

GEOG 120: World Regional Geography

Fall 2021

Dr. Jon Lepofsky

Remote Only

Asynchronous (with Zoom Sessions)



On The Why of Where

“Ours is an interconnected world of travel and trade, tourism and television, a global village—but the village still has neighborhoods. Their names are Europe, South America, Southeast Asia ...”

—Harm de Blij

World Regional Geography provides an introduction to the core concepts which geographers use to understand the world. In addition to learning a lot of information and concepts related to different places and the people you could encounter there, you will learn how to think like a geographer in this course. That means doing more than just memorizing the names of locations or collecting obscure facts about various parts of the world. Thinking like a geographer means using the key conceptual tools of geography—concepts like location, place, scale, and space—to ask: why are different aspects of the world where they are? **Thinking like a geographer means exploring where people and places are, and more importantly, *why* there.**

After an overview of geography’s central concepts, you’ll spend each subsequent week learning about different world realms—what makes them unique places—and how they interact with each other—their spatial relationships. More specifically, you’ll come to know detailed information about the environmental and human-centered characteristics of the world’s major realms and what makes these realms distinct, as well as the spatial causes of cultural forms, economic development, environmental change, political structures, population dynamics, and urbanization evident in specific places. And, you’ll understand why inequities between people and places persist, how geography contributes to sustaining them, and how geography can help reduce them.

The course requires you to read the textbook and my associated notes, complete weekly lessons using the textbook and other resources, and interact with your classmates in an online discussion forum. There will be a midterm exam and a final exam.

This section of GEOG120 will be fully remote and designed so it can be completed fully asynchronously by engaging with the materials posted on Sakai. There will be deadlines throughout the semester; for most weeks you'll have an assignment to submit by Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays. While I will hold weekly Zoom sessions (days & times TBD), attendance at them will not be mandatory. I'll record & post all Zoom sessions to the course site on Sakai along with all materials used during those sessions (like PowerPoint slides).