Before we get to the traditional portion of this syllabus, let me state some important points up front, which will be essential for your success in this course.

Pace Yourself: Much of this course will be taught online and online courses can be unforgiving when it comes to assignments and tests. In the end it all boils down to time management. Create a calendar that works for you and know your due dates for all our assignments. Assignments can be found in our course calendar and will be regularly announced.

Murphy’s Law: No medium is more susceptible to Murphy’s Law than online courses. Thus, the Mastering Geography (MG) website provides sections like “Getting Started”, “FAQ”, and “How-To-Videos” which you find under the “Course Home”. You can also call tech support (1-844-292-7015), use the discussion board to get help, or send me an email. (Tip: take a screenshot of any messages you get when you run into technical issues.)

Cheating: No doubt online courses have a problem with cheating. The way I see it, those who cheat are only cheating themselves as this will not serve them in the long run. Just as it is your decision to be well-prepared for tests (or not), it will be your decision to cut corners (or not). It is that simple, and I am not going to lose any sleep over it.

How to Register: First make sure you have
- A valid email address to receive emails from and send emails to your instructor
- A course ID. For this semester the course ID is: noll16065
- An access code for this online course (including an e-textbook) which you can get from the VSU bookstore or purchase online at the Pearson website:
  Go to [http://www.pearson.com/mastering](http://www.pearson.com/mastering)
  - under Register select Student
  - confirm you have the information needed, then select OK! Register Now
  - enter your instructor’s Course ID and then select Continue
  - enter your existing Pearson account username and password to Sign In
    - if you do not have a Pearson account yet, select Create to set one up
  - select an access option
    - enter the access code you got from the bookstore or purchased online
      (If financial aid is running behind, you can get temporary online access.)
  - from the You're Done! Page select Go to My Courses
  - on the My Courses page select Intro to Human Geography (GEOG 1101)
To Sign In Later
- go to http://www.pearson.com/mastering
- select Sign In
- enter your Pearson account username and password, and Sign In
- select the course to start your work

Common initial issue with the Pearson website and the “Mastering Geography” platform:

On occasion people report initial issues with accessing the Pearson website or working with the “Mastering Geography” platform. This is often connected with the blocking of pop-ups by your browser and indicated in your browser's address bar. This issue can be addressed by "allowing pop-ups" for the Pearson website and the "Mastering Geography" platform in your browser (consult your browser tech support for more info).

Course Objectives: The discipline of geography involves the study of the earth as the home of people. Geographers concentrate on the spatial aspects of people’s relationship with the earth and with each other. Simply put, we examine the WHY of WHERE. In this course we will take a regional approach to study environmental settings, formative periods, and cultural adaptations that distinguish each world region. We will emphasize three aspects of each region: 1) physical and place-name geography; 2) historical background; and 3) modern social, economic, and political issues.

In addition to these general course objectives, we will follow the aspired education outcomes of VSU’s Core Curriculum. Thus, among other things, students in this course will:

- develop a general understanding of the different concepts in cultural geography
- gain cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other cultures in our society and on our planet
- use computer and information technology to further explore the cultural richness of our planet
- and build on the knowledge gained of other cultures to reflect on our own society and culture(s)

For more information on VSU’s general education outcomes, please visit the following website:

https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/general-education-council/ge-outcomes.php

Warning: This course may present and discuss controversial materials to examine different aspects of culture. If you suffer from xenophobia or get your news only from sources like Fox News or MSNBC, this will be an eye opening and challenging experience. However, it is ultimately not important for your success in this course if you consider yourself a conservative or a liberal. What matters in the end is that you keep an open mind, that you read your e-textbook, and that you do your work in a timely fashion.

Your e-textbook (or digital textbook) which you can access on the Pearson website:


Your Success in this Online Course Depends on YOU: I will do everything possible to make our class a fun e-learning experience. However, your success in this course largely depends on your ability to work independently, to stay on top of things, to pay close attention to your course calendar, and to take care of ALL your time-sensitive assignments and tests.

VSU Withdrawal Policy: VSU students are limited to 5 drops with a grade of “W” during their undergraduate work. Make sure you are aware of this policy and understand the consequences before you decide to drop this class (see also VSU’s Undergraduate Catalog).

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: “No student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own. Essays, term papers, laboratory reports, tests, online writing assignments, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them” (see also VSU’s Student Handbook).
Disabilities: Students requiring classroom accommodations because of a documented disability should contact the Access Office located in Farber Hall. The phone number of the Access Office is 245-2498.

Title IX: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment, where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. VSU prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, or veteran status. If you are experiencing discrimination or harassment at VSU, please contact the Office of Social Equity via email (titleix@valosta.edu) or by phone (229-333-5463).

Homework Assignments (HWAs), Tests, and Grading: There are a number of homework assignments (HWAs) and tests for this course. You can only do well in my course if you take them seriously. There are three things I am willing to do to help with your final grade, and the rest is up to you:

1) I curve each graded homework assignment (HWA) or test if needed
2) I drop your worst homework assignment (HWA) score and your worst test score
3) Most homework assignments also include some extra credit opportunities

In order to help you with your studies and to set the pace for this course, each chapter will have reading assignments and related homework assignments (HWAs) which may include documentaries from BBC, Financial Times, or other sources. Your best homework assignment scores combined will be worth 40% of your final grade.

At the end of each chapter (and there is a total of seven chapters you have to read) there will be a test. Your best test scores combined will be worth 60% of your final grade.

Note: Each homework assignment (HWA) and test is time-sensitive and must be finished by a given time. I will make sure that you have enough time to finish all my graded assignments in peace, BUT your success will depend on how well prepared you are and whether or not you did your readings and homework.

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 90 - 100%
B = 80 - 89%
C = 70 - 79%
D = 60 - 69%
F = < 60%

The best way to succeed in my course is to read all relevant chapters in your e-textbook, to do all your homework assignments, to be prepared for all your tests, and to ask questions via the discussion board.
Tentative Schedule: On-Campus & Online

Dates & Locations:

**On-Campus**

**August**

20  Introduction (On-Campus / 2075 Nevins Hall, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm)
22  “Before the Flood” (On-Campus / 2075 Nevins Hall, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm)

**Online**

Any course work after August 22 and until December 4 will be taking place online!

These are the chapters we will cover during this semester:

- Concepts of World Geography (Chapter 1) (Online)
- Physical Geography & Environment (Chapter 2) (Online)
- Latin America (Chapter 4) (Online)
- Southwest Asia & North Africa (Chapter 7) (Online)
- Europe (Chapter 8) (Online)
- The Russian Domain (Chapter 9) (Online)
- Southeast Asia (Chapter 13) (Online)

Assignments for these chapters and respective due dates are outlined in our online course calendar! In other words, during this part of the course you MUST be online so that you do not miss anything!

**On-Campus**

Our last on-campus meeting will be on December 5.

**December**

5  Concluding Meeting & Discussions (On-Campus / 2075 Nevins Hall, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm)