

# **GPHY 141 SX: GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD REGIONS** **(aka “The World in a Semester”)** **~ Fall 2017~**

**Meeting Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sarah J. Halvorson  
Office: Stone Hall 211  
E-mail: sarah.halvorson@umontana.edu  
Office Hours: TR11-12 p.m., W 12-2 p.m., or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Morgan Anderson  
Office: Stone Hall 304B  
E-mail: morgan2.anderson@umontana.edu  
Office Hours: TR 2-3:00 p.m., W 10-noon, or by appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*We are living in a fast changing world that is shrinking. We're going to become closer neighbors still. We are going to have to understand each other better. And we'll have to recognize that regardless of where we come from, no matter what our color or background, we all initially sprang from the same source.*

*We'll have to learn to get along with one another. So we should listen to the other person. It will be a matter of accommodation and compromise, knowledge and understanding.*

*Future generations haven't been given much of a legacy, but have been given a great challenge and what they do will determine what their successors will be.*

- Former U.S. Senator and Ambassador Mike Mansfield during his message To American Youth and to the University of Montana, November 1989

How prescient the words of Montanan Mike Mansfield were over two decades ago. One starting point for meeting what Mansfield describes above as the “great challenge” presented by life in a global society is to build a basic level of geographical literacy. The purpose of this course – Geography of World Regions – is to do just that. “Geographical literacy” in the context of this course does not simply mean memorized facts about regions, countries and capitals. Rather, it means building an understanding of the processes that influence how regions came to be, how they relate to other regions, and how various regions matter in the world today. To appreciate these issues, we will examine specific regions that show how historical, political, social, economic, and environmental factors and forces shape the geography of the world around us. This is not merely to gain basic competence in a specific body of knowledge, but rather to understand the geographies that those before us have created as well as those we will help to create in the future. The hope is that this type

of understanding and geographic perspective will help you be a more informed and civically engaged global citizen.

While the course is ostensibly about world regions, there are also several underlying themes that will be highlighted throughout the semester. These themes include a critical appraisal of: (1) the processes and politics of development; (2) globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of the world; (3) society-environment interactions with special attention to the most pressing water problems that people in the world are confronting; and (4) critical thinking about data and information sources.

In addition to addressing these themes, this course is designed to encourage you to ask questions about regions and our relationship to them. Thus, we will strive to learn a new way of thinking critically about the world that will be meaningful to you beyond the scope of this course.

The course adopts both a historical and current-events perspective on the various geographies of contemporary regions. As such, we will cover a variety of topics and a daunting amount of geographical territory in a short period of time. In order to succeed in this course, it is imperative that you remain on schedule with course readings and assignments.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, it is my hope that students will have acquired:

1. Skills in the use and interpretation of maps and other geographical tools and technologies (for example, charts, graphs, tables, datasets, photographs, etc.) for geographical investigation;
2. Knowledge and understanding of fundamental geographical concepts of location, place, region, and globalization;
3. A grounding in the study and analysis of human-environment interaction with an emphasis on world water issues and challenges;
4. A deeper understanding of the complexity and diversity of social, cultural, historical, economic, political, religious and environmental conditions and processes that have produced various regional geographies; and
5. An appreciation of what it means to live in a global society and to be an active global citizen.

## **TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS**

Rowntree, L., Lewis, M., Price, M. and W. Wyckoff (2016). *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World, Fifth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

## **REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES, AND ASSESSMENT**

### ***Lectures and Attendance:***

In order for us to achieve the goal of acquiring geographical knowledge about the regions of the world, your attendance and *active* participation in the lectures are

absolutely critical. It should be stressed that lectures will go beyond the material presented in the textbook; reading the textbook and showing up for exams will simply not be enough to pass this course.

Attendance is mandatory and will play a role in your overall grade. If you miss lecture, it is your responsibility to get the notes from one of your colleagues in the class.

### **Map Projects:**

- Map projects are due on the dates posted in the schedule (see below for details). To complete the map projects, you will be using the textbook and consulting an atlas.
- Eleven map projects will be assigned throughout the semester. Ten projects will count toward your final grade. Your lowest grade will be dropped which implies that you can miss one project during the semester without impacting your overall grade. Map projects will be collected at the beginning of class.
- Late assignments will be marked 5 points off for each class period missed. Late maps will not be accepted two weeks after the deadline. If lateness is due to an unforeseen medical difficulty or a personal or family emergency, then appropriate documentation must be provided stating such in order for late work to be considered for acceptance. The last day to turn in assignments is the last class meeting of the semester.
- If you have questions or run into problems in preparing the map projects, please consult the TA.

### **Exams:**

- There will be four exams this semester. The exams will test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in class, videos, and textbook.
- For each exam you will need a red scantron standard form which you can purchase from the UM Bookstore.
- I encourage you to note all exam dates indicated on the course outline. The final exam time will not be rescheduled to accommodate students' travel plans at the end of the semester.
- Make up exams will **not** be given. If a missed exam is due to an unforeseen medical difficulty or emergency, appropriate documentation must be provided stating such in order to be considered for a make-up exam. Please consult the TA to schedule make-up exams.

### **Grading:**

The map projects have a combined value of 200 points (remember that your lowest grade out of eleven projects will be dropped). There will be four exams, each worth 100 points. The grading summary is as follows:

Weekly Assignments 10 @ 20 points each	200 points
Exams 4 @ 100 points	400 points
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>600 possible points</b>

The +/- grading system will apply as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100-93%	92.99-90%	89.99-87%	86.99-83%	82.99-80%	79.00-77%	76.99-73%	72.99-70%	69.99-67%	66.99-63%	62.99-60%	59.00-0%

All courses taken at the University of Montana to satisfy General Education Requirements, both Competency Requirements and Distributional Requirements, must be taken for traditional letter grade.

**Disability-Related Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services (DSS). 'Reasonable' means the university permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult: <http://www.umt.edu/disability>

**Academic Honesty:**

All course activities are governed by the Student Conduct Code, which embodies the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, human rights, and responsible citizenship. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a discipline sanction by the university. Please familiarize yourself with the UM Student Council Code. The Code is available online at: [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page1321).

**Course Correspondence:**

University policy requires that all correspondence between faculty and students be conducted using official UM email addresses only. Please feel free to come to my office hours or to catch me after class with questions. I am also available by appointment if the regular office hours do not fit your schedule.

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Assignments</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<i>Week 1</i>		
August 31	Introduction: Towards Geographic Literacy in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Ch. 1
<i>Week 2</i>		
Sept. 5	Globalization and Development	Ch. 1
Sept. 7	The Global Environment and Complex Hydrospheres	Ch. 2
<i>Week 3</i>		
Sept. 12	Latin America, <b>Map Project 1 Due</b>	Ch. 4
Sept. 14	Latin America, Water Issue 1	Ch. 4

<i>Week 4</i>		
Sept. 19	The Caribbean, <b>Map Project 2 Due</b>	Ch. 5
Sept. 21	The Caribbean, Water Issue 2	Ch. 5
<i>Week 5</i>		
Sept. 26	<b>EXAM I</b>	
Sept. 28	Sub-Saharan Africa, <b>Map Project 3 Due</b>	Ch. 6
<i>Week 6</i>		
October 3	Sub-Saharan Africa, Water Issue 3	Ch. 6
October 5	Southwest Asia & North Africa, <b>Map Project 4 Due</b>	Ch. 7
<i>Week 7</i>		
October 10	Southwest Asia & North Africa, Water Issue 4	Ch. 7
October 12	Europe, <b>Map Project 5 Due</b>	Ch. 8
<i>Week 8</i>		
October 17	Europe, Water Issue 5	Ch. 8
October 19	<b>EXAM II</b>	
<i>Week 9</i>		
October 24	The Russian Domain, <b>Map Project 6 Due</b>	Ch. 9
October 26	The Russian Domain, Water Issue 6	Ch. 9
<i>Week 10</i>		
October 31	Central Asia, <b>Map Project 7 Due</b>	Ch. 10
Nov. 2	Central Asia, Water Issue 7	Ch. 10
<i>Week 11</i>		
Nov. 7	East Asia, <b>Map Project 8 Due</b>	Ch. 11
Nov. 9	East Asia, Water Issue 8	Ch. 11
<i>Week 12</i>		
Nov. 14	<b>EXAM III</b>	
Nov. 16	South Asia, <b>Map Project 9 Due</b>	Ch. 12
<i>Week 13</i>		
Nov. 21	South Asia, Water Issue 9	Ch. 12
Nov. 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 22-26</i>	
<i>Week 14</i>		
Nov. 28	Southeast Asia, <b>Map Project 10 Due</b>	Ch. 13
Nov. 30	Southeast Asia, Water Issue 10	Ch. 13
<i>Week 15</i>		
Dec. 5	Australia & Oceania, <b>Map Project 11 Due</b>	Ch. 14
Dec. 7	Australia & Oceania, Water Issue 11	Ch. 14
<i>Finals Week</i>		
Dec. 12	Semester Conclusion and Review	
Dec. 14	<b>EXAM IV 10:10-12:10</b>	