Instructor: Benjamin Christian
Office: 324 Reichardt Building (Geosciences Adjuncts Office)
Email: bdchristian@alaska.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment (email instructor to schedule 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 broad 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 gain a basic proficiency with geographic tools such as maps, media, and Google Earth.

Required Textbooks:

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 as soon as possible and begin to familiarize yourself with its features and capabilities. Note that the new Google Earth Online (for Chrome) will not work for this course’s assignments.

Blackboard: All of the course documents, lecture materials, KML files, study guides, etc. will be posted to Blackboard. I will also send announcements via Blackboard. You will also be required to complete reading quizzes/pre-lecture assignments on Blackboard. Make sure you have a Blackboard account and access to this course’s page as soon as possible.
Assignments and Grading:

Attendance and Participation: Students are required to attend lectures and participate in class discussions and activities. Attendance and Participation is worth 20% of your final grade

*How to get your participation points*:

- **Do the assigned readings and reading quizzes/responses prior to class:** In order to get the most out of each lecture, you must first have read and given some thought to that day’s assigned readings.

- **Show up to class:** Lectures build off of your readings, they do not simply reiterate them. Your exams will be partially based on material covered exclusively in lecture (i.e. not found in your book), so it is very important that you come to class. After 3 unexcused absences, you will drop a full letter grade. If you have 6 unexcused absences before the withdrawal deadline, I will withdraw you from the course.

- **Participate in activities/discussions:** In-class activities and discussions will be a critical part of each class period’s learning experience, and your active participation in those activities and discussions is required.

- **Don’t be disruptive, especially with electronic equipment:** Turn your devices off or put them somewhere you won’t be tempted by them unless the day’s activity calls for them or you have special permission. If you are caught messing around with your phones or other devices when not authorized to do so, you will lose your participation points for the day.

Reading Quizzes/Pre-Lecture Assignments: You will answer a series of questions posted on Blackboard before each class. These questions will cover the assigned textbook readings, specific maps in your Goode’s World Atlas, and additional materials (e.g. short videos, photos, maps, etc.). The reading quiz/pre-lecture assignments are meant to encourage you to read the assigned readings, reinforce critical concepts, and prepare you for in-class activities and discussions. Note that you can miss 2 reading quizzes. In other words, you are only required to complete 20 out of a possible 22. I will drop the lowest two scores from the final tabulation if you complete all 22. **Reading quizzes/pre-labs are worth 10 points apiece for a total of 200 (40% 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 100 points apiece for a total of 200 (40% of your final grade).**

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes/Pre-Lectures</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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%

**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.

**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, 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.