

This project will consist of one experimental unit (students, are encouraged to expand the classroom project into this unit), which the student has developed utilizing the concepts learned within this course.

The project will include: a course syllabus, or written description of the course, its goals and rationales, comprehensive course orientation for students, along with a methodology and skill sets which the teacher expects the student to learn from the presentation of the geographical unit.

*** Students are encouraged to use the (MoStep standards and Benchmarks to aid in the completion of this unit.**

Grading scale:

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

- 6. Supplements.** A variety of class handouts may be utilized.
- 7. 3 Hour Courses:** Students taking an eight week course for three credit hours will complete the following additional assignments and/or attend the following additional class meetings:
 - a) Paper(s)
 - b) AV Project

- 8. Final Projects:** Final projects/papers will be returned to students in the following manner.

* Student should provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (appropriate size and postage) to the instructor so projects like paper can be returned.

NOTE: Papers will not be available for pickup from the School of Education Office.

- The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.
- Regular class attendance is required.