

**Geography 105A and International Studies 105A (5320 & 5500):  
Geography of World Affairs:  
Instructor: George C. Walker.**

**Course Syllabus:  
Spring Quarter 2008**

Office: Office: D100D – next to fountain  
Office Hour: Daily 9.30-10.30  
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**Course Description:**

This course will focus on a range of contemporary issues of major significance to the continued development of life on Earth. This will be achieved by a review of such issues from social, cultural, political and physical systems.

**Course Objectives:**

To consider environmental, political and social issues which have a geographical dimension at a world scale. To study physical, economic, social, cultural and political processes that underlie landscapes, environments and spatial distributions. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the interaction of such processes and the contribution that geographical enquiry can make to an appreciation of different cultures as well as a sensitivity to, and concern for, landscapes, people and the environment.

**Required Texts:**

Contemporary World Issues in Geography by G. Walker: published by Thomson.  
World Place Locations by D. Roselle and G. Walker: published by Thomson with map packet Hammond World Atlas.

**Grading Standards:**

360-400 A  
340-359 A-  
320-339 B+  
300-319 B  
280-299 B-  
260-279 C+  
240-259 C  
220-239 C-  
200-219 D+  
180-199 D  
Less 180 F

**General Policy:**

- I hope that you will **enjoy the class** and that you will **be motivated to learn:**
- It is intended to search for a **variety of views** in a balanced way:
- It is hoped that you will organize your notes and use **good study habits:**
- The text books are excellent support materials, but, you must take **comprehensive class notes:**

- You should be spending about **50 hours of homework time minimum on this course**
- **You must take responsibility** for your learning:
- **Attend class regularly** and if you are absent arrange for someone to take notes for you:
- You are expected to be on time for class and **not leave early without permission:**
- Know the times and **dates** for all tests/quizzes/exams: bring a scantron answer sheet:
- Please **do not bring food and / or drinks** to class:
- Pay attention and **do not talk informally** during class discussions/lecture times:
- If you have a problem(s) please **see me** about it as soon as possible after the class:
- If you have a point to make during class please **raise your hand** to attract my attention:
- Please **do not hesitate to ask relevant questions** in class-time:
- You must take the mid-term and final examinations on the scheduled times, **I do not encourage 'make-ups'** other than absence due to a recorded illness. For recorded illness I require an email or telephone notification stating you are unable to attend / or a doctor's note indicating illness. If you do not provide either then your illness is not recorded and thereby not able to secure a make-up opportunity. Under unusual circumstances where I consider it possible for you to take a 'make-up' (other than a recorded illness) the 'make-up' will score a maximum mark of 75% of your recorded score on that test:
- **Please remember that if you are ill** I will only record your absence if you let me know by **phone/e-mail:**
- **The final** examination must be taken at the scheduled time.
- **Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Director of Disability Support Services (Room B132)** to establish their eligibility for accommodation. Tel: 564-2498. Please ask me if you need further advice.
- **Student Services also include Reading and Writing and Math Lab opportunities.**

### Course Outline and Calendar:

#### Week 1

##### Part 1 – Population Studies –

- a) World population an overview
  - b) Egypt – a study of rapid population growth
  - c) Demography of Japan – an ageing population
- Video presentations - 'Life expectancy: geography as destiny' and 'Japan – beyond our borders'

#### Week 2

##### Part 1 continued –

- d) Migration – coming to America
  - e) Urban Growth in Developing Countries – La Paz and Cairo
  - f) Urban Giant – Tokyo
- Video presentations – 'America's immigration debate' and 'Tokyo – the neon city'.

#### Week 3

##### Part 2 – Geography of Rich and Poor –

- a) Feast or Famine – global wealth and poverty
  - b) Help for the Poorest – foreign aid
  - c) The Provision of Healthcare – world's apart
- Video presentations – 'India – Hole in the Wall – opening the door to cyberspace' and 'Understanding sickness – overcoming prejudice'.

#### Week 4

##### Part 2 continued –

- d) Ill-Health and power in Sub-Saharan Africa
  - e) Caribbean contrasts
  - f) Life in America – the American Dream
- Video presentation – 'Invisible Children' – discussion follows

#### Week 5

##### Part 3 – The Resource Base –

- a) The impact of humankind on the environment
  - b) The Earth's weather and climate
  - c) Global climate change
- Video presentations – 'The science of climatology' and 'The impact of global warming'.

#### Week 6

##### Part 3 continued -

- d) Desertification in Niger
- e) The Mediterranean under threat

#### Week 6

##### **Mid-Term Examination – on all covered to date**

#### Week 7

##### Part 3 continued -

- f) The oil industry – peak or plateau

##### Part 4 – Globalization -

- a) Globalization – an overview
- b) Trade and Agriculture

#### Week 8

##### Globalization continued -

- c) East Asian economic giants
  - d) The global shadow economy – illicit trade and globalization
  - e) Diasporas, diffusion and influence – the Jewish and Chinese diasporas.
- Video presentations – 'The last place – television arrives in a Buddhist kingdom' and 'North Korea – hermit state'.

#### Week 9

##### Part 5 – Conflict –

- a) Conflict – an overview
  - b) Territorial conflicts – Arab and Jew in the Holy Land
  - c) The situation in Iraq
- Video presentations – 'Arab and Jew in the Middle East' and 'The Road to Kirkuk – after Saddam's terror, can Kurds and Arabs live together?'

Week 10

Part 5 continued –

- d) Water wars – power, poverty and inequality
- e) Border disputes – suspicious neighbors of South Asia
- f) Post-war reconstruction – Cambodia and Afghanistan rebuild

Week 11

- g) America the superpower – global perspectives and
- h) Concluding Thoughts

Finals Week

**Final Examination – on all material covered since the Mid-Term Exam.**

**Mark allocation:**

**1) 4 Map Quiz Exercises ( 4 x 25 marks = 100 marks) and 8 end of chapter Place Location atlas quizzes ( 8 x 5 marks= 40 marks)**

- a) Europe and Russia and East Asia – 25 marks – Wednesday April 9th
- b) Asia (except East Asia) – 25 marks – Wednesday April 23rd
- c) Africa – 25 marks – Wednesday May 14th
- c) Americas – 25 marks – Wednesday May 28th

**2) 5 Homework Exercises ( 12 marks each = 60 marks )**

- 1 - Populations of the Largest Countries 1900 and 2006 – Friday April 11th
- 2 - Population Pyramids of Japan and Egypt – Friday April 25th
- 3 – Map of The World's Largest Urban Areas – Friday May 9th
- 4 –World Trade by Major Countries 1875 and 2005 - Friday May 16th
- 5 – The Oil Industry – Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>

These should all be completed by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

4) **Mid-Term** from Parts 1 through 3 = 100 marks - Wednesday May 7th

5) **Final Exam** from Parts 3, 4 and 5 = 100 marks – in examination week – 50 minute exam. – 10.30 Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>

**Using your Textbook:**

The course material will follow the order of content in your textbook.

Your textbook is an excellent source of information. However, you would be well advised to take comprehensive notes during class time and use the textbook to supplement this material. Your own notes ought to fulfill this component of your work. I encourage you to read from your textbook covering the directly relevant material and as much 'background' material as you can – use the Internet and learned journals such as The Economist; Mother Jones magazine; The BBC; The Independent and the New York Times and the London Times among others.

## **Course Outcomes ratings**

**Ethics: 3**

**Historical and Intellectual Perspectives: 2**

**Cultural Diversity: 2**

**All the following rated 1** - Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Quantitative Logic:

Reading: Writing: Research Information Literacy: Listening and Speaking: Visual:

Computer Literacy: Group Processes: Lifelong Learning: The Nature of Science

## **Course Schedule:**

### **Part I: Population Studies**

- 1 - World Population an Overview
- 2 - Egypt a Study of Rapid Population Growth
- 3 - Demography of Japan an Ageing Population
- 4 - Migration - Coming to America
- 5 - Urban Growth in Developing Countries – La Paz and Cairo
- 6 - Urban Giant – Tokyo

### **Part II: Geography of Rich and Poor**

- 1 - Feast or Famine – Global Wealth and Poverty
- 2 - Help for the Poorest – Foreign Aid
- 3 - The Provision of Healthcare – World's Apart
- 4 - Ill-Health and Power in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 5 - Caribbean Contrasts
- 6 - Life in America – the American Dream

### **Part III: The Resource Base**

- 1 - The Impact of Humankind on the Environment
- 2 - The Earth's Weather and Climate
- 3 - Global Climate Change
- 4 - Desertification in Niger
- 5 - The Mediterranean – Ecosystem under Threat
- 6 - The Oil Industry – Peak or Plateau

### **Part IV: Globalization**

- 1 - Globalization an Overview
- 2 - Trade and Agriculture
- 3 - Raw Material Bonanza or Bust – Australia and Brazil
- 4 - East Asian Economic Giants
- 5 - Diasporas, Diffusion and Influence - the Jewish and Chinese Diasporas
- 6 - The Global Shadow Economy – Illicit Trade and Globalization

## **Part V: Geography of Conflict**

- 1 - Conflict an Overview
- 2 - Territorial Conflicts – Arab and Jew in the Holy Land
- 3 - Water Wars – Power, Poverty and Inequality
- 4 - Border Disputes – Suspicious Neighbors of South Asia
- 5 - Post-War Reconstruction - Cambodia and Afghanistan Rebuild
- 6 - America the Superpower – Global Perspectives

## **Conclusion: Closing Thoughts**

### **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Spring 2008**

#### 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 Community 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 Community 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 BCC 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 BCC 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.

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*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community 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.*