

Bellevue College

## **GEOG 100E Introduction to Geography (5 credits)**

Fall, 2010

5:30–7:40 pm T, Th

Room D273

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Office Hours: 4:30 to 5:25 pm Tuesday and by appointment.

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### **Course Description and Objectives:**

Geography is a natural and social science that examines issues of location and process on the earth’s surface. Fundamentally, geography is about how and why places are different from each other and how and why places change over time. Geography 100 is an introductory course to geography requiring substantial reading, writing and data interpretation. In this course you will be exposed to the fundamental elements of geography as well as the relevance of location and process locally, regionally, nationally and globally. This course is organized around: a) learning places throughout the world, and b) familiarization with major topical issues studied by geographers. As a result you will learn more about the relationships which exist between people and places, and how physical and social processes influence and shape places. We will also examine where resources are distributed and exploited across the globe, how distant cultures and societies influence one another, and how people shape and are shaped by the natural environment. After taking this course you will have expanded your knowledge of:

- 1) the location of places in the world
- 2) topical issues or themes that make up the discipline of geography
- 3) the tools and working terminology of a geographer
- 4) the major physical and social processes shaping places and regions

**Grading:**

2 Mid-Term Exams	30% (each worth 60 points possible)
Final Exam	25% (100 points possible)
Best 8 out of 9 quizzes	28% (each worth 14 points possible)
Class participation*	17% (68 points possible)
Total	100% (400 points possible)

\* Based on class exercises and 6 “pop quizzes” (each worth 5-6 points).

To complete this course with a satisfactory grade you must carefully follow directions, complete all assignments on time, be prepared for the weekly quizzes, and demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and readings through performance on exams, quizzes and participation in class. Any late exercises will be penalized! Weekly quizzes cannot be made-up under any circumstances! However, in the event that a student misses a quiz, all is not lost. The lowest weekly quiz grade will be dropped of the nine quizzes. Additionally, in the eleventh week of the quarter there will be a comprehensive “generic makeup quiz”. This GMQ may be used to substitute for a quiz with a lower score. Any make-up exams must be arranged in advance with me, and only under extenuating circumstances. During the course of the quarter there will be 6 “pop” quizzes. These will occur at times randomly selected by the instructor (announced only on the day the “pop” quiz is given) and will be based on material from the text, lecture and/or videos shown in class.

Students who are found cheating (defined as the unauthorized use of notes or obtaining answers from other students) on a quiz or exam forfeit that quiz or exam (receive 0 points). Any student who assumes personal credit for the work of another person on any assignment shall be deemed to have committed plagiarism and forfeit that assignment (receive 0 points). A second offense will result in a failing grade for the course. (See campus policy #5033)

Students are asked to turn off cell phones or other disruptive sound emitting devices when entering class. If this becomes a reoccurring problem students will be asked to leave the classroom.

**Required Materials:**

Arthur Getis et al. *Introduction to Geography*, Wm. C. Brown Publishers, (12th ed.) 2008.  
Douglas Roselle et al. *World Place Locations*, Cengage Learning, (2nd ed.) 2010.

Occasionally, short articles on contemporary issues or events relating to the current discussion will be distributed in class. You will be expected to read these. Several articles and maps will also be placed on reserve in the library for your interest.

**Map Resources and Weekly (place name) Quizzes:**

There will be weekly quizzes to assess your knowledge of places. Preparation for the quizzes is done by completing the appropriate chapters in the World Place Locations workbook and referencing the A-Z Maps website which is available to you through the College Library - this is an online atlas and it is recommended that you print off your own blank maps of the various regions to help prepare for these quizzes. Follow the link on the website to download the blank maps and label all of the required locations on the blank map - this will help you recognize and remember the location of various places. Preparation for the quizzes is done by completing the respective sections in the World Place Locations workbook, 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://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html> under “Images/Maps” – all the maps can be printed for study purposes.

## Course Outline:

**Week One 9/21, 9/23** Introduction to Geography: basic geographic concepts, tools and approaches; maps, projections, scale; GIS.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #1 "Introduction" pp. 3-21

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**Week Two 9/28, 9/30** Representing the World with Maps: Earth's inner structure; plate tectonics and endogenic processes; the rock cycle.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #2 "Maps" pp. 23-49

*WPL*, Chapter 1, "Basic Geographic Details of the Earth" (Q1)

Quiz #1 on Thursday, 9/30

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**Week Three 10/5, 10/7** Physical Geography-Landforms: Tectonic processes and major earth landforms; rivers and fluvial landforms.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, The Earth Science Tradition, pp. 53  
#3 "Physical Geography: Landforms"  
pp. 55-83

*WPL*, Chapter 9, "North America" (Q2)

Quiz #2 on Thursday, 10/7

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**Week Four 10/12, 10/14** Physical Geography-Climate: Earth-sun relationships; major exogenic processes; atmospheric systems; climate and climate regions.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #4 "Physical Geography: Climate"  
pp. 87-125

*WPL*, Chapter 2 "Europe and Russia" (Q3)

In-class Exercise-Climate Regions 10/12, 10/14

Quiz #3 on Thursday, 10/14

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**Week Five 10/19, 10/21** Physical Geography-Human Environmental Interaction: human interaction with natural systems; the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #12 "Human Impact on the Environment"  
pp. 419-454

WPL, Chapter 3 "East Asia" (Q4)

Quiz #4 on Thursday, 10/21

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**Week Six 10/26, 10/28** Resource Geography: Resources and location, renewable and nonrenewable resources, the reserve concept, the dynamics of resource extraction and use.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #5 "Geography of Natural Resources"  
pp. 127-165

WPL, Chapter 4 "South and Central Asia" (Q5)

Mid-Term #1 on Tuesday, 10/26

Quiz #5 on Thursday, 10/28

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**Week Seven 11/2, 11/4** Population Geography: Human population across space; population dynamics; demographic transition; changing age structure.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, The Culture-Environment Tradition, pp. 169  
#6 "Population Geography"  
pp. 171-206

WPL, Chapter 5 "Southeast Asia and Australasia" (Q6)

Quiz #6 on Thursday, 11/4

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**Week Eight 11/9** Urban Geography-City Formation and Function: Function and role of the city; economic activity and city formation; large scale urban systems.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, The Location Tradition, pp. 331  
#10 "Economic Geography"  
pp. 334-353  
#11 "Urban Geography"  
pp. 381-415

WPL, Chapter 6 "Northern Africa and the Middle East" (Q7)

Quiz #7 on Thursday, 11/9

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**Week Nine 11/16, 11/18** Urban Geography-City Systems and Morphology: Urban patterns of growth, development and function; urban growth models; contemporary urban issues - suburbanization and growth of the megalopolis.

WPL, Chapter 7 "Southern Africa" (Q8)

Mid-Term #2 on Tuesday, 11/16

Quiz #8 on Thursday 11/18

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**Week Ten 11/23** Political Geography-States and Nations: States, nations and nation-states, spatial organization of the state (central/local government functions).

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #9 "Political Geography"  
pp. 293-327

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**Week Eleven 11/30, 12/2** Political Geography-Representation: political districting and voter representation, geography of elections, gerrymandering.

Read: *Introduction to Geography*, #9 "Political Geography"  
pp. 293-327

WPL, Chapter 8 "South and Central America and the Caribbean" (Q9)

Quiz #9 on Tuesday, 11/30

GMQ on Thursday, 12/2

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**•FINAL Tuesday, 12/7 at 5:35 pm**

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Note: The above items in this syllabus are tentative and could be subject to change.