



## **World Regional Geography**

Geography 5

Tuesday/Thursday 9:45-11:10 am, 26D-3270

Fall 2018

Elizabeth Lobb

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Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:00am-9:30 am, 1pm-2pm

The best way to reach me is email; I only check my voicemail when I am on campus. I check my email daily and you can expect a response within 24 hours.

### ***Course Description:***

This course is an introduction to the discipline of Geography from a regional perspective. It will use a geographer's perspective to look at different world regions. For each region of the world (although we don't look at every single region as there just isn't time) we will explore the physical and human environments and how these interact and influence each other today and in the past. Examining the world through the lens of geography is especially important today as technological innovations, globalization and the spread of political and economic ideologies as well as the movement of people and goods across the globe have made most contemporary problems and solutions global. While the interconnectedness of the world is not a new phenomenon and the majority of the world has, for centuries, been connected through trade, conquest, and colonialism, it is important to understand how contemporary forms of globalization are remaking the physical and social world.

### ***Course Goals***

Upon completion of Geography 5, it is expected that students can

1. *Analyze the spatial variation of humans and their activities around the world.*
2. *Describe the tools and theories used in geographic research.*
3. *Evaluate the relationship between humans and the environment.*

### ***Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment***

- I am using an open-library textbook that is available to you for free. It can be accessed

at <http://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/> where it can be read online or downloaded in pdf or other formats. It is published by the University of Minnesota and is called ***World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization***

### ***Daily Work/Homework***

I expect you to keep up with the readings, on a weekly basis. Your “homework” each night is to be reading!! It’s also a good idea to review any other materials, like Power Points, that I have made available to you before coming to lecture.

### ***Major Assignments***

There are four graded components for the course: quizzes in-class, map quizzes in-class, exams in-class, and papers written at home.

- **Map Quizzes:** Map quizzes over the semester require you to identify countries, rivers, mountains, cities and other features around the world. There are five 25-point quizzes for a total of 125 points.
- **Content Quizzes:** You will have three in-class quizzes on lecture and reading materials. These will have a multiple-choice section and an essay. I don’t provide study guides for the quizzes; they are each approximately 30 points.
- **Exams:** You will have three exams, each covering 1/3 of the course reading and lecture materials. The third of these exams is the final exam, but is not cumulative. The exams have a short-essay section and a long-essay section. You’ll need a Blue Book for these. I do provide study guides for these exams and each is worth 100 points.
- **Position Papers:** There are three paper opportunities. Each paper is approximately 3-4 pages in length and explores an issue in one of the regions we’re discussing. **You can drop the lowest of these papers or only write two of them.** These papers require you to do a minimal amount of research with 3 outside sources necessary. Each paper is 50 points.

### ***Class Participation***

I do not give participation points or attendance points. However, your success in the course is very much connected to both of these. If you are in class, taking notes, paying attention, and engaging in the material, it is reflected in the quality of the materials you turn in to me. I realize everyone has different comfort levels with class participation, but showing up to class and showing me through body language that you are paying attention and are engaged goes a long way!! If you find yourself “borderline” at the end of the course (between two grades), your enthusiasm, respect and commitment to the class as a student are used as I weigh my final decision.

### ***Course Grading***

#### ***Grading Approach/Philosophy***

I do not grade on a curve but I do take the overall performance of the class into consideration when I calculate grades. In other words, if there is one question that everyone seems to have missed, I throw it out. I grade all assignments “blind”—I don’t know whose paper I am grading until I’ve finished all the papers/quizzes/exams. When a quiz or exam is returned to you, I ask

you to respect a “24 hour wait period”—that is, I ask you wait 24 hours before coming to me to discuss the grade. Before you come to me, please carefully review the quiz/paper/exam and all the materials you used to prepare for that assignment. Please bring these materials with you when we discuss the grade.

#### *Grading System*

- Quizzes (3): 100 points (approx.)
- Exams (3): 300 points
- Papers (2): 100 points
- Map Quizzes (5): 125 points
- Total points: 615 (approx.)

#### *Grading Cutoffs*

90% A                      80% B                      70% C

#### ***Course Policies and Information for Students***

##### 1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

As per the College Catalog: “Students are expected to attend all class meetings.” I take attendance at the beginning of every lecture. If you have more than three consecutive absences I reserve the right to drop you from the course. However, do not assume that you have been dropped just because you haven’t been showing up. It is the student’s responsibility to drop a course through the portal.

##### 2. PENALTIES FOR LATE WORK and REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

I do not accept late work.

##### 3. POLICIES ON MISSED EXAMS, MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES

If you have a legitimate medical excuse, and you contact me within 12 hours of the exam or quiz date, I will try to accommodate a make-up quiz or exam for you.

##### 4. TECHNOLOGY POLICIES:

No cell phones out or on during the lecture period. Laptops can be used with my permission, but are for the purposes of note-taking only. Audio recording may only be done with prior approval from me. You may not take photos of anything in the class—me, the board, the beautiful maps, etc. during lecture.

- ##### 5. ETHICS/VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Students are expected to understand, and adhere to, the College’s academic integrity policy: <http://catalog.mtsac.edu/registration-policies/college-policies-notice/#academichonestytext>. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of Student Life. Penalties for violating the policy can be suspension and/or expulsion from the College. Be sure that your work is your own, or that you have given appropriate credit to any sources! Always cite your sources when you present ideas and/or language that you have not developed yourself, including material from class lectures and discussions. Violation of this policy includes collaborating on assignments where collaboration is not allowed and/or utilizing notes, texts, etc. on any assignment where use of such materials is not allowed.

#### ***Resources for Students***

1. **DISABILITY RESOURCES:** If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please speak with me and consult the Accessibility Resource Center for Students (ACCESS) <http://www.mtsac.edu/access/>. ACCESS staff will determine appropriate accommodations and will work to make sure these are available to you.
2. **WRITING ASSISTANCE:** For additional help on your writing, consult the expert staff of The Writing Center <http://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/> in Building 26B, 1561A (behind the clock). It can be enormously helpful to ask someone outside a course to read your essays and to provide feedback on strength of argument, clarity, organization.
3. **MENTAL HEALTH:** Student health services on campus has professional staff members who work with students to resolve personal and interpersonal difficulties, many of which can affect the academic experience. These include conflicts with or worry about friends or family, concerns about eating or drinking patterns, and feelings of anxiety and depression. See: <http://www.mtsac.edu/healthcenter/counseling/index.html>.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework</b>	<b>Major Assignments and Deadlines</b>
8/28 & 9/3	<b>Introduction to geography and world regions</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 1	Content quiz 1: 9/5
9/11 & 9/18	<b>Europe</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 2	Europe map quiz: 9/11
9/25 & 10/2	<b>Latin America</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapters 5 & 6	Latin America map quiz: 9/25
10/4	<b>Exam 1: chapters 1, 2 5 &amp; 6</b>	Exam 1: 10/4
10/9 & 10/16	<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 7	Sub-Saharan map quiz: 10/9 Paper 1: 10/11 Content quiz 2: 10/18
10/23 & 10/30	<b>North Africa &amp; Southwest Asia</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 8	North Africa and Southwest Asia map quiz: 10/23
11/1	<b>Exam 2: chapters 7 &amp; 8</b>	Exam 2: 11/1
11/6	<b>East Asia</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 10	East and Southeast Asia map quiz: 11/6 Paper 2: 11/8
11/13 & 11/20	<b>Southeast Asia</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 11	Content quiz 3: 11/20 No class Thursday, 11/22 for Thanksgiving holiday.
11/27 & 12/6	<b>South Asia</b> <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 9	South Asia map quiz: 11/27 Paper 3: 12/6
12/13	<b>Final Exam 7:30am – 10:00am</b>	

Syllabus subject to change at the professor's discretion.