

**SYLLABUS – GEOGRAPHY 251-001**  
**Tier 2 General Education Course – Individuals and Societies**  
**World Regions: Comparative and Global Perspectives**

**Meeting Time and Place:** Fully Online

**Instructor:** Dr. Vincent Del Casino

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**Office Hours:** By Appt.

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**Teaching Associate:** Lily House-Peters

**Office:** Harvill 309

**Office Hours:** 2-4pm (Tuesdays)

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***Required Texts***

Marston S., P. Knox, D. Liverman, V.J., Del Casino Jr., and P. Robbins (2014). *World Regions in Global Context, 5E*. New York: Prentice Hall.

***Optional Texts***

An Atlas – e.g., *Goode's World Atlas*.

A NEWSPAPER OR CREDIBLE NEWS SOURCE (*LA Times, New York Times, Christian Science Monitors...*).

***Introduction and Course Description***

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the world's geographic diversity. Simply put, we want to understand **how and why the world is organized the way it is**. We will examine **physical geographic processes** and the **human adaptations** to those processes. We will study the diverse conditions of the everyday lives of people as well as comprehend the larger political, economic, social, and physical conditions that mediate their existence. Moreover, we want to understand the relationships between the **social** and **spatial** organization of society, and how the social world is organized in and through particular **places**, such as cities, nations, virtual communities, etc. It is assumed that students do not have any prior background or familiarity with the interactions of people and their environments in these areas or with contemporary problems of social change and dislocation of the peoples of across the globe.

***Evaluation***

**Assignments and VoiceThread Discussions:** Assignments are individually-based and include submitting completed work to DropBox. In addition, each student will participate in a VoiceThread discussion based on their assignment each week. Each combined Assignment and VoiceThread Discussion is worth 20 points per week.

**TOTAL VALUE = 300 points**

**Weekly Content Quizzes:** These quizzes are based on video lectures and readings and include short answer questions. Each *Content Quiz* is 10 questions, worth 10 points.

**TOTAL VALUE = 150 points**

**Weekly Map Quizzes:** These quizzes are based on maps and figures in the textbook. It is essential that you have the most up-to-date edition of the book (5<sup>th</sup>) to be successful on these quizzes. Map and Figure numbers and pages are provided to you in advance and during the quiz. Each *Map Quiz* is 10 questions, worth 10 points.

**TOTAL VALUE = 150 points**

**Writing Assignments:** There will be TWO longer writing assignments that assess your ability to synthesize course material and apply it to the core concepts in the course. These writing assignments will help you complete your final VoiceThread presentation. Each writing assignment will be worth 125 points. The first writing assignment is due: *Monday, February 2, 2015 at 8AM*. The second writing assignment is due: *Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8AM*. Writing assignments are to be submitted as Word Documents (.doc) to the appropriate DropBox folder in D2L.

**TOTAL VALUE = 250 points**

**Final VoiceThread Presentation:** Each student will upload a final, five-minute oral presentation on their discussion of an emerging world region that is currently not identified in the book.

**TOTAL VALUE = 150 points**

### **GRADING**

The grades in the course will be determined through an average of exams and online exercises. There will be no curve for the course (although individual examinations may be curved). The total possible points for the course are **1,000**. Final grades will be given as follows:

A =  $\geq$  900 points      B = 800-899 points      C = 700-799 points      D = 600-699 points      F  $\leq$  599 points

### **ADVICE**

Students are expected to carefully watch ALL video lectures, read the book and take copious notes. Class notes combined with the lectures and readings will give you an excellent opportunity to do well in the course. If you are having problems with the material, assignments, or ANYTHING ELSE that might be distracting you from your work, please contact the instructors as soon as possible. It is much better to talk with us early on than at the end of the semester. If you just need to chat, that is fine as well, just give us a call or drop us an email.

Students are entitled to excused absence for the purpose of observing their major religious holidays if the instructor is notified by the end of the first full week of classes.

**UNIVERSITY WITHDRAWAL POLICY.** It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend classes and may choose not to do so. Please see link for drop/add deadlines/fees: [http://registrar.arizona.edu/dates-and-deadlines/view-dates?field\\_display\\_term\\_value=151](http://registrar.arizona.edu/dates-and-deadlines/view-dates?field_display_term_value=151).

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM.** Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be sanctioned for their violation of the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Students should understand what constitutes cheating and plagiarism. In particular, borrowing any author's words (from a website or otherwise) without citing that person constitutes plagiarism, even if you change the words ever so slightly. There will be no exceptions made in any case of cheating or plagiarism. If you have any questions about the definition of these concepts or your rights as students you should consult the online explanation at: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>. Make sure you know how these offenses are defined and what the minimum punishment for either is. If you have a question about proper citation formats, etc. you should contact the instructor. You, as students, have **RIGHTS**. You should make sure you know to what you are entitled in cases of accusation of plagiarism or cheating.

**SAME PAPER POLICY.** Students **MUST** turn in ORIGINAL WORK for all courses. Turning in the same paper to two different courses could result in an "F" in the course and University-based academic sanction.

**ABSENCE AND MAKE UP POLICY.** Students are eligible for make-up work if they have an excused absence. This absence includes illness (with documentation), participation in university programs (such as sports, etc.), special events observed by organized religions, absences pre-approved by the UA Dean or Students, and/or other incidents that are beyond student control (such as car accidents, etc.). Excused absences are only required in this course on days when materials are due (such as exercise or examination days). Please provide the professor with copies of doctor's notes, police reports, practice/competition schedules, etc. Without an excused absence, students are not entitled to makeup any assignments.

**STUDENT DISABILITY.** As a reminder, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the need for accommodation of a university verified disability. This begins by the student registering with the Disability Resources Center. For more information, go here: <http://drc.arizona.edu/students>.

**PLEASE NOTE.** Assignments and/or due dates may be subject to change with reasonable advanced noticed, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE:

### *Reading List and Assignment Due Dates*

DATES	TOPIC	READING (pps.)	ASSIGNMENT (D2L <i>DropBox</i> )	DISCUSSION POST #1 <i>VOICETHREAD</i>	DISCUSSION POST #2 <i>VOICETHREAD</i>	MINI- QUIZZES
<b>Week 1</b> (1/14-1/16)	World Geography Defined	2-7; 21-42	5PM, Friday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	5PM, Friday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	N/A	8PM, Friday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 2</b> (1/20- 1/23)	The Anthropocene	8-21; 43-45	10PM, Wed., January 21 <sup>st</sup>	10PM, Wed., January 21 <sup>st</sup>	8PM, Friday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8PM, Friday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Week 3</b> (1/26- 1/30)	Emerging Regions	92-93; 244- 245; 286- 287; 322- 323; 394- 395; 444	10PM, Wed., January 28 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., January 28 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 (DUE: 8AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>)</b>						
Week 4 (2/2-2/6)	Europe		10PM, Wed., February 4 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., February 4 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>
Week 5 (2/9-2/13)	Russia & Central Asia		10PM, Wed., February 11 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., February 11 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 13 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 13 <sup>th</sup>
Week 6 (2/16-2/20)	Middle East & North Africa		10PM, Wed., February 18 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., February 18 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>
Week 7 (2/23-2/27)	Sub-Saharan Africa		10PM, Wed., February 25 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., February 25 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>
Week 8 (3/2-3/6)	United States & Canada		10PM, Wed., March 4 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., March 4 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 (DUE: 8AM, MONDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>)</b>						
Week 9 (3/9-3/13)	Latin America & the Caribbean		10PM, Wed., March 11 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., March 11 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SPRING BREAK (3/16-3/20); NO CLASS</b>						
Week 10 (3/23-3/27)	East Asia		10PM, Wed., March 27 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., March 27 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Week 11 (3/30-4/3)	South Asia		10PM, Wed., April 1 <sup>st</sup>	10PM, Wed., April 1 <sup>st</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Week 12 (4/6-4/10)	Southeast Asia		10PM, Wed., April 8 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., April 8 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>
Week 13 (4/13-4/17)	Oceania		10PM, Wed., April 15 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., April 15 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>
Week 14 (4/20-4/24)	Futures		10PM, Wed., April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10PM, Wed., April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Week 15 (4/27-5/1)	Revisit the Contradictions		10PM, Wed., April 29 <sup>th</sup>	10PM, Wed., April 29 <sup>th</sup>	8PM, Friday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	8PM, Friday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>FINAL PROJECT (DUE: 10PM, FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>)</b>						