

**Geography 101X: Expedition Earth: Introduction to Geography**  
**Summer 2020 May 18-June 25 MW 10-11:55 WEB/ TR Blackboard 3 Credits**

**Instructor: Benjamin Christian**

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment (email instructor to schedule Zoom video conference meetings)

**Course Description:** This course analyzes current events at the regional and global scale using the tools and insights of world regional geography. We will explore environmental, cultural, historical, social, demographic, economic, and political patterns and processes and seek to understand how these elements interact to influence local, regional, and global events. The goal is to understand how geographical factors shape the world we live in today.

**Course Objectives:**

- To be able to recognize the **patterns** of the world's physical and human geography.
- To understand the specific **processes** behind those patterns.
- To know the location and understand the significance of the world's most important **places**.
- To understand how **people** interact with their natural and manmade environments.
- To interrogate, analyze, and understand the world's most pressing geographic **problems**.
- To become **proficient** with basic geographic tools such as maps, media, and Google Earth.

**Textbooks:**

- Short, John Rennie. *World Regional Geography: A Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. (REQUIRED)
- Sutton, Christopher J. (ed). *Goode's World Atlas*, 23rd edition. U.S.A.: Rand McNally, 2017. (REQUIRED)

**Blackboard:** Blackboard (classes.alaska.edu) is the homebase for the course. All of the course documents, lecture materials, KML files, study guides, and assignment descriptions are posted to Blackboard. I will also send announcements via Blackboard. You are required to complete reading quizzes on Blackboard. Most importantly, **Tuesday** and **Thursday** learning activities are found on Blackboard. Make sure you have a Blackboard account and access to this course's page as soon as possible.

**Zoom Video Conference Code:** This class is a hybrid course delivered via video conference twice a week. You will be required to tune in via a Zoom video conference at the assigned meeting time on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. You do not need any special hardware or software to join the video conference. Simply use the link provided by the instructor to open the video conference window. Contact UAF OIT at (907) 450-8300 or 1-800-478-8226 if you need technical support.

**Google Earth Pro:** We will be using Google Earth Pro throughout the semester to explore and analyze places, geographic features, and other geospatial data. You should download Google Earth Pro (<https://www.google.com/earth/desktop/>) to the computer you use to complete your coursework ASAP.

## Assignments and Grading:

**Reading Quizzes:** You will answer a series of questions posted on Blackboard before each MW class. These questions will cover the assigned textbook readings. The reading quizzes are meant to encourage you to complete the assigned readings, reinforce critical concepts, and prepare you for in-class activities and discussions. **Reading quizzes are worth 10 points apiece for a total of 100, or 20% of your final grade).**

**Learning Exercises:** Tuesday and Thursday classes will be on Blackboard. They will build off of your textbook reading assignments, and will feature a host of active learning exercises. These exercises may include media analysis, Google Earth exercises, atlas exercises, case studies, and other activities designed to reinforce content and promote critical thinking. Note that you can miss one learning exercise module per unit. **Learning exercises are worth 15 points apiece for a total of 150, or 30% of your final grade.**

**Current Events Review:** You will complete a short research project on a geographically-relevant current event. As part of this project, you will describe and analyze the current event using geographically-appropriate language and analytical tools. You will also demonstrate your ability to find and critically evaluate sources. A full assignment description will be provided. **The current events review is worth 100 points, or 20% of your final grade.**

**Exams:** There will be two closed-book, closed-note exams taken in class. Exams will consist primarily of multiple choice, short answer, and map labeling questions. Exams will cover material found in your textbook, supplemental readings, and lecture. You will be given study guides well in advance of the exams. **Exams are worth 75 points apiece for a total of 150 (30% of your final grade).**

Assignment	Points	Percentage of Grade
Reading Quizzes	100	20%
Learning Exercises	150	30%
Current Events Review	100	20%
Exams	150	30%

**500 Points Total**

### Grading Scale

A+ = 98% - 100%

A = 93% - 97%

A- = 90% - 92%

B+ = 88% - 89%

B = 83% - 87%

B- = 80% - 82%

C+ = 78% - 79%

C = 73% - 77%

C- = 70% - 72%

D+ = 68% - 69%

D = 63% - 67%

D- = 60% - 62%

F = <60%

**Extra Credit:** There will be a limited number of opportunities to earn extra credit over the course of the semester (up to 25 points). Note that extra credit will not be available to those who have not done all of the other required assignments, or to those who have a failing grade when all other points are tabulated.

**Attendance Policy:** Note that there is no formal grade attached to attendance and participation. However, it is expected that you will take part in each synchronous class period. If you have three or more unexcused absences, you will drop a full letter grade in the course. If you have three or more unexcused absences by the withdrawal deadline, I will initiate a faculty withdrawal on your behalf.

**Late Assignments & Make-Up Exams:** Late assignments will not be accepted and make-up exams will not be offered unless you have a valid and verifiable excuse and have arranged an extension with me prior to the original deadline.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy**

Copying, plagiarism, and/or other academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students caught in any of these acts will be removed from the course, will receive an F, and will likely face additional punishment from the University, up to and including expulsion. The University's policy on academic misconduct can be found in the UAF catalog under "Students' Rights and Responsibilities" and at [www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html).

***Avoiding Plagiarism:*** Here is a handy reference explaining plagiarism in all of its forms: <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>. Please take some time to review the relevant sections of this website. Note that failure to understand what plagiarism is will not be considered a valid excuse for committing an act of plagiarism. *Ignorance of the law is no excuse.*

**A Note on Reading & Writing:** This is a college level course with college level expectations. You **MUST** be able to read and write at a basic college level in order to succeed in this class. Please see me privately if you have any questions or concerns about this requirement.

**Getting Help:** My job is to help you understand the material, so don't hesitate to seek additional assistance if necessary. Stop by during office hours, send me an email, or schedule a meeting; I will be pleased to help you any way I can (within reason, of course). Be aware that **YOU** are ultimately responsible for mastering the material, however.

### **Students with Disabilities**

UAF is obligated to provide accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student who has a disability. Please identify yourself to UAF Disability Services by applying for accommodations. To be considered for UAF Disability Services accommodations, individuals must be enrolled for at least one credit as a UAF student. For more information contact Disability Services at [uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu), 474-5655 or by TTY at 474-1827.

## **Title IX**

The University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment, including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to faculty members or university employees, they must notify the UAF Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

1. You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health and Counseling Center at 474-7043.
2. You can get support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX coordinator at 474-7599.
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the UAF Police Department at 474-7721.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Lecture 1**

**Date:** Monday, May 18

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topics:**

- Introduction to the course
- Introduction to world regional geography

**Reading Assignment:**

- Syllabus
- Schedule
- Assignment Descriptions

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #1 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 2**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 19

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topics:**

- Blackboard Familiarization; Google Earth Tutorial/Exercises; Media Literacy

**Reading Assignment:**

- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #1)
- Key Concepts for Media Literacy (PDF Posted to Blackboard)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #1 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 3**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 20

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topics:**

- Building Critical Geographic Literacy
- The Global Environment in Crisis: The Human Dimension of Physical Geography
- Global Demographics and Settlement Patterns: Human Geography in Flux
- Globalization and Its Discontents: Economic Geographies of Late Capitalism
- The New Multipolar World: The Messy Geopolitics of a World In Transition

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 1: "A World of Difference" (pp. 4-19)
- Short, Chapter 2: "A Global Context." (pp. 20-37)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #2 (Due by 9:00 AM)

#### **Lecture 4**

**Date:** Thursday, May 21

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topics:**

- Building Critical Geographic Literacy: Maps, Representations, and Stats

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 1: “A World of Difference” (pp. 4-19) (REVIEW)
- *Goode’s World Atlas*: “Introduction.” (pp. xii-xxi)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #2)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #2 (Due by 11:59 PM)

#### **Lecture 5**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 26

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topics:**

- Key Themes of 21st Century Geography

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 2: “A Global Context.” (pp. 20-37) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #3)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #3 (Due by 11:59 PM)

#### **Lecture 6**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 27

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** North America

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 13: “North America.” (pp. 296-323)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #3 (Due by 9:00 AM)

#### **Lecture 7**

**Date:** Thursday, May 28

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** North America

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 13: “North America.” (pp. 296-323) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #4)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #4 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 8**

**Date:** Monday, June 1

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** Central America and the Caribbean

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 3: “Central America and the Caribbean.” (pp. 40-65)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #4 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 9**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 2

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** Central America and the Caribbean

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 3: “Central America and the Caribbean.” (pp. 40-65) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #5)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #5 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 10**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 3

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** South America

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 4: “South America.” (pp. 66-91)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #5 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 11**

**Date:** Thursday, June 4

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** South America

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 4: “South America.” (pp. 66-91) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #6)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #6 (Due by 11:59 PM)

**END UNIT ONE**

**\*\*EXAM #1 DUE BY MONDAY, JUNE 8 at 5:00 PM\*\***

### **Lecture 12**

**Date:** Monday, June 8

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** Europe

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 5: “Europe.” (pp. 92-117)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #6 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 13**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 9

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** Europe

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 5: “Europe.” (pp. 92-117) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #7)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #7 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 14**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 10

**Date:** Monday, June 15

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** Russia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 6: “Russia and Its Neighbors.” (pp. 118-141)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #7 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 15**

**Date:** Thursday, June 11

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** Russia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 6: “Russia and Its Neighbors.” (pp. 118-141) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #8)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #8 (Due by 11:59 PM)



### **Lecture 16**

**Date:** Monday, June 15

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** East Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 7: “East Asia.” (pp. 142-167)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #8 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 17**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 16

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** East Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 7: “East Asia.” (pp. 142-167) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #9)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #9 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 18**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 17

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** South East Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 8: “South East Asia.” (pp. 168-191)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #9 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 19**

**Date:** Thursday, June 18

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** South East Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 8: “South East Asia.” (pp. 168-191) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #9)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #10 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 20**

**Date:** Monday, June 22

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** South Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 9: "South Asia." (pp. 192-217)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #9 (Due by 9:00 AM)
- Current Events Review (Due by 11:59 PM via email)

### **Lecture 21**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 23

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** South Asia

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 9: "South Asia." (pp. 192-217) (REVIEW)
- Supplemental Readings (See Learning Exercises #11)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #11 (Due by 11:59 PM)

### **Lecture 22**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 24

**Format:** Web (Synchronous)

**Topic:** MENA

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 10: "The Middle East and North Africa." (pp. 218-249)

**Assignments Due:**

- Reading Quiz #10 (Due by 9:00 AM)

### **Lecture 23**

**Date:** Thursday, June 25

**Format:** Blackboard (Asynchronous)

**Topic:** MENA

**Reading Assignment:**

- Short, Chapter 10: "The Middle East and North Africa." (pp. 218-249) (REVIEW)

**Assignments Due:**

- Learning Exercises #12 (Due by 11:59 PM)

**END OF UNIT TWO**

**\*\*EXAM #2 DUE BY FRIDAY JUNE 26 at 5:00 PM\*\***

