

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

**GEOG 1000 – World Regional Geography**

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2015

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:** 0

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time:** Online

**Days:** Variable

**Room:**

**Instructor's Name:** Melissa Connely

**Instructor's Contact  
Information:** TM 125

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**Office Hours:** MW 2-3 TTH 10-11 F by appointment

**Course Description:** An overview of the world's major physical regions; the physical features, climates, and natural resources of each region, and how the people living in each region have adapted to, and are affected by, their physical environment.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** none

**Goal:** The world is indeed getting smaller. Travel and communication have brought people closer than they ever have been before, and the increased rates of interaction will continue into the foreseeable future. A major element in liberal arts education is an understanding and awareness of other cultures and areas. The objectives of this course are to provide you with the basis for an ongoing learning process about the world and to help you arrive at an understanding of not just where people live, but also of how and why they live the way they do.

**Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
2. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities

**Course Objectives:** (Based on the 18 standards from Geography for Life: National Geography Standards, 1994)

All eighteen standards are important and will be addressed, however this particular geography course will concentrate more on some than others. If you successfully complete the course, you will be able to:

1. Know how to use maps and other geographic representations.
2. Know how to use mental maps to organize information about people, places and environments in a spatial context.
3. Know how to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on the earth's surface.
4. Understand the physical and human characteristics of places.
5. Understand that people create regions to interpret earth's complexity.
6. Understand how culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.
7. The physical processes that shape the patterns of the Earth's surface.

8. Understand the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on the Earth's surface.
9. Describe the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations.
10. Describe the characteristics, distribution and complexity of the Earth's cultural mosaic.
11. Understand the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on the Earth's surface.
12. Describe the processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
13. Understand how the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the Earth's surface.
14. Understand how human actions modify the physical environment
15. Understand how physical systems affect human systems
16. Understand the changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.
17. Understand how to apply geography to interpret the past.
18. Understand how to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

In addition, the following themes and issues will run throughout the course. Make sure you are able to make connections between these themes and issues and each region we examine.

1. Current events can be placed into a regional geographic perspective.
2. Spatial relationships and interactions occur between and within areas and groups of people.
3. There are many bases for regionalization that are useful for discussion and analysis, but like all generalizations, they have limitations.
4. Countries and regions can be classified as developed, developing, and underdeveloped.
5. There are connections between level of development and major issues of access to resources, demographics, economics, and history.
6. Your own particular situation in your local area and region can be related to the greater picture of the world at large.

**Methodology:** This is an online course taught through the Moodle platform. You will be evaluated on your participation through quizzes, exams, news summaries and discussions.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Evaluation of students will be by regularly spaced objective quizzes, midterm and final exams, news summaries, and participation in discussions.

*1 Practice Quiz, can be taken unlimited number of times, 5 points*

*11 Chapter Quizzes @ 25 points, each can be taken up to 3 times, only highest score will count, 275 total*

*11 Summaries @ 10 points. Make sure you read HOW TO DO A NEWS SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS. You are required to post 1 summary and at least 1 followup comment on another student's summary, 110 total. Keep in mind that these are minimums for a passing grade, 7/10 points for each summary and discussion. If you want more points, post more and post more significant comments. Simply saying me too or words to that effect is not significantly adding to the conversation and will earn few if any points. Please note that each discussion summary is worth 10 points, and there are 2 required postings for each summary or discussion. Therefore each individual post can only be worth 5 of the 10 points. Don't get all irritated and excited if you get a 5 (or less) out of 10 for a posting! The two required posting scores will be added and will count towards the maximum of 10 points! Want more points per posting? Read the guidelines carefully, and post more significant posts and post more often; each post is worth some points.*

*11 Discussions @ 10 points. Make sure you read HOW TO DO A NEWS SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS. You are required to post at least 1 original contribution to the*

*discussion and at least 1 follow-up comment on another students post, 110 total. Keep in mind that these are minimums for a passing grade, 7/10 points. If you want more points, post more and post more significant comments. Simply saying me too or words to that effect is not significantly adding to the conversation.*

*Midterm and Final Exams @ 200 points each, 400 total*

*TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 900 points*

*Grade Scale: A: 90% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: <60%*

*There are a lot of points; you have the opportunity to do very well with this class! Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.*

**Required Text, Readings, and Materials:** World Regional Geography (without subregions), by L. M. Pulsipher. A highly recommended option: a Goodes (or other thematic atlas) World Atlas, an older edition of the atlas is OK. If you are thinking of ordering these books from an online book seller, please note that there are some older editions available and some things may have changed between editions. Use older editions or the editions with expanded content (labeled as with subregions) only at your own risk!

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:**

Quizzes and exams will be posted at the class website. Please note that quizzes and exams must be taken in order. I will generally close off the assignments from the past week a day or two after we start the subsequent week. Computer glitches can and do occur, so organize your schedule so you can take your quizzes and exams prior to the absolute last moment possible! Note that most (not all!) deadlines are as of midnight Sunday of each week. Since the class is organized on a week by week basis with all assignments and due dates listed, I do not repeat this information on the class Moodle calendar. Late summaries and discussions will not be graded or counted!

Participation is important for any course, but especially for Internet classes. While you may not be there in person, your participation or virtual presence is required! You must be self-starting and self-disciplined to get the most out of this class. If you are unable to set goals and schedules for yourself, this class may not be for you. Be sure to contact your instructor if you have difficulties of any kind.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism)** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are

responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:** The course is broken down into weeks. Each week and the assignments required for that week is posted in your moodle classroom.