

# **Course Syllabus**

## **Geography 100:**

### **Introduction to Geography**

Welcome to Geography 100. This is a five-credit course that fulfills a Social Science distribution requirement for the Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS) Degree at Bellevue Community College. This course satisfies General Education Requirements in the following areas:

There are no prerequisites for this class.

### **Course Description:**

The course will cover a series of major themes of geographic enquiry. The dynamic nature of the physical environment will provide a foundation on which the human/cultural landscape has evolved.

Specific areas of investigation will focus on an explanation of the parameters of geography: the role of maps and mapmakers: an awareness of some of the major forces of physical processes and resulting topography: a review of the dynamics of the atmosphere and subsequent climate types: the impact of population growth: and case studies that take an in depth look into a series of issues in economic, political, urban, and cultural geography.

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**Required Texts:**

**Introduction to Geography** *Getis, Getis, and Fellmann*, McGraw-Hill – 12<sup>th</sup> edition- PLEASE do not hesitate to purchase an older edition. Edition 8 or higher will be fine, you can find these on Amazon or Ebay for much less than the newest edition.

**World Place Locations** online textbook only available at the following link:

[https://www.itsmorethanatextbook.com/admin/add\\_student.php?book\\_id=14&course\\_id=66](https://www.itsmorethanatextbook.com/admin/add_student.php?book_id=14&course_id=66)

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**Course Objectives:**

to consider the basic themes of geography and how they are applied

to explore the relationships between physical and cultural landscapes

to provide a foundation in geographic enquiry that will act as a catalyst for future study and to develop a sense of place by fostering a sense of connectivity with both the physical and cultural world.

**General Class Environment:**

1) Please do not hesitate to ask any questions – at the end of the class is also fine – I prefer to answer questions face to face rather than by email.

2) Attendance is expected and required – however – if you miss a class make sure that you secure the notes from a member of the class

- 3) If you are ill and unable to attend a class it is essential that you notify me by email **before** the class and on up to three occasions in the quarter I will mark you as present
- 4) It is not appropriate to leave the class early unless you have notified me to secure permission
- 5) The map quizzes will take place at the beginning of the scheduled class and if you leave early immediately after the quiz it will not be marked and you will score zero for that quiz – unless you discuss your need to leave early at the start of the class
- 6) It is expected that you do not talk during class to your neighbor(s) as this disturbs others who are interested to learn and engage fully in the class – including me!
- 7) Please try not to eat or drink in the classroom. Janitorial services have been reduced and it is up to all of us to keep the classroom neat and tidy for the next course. If you are dying to eat, a granola bar or something similar is OK but please try to eat either before or after class.
- 8) Exams and quizzes must be taken on the scheduled dates
- 9) Bring a 'scantron' answer sheet to the mid-term and final exams
- 10) Please ensure that all work submitted for assessment is your own

**Place Location Component:**

**There will be a map quiz almost every Friday for 10 weeks – you ‘drop’ the lowest 2 scores – please note there are no make-ups at all for the map quizzes.**

**There will be 25 questions to answer on each place location unit - study the map quizzes in the following sequence – total marks possible – 200 marks – in this order -**

- 1 - Europe and Russia – Cultural
- 2 - Europe and Russia – Physical
- 3 - East Asia
- 4 - South and Central Asia
- 5 - Southeast Asia and Australasia
- 6 - North Africa and the Middle East

7 - Southern Africa

8 - South and Central America

9 - North America – Physical

10 -North America – Cultural

Please note that Chapter 2: Europe and Russia, and Chapter 9: North America are both divided into two quizzes each, a cultural quiz and a physical quiz).

Preparation for the quizzes is done by completing the respective sections in the World Place Locations online textbook, using the blank outline maps – for these go to the College Library site and the blank map PDFs are all on the Periodicals page:

<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/databaseslist/blank-maps/>

– all the maps can be printed for revision purposes.

To ensure success, read the Instructions to the Student for suggestions, hints, and guidelines in the **World Place Locations** online textbook. The blank maps are used to practice identifying the locations listed in each Chapter in the workbook.

**Here is another really useful way to learn the map locations – check out this site –**

**<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm>**

The Eight Realms and respective Chapters in the World Place Locations online textbook:

1. Europe and Russia – Chapter 2 (divided into two quizzes- physical and cultural)
2. East Asia – Chapter 3

3. South and Central Asia – Chapter 4
4. Southeast Asia and Australasia – Chapter 5
5. North Africa and the Middle East – Chapter 6
6. Southern Africa – Chapter 7
7. South and Central America and the Caribbean – Chapter 8
8. North America – Chapter 9 (divided into two quizzes - physical and cultural)

Chapter 1 – Basic Geographic Details of the Earth - is not assessed and is used as a practice.

### **Extra-Credit:**

The Regional Quiz is linked to the online textbook and all of the 25 questions in this quiz are taken directly from the ‘end of the chapter’ questions in the online textbook. To prepare for this quiz (which is taken in the last week of the quarter) answer the questions as you go through the course. There will be 25 points of extra credit awarded for this Regional Quiz. This quiz is taken using the online textbook quiz tool.

### **Assessment:**

- 1) **Mid-Term One Examination** based on material covered in Part 1 = **100 marks** – this will be a 45 minute exam.
- 2) **Mid-Term Two Examination** will be based on material covered in Part 2 **100 marks** – a 45 minute exam.
- 3) **Final Examination** based on material covered in Part 3 = **150 marks** – this will be a 45 minute exam in Finals Week
- 4) **Map Quizzes - 200 marks** of the total mark allocation will be devoted to the Map Quiz exercises – the best 8 scores from the 10 possible will be recorded – however – if you take all 10

map quizzes and score more than 20/25 on all of them you will secure an additional 10 marks of extra credit

5) **Extra Credit – Regional Quiz – [25 points]** – taken in the last week of the quarter – using the online textbook quiz tool.

6) **Attendance** – one mark for every class attended = **50 marks**

**Total mark allocation: 600 marks (plus 70 possible marks of Extra Credit)**

### **Grading Standards:**

#### **Grading Scale:**

**A      4.0    550+**

**A-     3.7    520-549**

**B+     3.3    490-519**

**B      3.0    460-489**

**B-     2.7    430-459**

**C+     2.3    400-429**

**C      2.0    370-399**

**C-     1.7    340-369**

**D+     1.3    310-339**

**D      1.0    280-309**

**F      0.0    279 and less**

## **Course Outline:**

### **Part I**

Weeks 1 and 2

Introduction to the course – essence of geographic inquiry

Maps and map-makers – Chapter 1 and 2 textbook

Historical Geography – the impact of maps – from Ptolemy to Columbus and Waldseemuller's world map to the maps of today

Map design – choropleth and isoline maps and basics of map projections

Week 3

Modern maps – development of remote sensed imagery

Geographic Information Systems – examples of use of this technology

Video presentation - 'Tales from the Map Room – A Tissue of Lies'

### **Mid-Term Exam I**

### **Part II**

Weeks 4,5 and 6

Weather and climate change– an introduction – Chapter 4

Storms, hurricanes and tornadoes – violent events

The Greenhouse effect and Global Warming

The Geography of natural resources- Chapter 5

Video presentation – ‘The science of climatology’

## **Mid-Term Exam 2**

### **Part III**

Weeks 7 thru 11

Human geography

Population geography – introduction – Chapter 6

Basic components of demographic enquiry

The demographic transition

World population density and distribution

Migration

Video presentation – ‘A death in the desert – the fatal journey of a migrant worker’.

Cultural geography – introduction – Chapter 7

Cultural change – globalization – diffusion of ideas and beliefs

Language – global perspectives - ethnicity

Demise of global reservoir of languages

Religions of the world – overview

**Final Exam. in Finals Week - a 60 minute exam which will cover all the material since the second Mid-Term Exam**

## **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

**FALL 2011**

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F.”

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY

425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*