

Fall 2022 Course Syllabus
WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY (GEOG 120.001)
M/W/F 10:10-11:00 Stone Center 103
Course homepage: via <https://sakai.unc.edu/>
Cross-listed: PWAD 120.001



Prof. Scott Kirsch

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Office hours (remote): M 4-5; Th 2-4; and by appointment:
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Graduate Teaching Assistants:

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Overview

In this introductory course in Human Geography, concepts of space, place, landscape, region, and scale provide key lenses for viewing the processes that have shaped – and are continually re-shaping – the planet, highlighting themes of globalization, urbanization, and environmental change. The class offers a broad regional survey of the inhabited earth, exploring the world as a geographically differentiated, but highly integrated, space of human settlement, economy, politics, and cultural life. By emphasizing local case studies alongside the study of global interconnections, we attempt to understand both the accelerating pace of globalization *and* the persistence of place and locality amid changing regional and global contexts.

The course also examines a number of contemporary regional issues, such as the movement of refugees and the borders of ‘Fortress Europe’; changing land rights in West Africa; deforestation in South America; and migration and urbanization in China, to name a few. In doing so, World Regional Geography promotes global geographical literacy – the idea that, because we live globally, we require a planetary sense of *where things are* and *how things work* – while providing key concepts and perspectives for making sense of geographical difference in a changing world.

Requirements and Grades

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|--|------------------|-------------|
| • Quizzes/Final Quiz | 4 @ 15/10/10/15% | 50 |
| • Short essays | 2 @ 15% | 30 |
| • Participation & Response assignments (5) | | 10 |
| • Mapping exercises (5) | | <u>10</u> |
| | | <u>100%</u> |

Assignments, quizzes, and evaluation procedures will be explained in class and relevant information will be posted to *sakai*. Students are expected to stay tuned in to *sakai* (and course lectures) for updated course information, announcements, open-access textbook file (pdf), and links to non-textbook readings. Most of the participation & response and mapping assignments will be run through *sakai*: assignments.

Format

If you look at the topics in the provisional schedule below, you will find a dizzying geographical range of topics, from Europe to post-Soviet Russia to the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Americas. How is possible for us to cover so much ground in one semester?



With help from a number of more or less knowledgeable guides, including the characters from the 1956 film version of *Around the World in Eighty Days*, pictured here ←, who memorably make the planetary journey in slightly less time. Following the heroes of this onetime Hollywood blockbuster on their circumnavigation provides a rough itinerary for our “travels” from region to region in this course, while also ensuring that we don’t take ourselves too seriously.

Alongside regular course lectures, GEOG 120 will also focus on a range of cinematic and visual culture materials – including slideshows and documentary video – to help engage with cultural life in distant settings, and to provide some sense of the everyday landscapes and changing experiences of places and regions. Despite the relatively large size of GEOG 120, we will also attempt to keep things lively through a variety of in-class discussion and small group participation & response” exercises as well as mapping projects designed to encourage critical thinking and active learning.

Textbook

Finlayson, Caitlin. 2019. *World Regional Geography*.

The text is published open access: <http://caitiefinlayson.com/worldregional/> (free pdf can also be downloaded via course *sakai* page or on Amazon kindle);

Additional required readings, to be provided as pdf files or links via sakai, are listed by author in the provisional schedule, with full bibliographic references below.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE & KEY DATES

Dates M / W / F	Topics	Required Reading (chapter: pp. in <i>Finlayson</i> text unless indicated)
Aug 15/17/19	Introduction; geographical concepts and perspectives; globalization; oceanic encounters	Ch. 1: 3-24

Aug 22/24/26	Global contexts: urbanization, globalization, ecology; Fogg's bet; intro to Europe	--Katsikis
Aug 29/31/Sep2	Europe	Ch.2: 25-43 --Davies et al.
Sep 5th	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
Sep xx/07/09 Sep 12	Russia and Post-Soviet States	Ch. 3: 44-63 --Barney
Sep xx/14/16 Sep 19/21/23	Sep. 14 Quiz #1 North Africa & Southwest Asia: "The Middle East"	Ch. 7: 125-144
Sep 26th	Well-Being Day – No Classes	
Sep xx/28/30	"Middle East" → Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 6: 107-124
Oct 03/05/07	Sub-Saharan Africa	-- <i>Economist</i>

Oct 10/12/14	South Asia *October 12 Essay #1 Due*	Ch. 8: 145-162
Oct 17/19/xx	Oct 19 Quiz #2 → East and Southeast Asia	--Bansal
Oct 21st	FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES OCT 20-21	
Oct 24/26/28	East and Southeast Asia	Ch. 9: 163-181 --Jacobs
Oct 31/Nov02/04	East and Southeast Asia	--Hart and King
Nov 07/09/11	Nov 7 Quiz #3 Middle and South America	Ch. 5: 84-106
Nov 14/16/18	Middle and South America	--Borunda --Llana
Nov 21/xx/xx	North America	Ch. 4: 64-83
Nov 28/30/xx	North America/Oceania Essay #2 due Nov 30	Ch. 10: 182-201 --McMichael and Powell
Th Dec 8, 8 a.m.	Final Exam (aka, QUIZ #4)	

Short readings (links + pdfs available via saka):

Bansal, S. 2022. The plans for the world's next largest city are incomplete. *New York Times* January 20, 2022.

Barney, T. 2022. Maps show – and hide – key information about Ukraine War. *The Conversation* March 21, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/maps-show-and-hide-key-information-about-ukraine-war-179069>

- Borunda, A. 2019. See how much of the Amazon is burning, how it compares to other years. *National Geographic* August 29, 2019:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/08/amazon-fires-cause-deforestation-graphic-map/>
- Davies**, Thom, Obradovic-Wochnik, Jelena, and Isakjee, Arshad. 2019. On the edge of Europe: The violence and filth of a camp in Bosnia defines the EU's legacy on refugees. October 2, 2019 *Antipode Online* <https://antipodeonline.org/2019/10/02/on-the-edge-of-europe/>.
- Economist**. 2012. Boomtown slum: A day in the economic life of Africa's biggest shanty-town. *The Economist* 12/22/2012.
<http://www.economist.com/news/christmas/21568592-day-economic-life-africas-biggest-shanty-town-boomtown-slum>
- Hart, M.**, and **King, R.** 2019. To fix city slums, don't just knock them down: Involve residents in upgrading efforts. *Insights* 11/13/2019, World Resources Institute.
<https://www.wri.org/insights/fix-city-slums-dont-just-knock-them-down-involve-residents-upgrading-efforts>
- Jacobs, H.** 2018. Inside 'iPhone City,' the massive Chinese factory town where half of the world's iPhones are produced. *Business Insider* 5/07/2018.
<https://www.businessinsider.com/apple-iphone-factory-foxconn-china-photos-tour-2018-5>
- Katsikis, N.** 2019. Operational landscapes and the planetary Thünen Town. *Technosphere Magazine*, May 29, 2019: <https://technosphere-magazine.hkw.de/p/Operational-Landscapes-and-the-Planetary-Thunen-Town-wEHRDNXmerHhSqB7jYXGuC>
- Llana, S.M.** 2019. After Dorian: How a hurricane blew up social divides in the Bahamas. *Christian Science Monitor*, December 17, 2019:
<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2019/1217/Rebuilding-the-Bahamas-How-a-hurricane-blows-up-social-divides>
- McMichael, C.**, and **Powell, T.** 2019. Planned relocation in low-lying coastal villages in Fiji. *Geography Directions* July 23, 2019:
<https://blog.geographydirections.com/2019/07/23/planned-relocation-in-low-lying-coastal-villages-in-fiji/>
- Population Reference Bureau**, 2021 World Population Data Sheet.
<https://interactives.prb.org/2021-wpds/> (pdf provided for use in some mapping assignments)

- Please inform the instructor if you have **special needs** which require accommodations in or out of the classroom in order for you to fully participate in this course.
- Your full participation and observance of the **Honor Code** is expected in this course.
<http://studentconduct.unc.edu/>

- Changes to the syllabus, class schedule, and format are sometimes required. Any key changes will be announced in class lectures and via sakai: announcements

A Note on COVID-19 Accommodations:

This section of Geog120: World Regional Geography is **designed as an in-person learning experience** in which all students are strongly encouraged to observe **UNC's community standards** and to **practice appropriate isolation and quarantine norms** when testing positive or exposed to Covid-19 (see <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/2022/07/29/fall-operations>).

For at least the first few weeks of the term, all **lectures will be recorded** through panopto with links posted to sakai after class (not live-streamed or on zoom). There will be an out-of-class accommodation for any in-class response assignments that students may miss due to health, isolation, and quarantine requirements. Students are encouraged to keep us informed of any conditions that will prevent their participation in the course or require accommodation to do so. The **video lectures**, in other words, are intended as a relatively **short-term substitute** for times when students are unable to attend class, not as a regular alternative or hybrid course.

