Lake-Sumter State College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: GEO 1000

Course Title: Introduction to Geography

CRN: 20549

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2021

Class Days, Location, Time: Traditional Online

Course Description: This course covers topics on the spatial relationships of humankind and the environment. It allows students to explore the world geographically based on information for making informed decisions on varied geographic issues and problems.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. David Walton

E-Mail: WaltonD@lssc.edu

Office Location: Zoom ID (495 086 4570) and Password (265852)

Phone: 352-536-2177

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 12:00–2:00 PM

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 AM–1:00 PM

Vital Communication Information

For e-mail, please note that all students are required to use Lakehawk Mail for official college e-mail communications. See the college webpage for instructions on activating Lakehawk Mail.

Sending a private message using the INBOX in Canvas is always the most secure method of contacting your Instructor.

Please remember that any contact with your Instructor should be of a professional nature. If you leave a voice mail message be clear, concise, and include your contact and class information. Follow up verbal conversations with a written account via INBOX in Canvas or e-mail.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisites or Co-requisites: None

Textbook & Other Course Materials

Dahlman, Carl H., and William H. Renwick (2014). *Introduction to Geography: People, Places & Environment, 6th Edition.* Pearson. ISBN: 9780321843333

Technology Requirements

Canvas is a required component of this course. Students unfamiliar with Canvas are expected to complete the Student Orientation course located in Canvas within the first week of classes.

See the LSSC student Technology Help Desk website for more information on how to obtain Microsoft Office 365 as a LSSC student.

Major writing assignments need to be created and saved in a file format that is compatible with Microsoft Word. If using a word processing program other than Word, it is the student's responsibility to adhere to all formatting and submission requirements. Please ask for help if you are unsure how to save a file in a Word-compatible format.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

The following outcomes will be assessed in this course. An "outcome" is defined as something students take with them beyond this course. After successful completion of this course, the student will:

1) Read and interpret maps and other geographic representations
2) Articulate the relationships between geography and culture
3) Explain the planet's natural characteristics and physical processes
4) Evaluate the impacts of human activities on natural environments

Course Objectives

Objectives are defined as what the course will do and/or what the students will do as part of the course.

Part 1: Environment and Resources

- Identify the difference between weather and climate
- Define the major climate regions
- List the three major causes of climate change
- Identify the different types of mass movements and how they operate
- List the major environmental hazards associated with geologic activity
- Define the hydrologic cycle and identify the major processes that move water among the earth, atmosphere, and oceans
- Identify the fundamental elements of an ecosystem
- Describe the five types of biomes
- Explain the difference between a renewable resource and a nonrenewable resource
- Identify the effects of human activity on the environment

Part 2: People and Cultures

- Locate Earth's major population clusters on a map
- Differentiate the factors of population growth in Europe and Africa
- Identify the main push-and-pull factors for each major type of migration
- Contrast cultural evolution with cultural diffusion
- List characteristics that might define different identities
- Explain how modern media diffuse culture

- Locate the origins of the world's major religions on a map
- Identify the influence of religion on other aspects of society
- Distinguish among language families, language, dialect, and accent.
- Identify the different types of fishing and fisheries that produce the world's aquatic food
- Locate the areas with the largest numbers of undernourished people today
- Describe the ways that food production has kept up with population growth

Part 3: Development of Modern Society

- Give examples of advantageous locations for cities
- Compare urbanization in the 19th century with rapidly growing cities of today
- Outline the basic features of urban functions in different world regions
- Relate the importance of culture to the formation of the modern state
- Classify the governments of different regions as democratic or autocratic
- Describe some of the factors that help to unify a country and those factors that can break it apart
- Contrast how states rule their territory with how they cooperate on non-state territories
- Distinguish gross domestic product from gross national income
- Identify the factors used to measure human development
- List economic activities that form part of the global economy

Institutional Policies & Procedures

Academic Integrity:

The successful functioning of the academic community demands honesty, which is the basis of respect for both ideas and persons. In the academic community, there is an ongoing assumption of academic integrity at all levels. There is the expectation that work will be independently thoughtful and responsible as to its sources of information and inspiration. Honesty is an appropriate consideration in other ways as well, including but not limited to the responsible use of library resources, responsible conduct in examinations, and the responsible use of the Internet. See the college catalog for complete statement.

Important Information for Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability who requires assistance or academic accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Services immediately to discuss eligibility. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is located on the Leesburg Campus, but arrangements can be made to meet with a student on any campus. An appointment can be made by calling 352-365-3589 and specific information about SAS and potential services can be found at Student Accessibility Services.

Privacy Policy (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. In order for your information to be released, a form must be signed, and in your records, located in the Admissions/Registrar's Office.

Zero-Tolerance for Violence Statement:

Lake-Sumter State College has a policy of zero tolerance for violence as stated in College Board Rule 2.17. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with Board Rule 2.17.

LSSC Safety Statement:

Lake-Sumter State College values the safety of all campus community members. **If you have an emergency, call 911**. Otherwise, to report a concern, suspicious activity, or to request a courtesy escort, call Campus Safety:

(352) 516-3795 Leesburg
(352) 536-2143 South Lake
(352) 303-7296 Sumter

LSSC also has a free safety app, **Lake-Sumter Safe**, that is available for download. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via LSSC Alert. You are opted into this system when you become a LSSC student. For more information regarding safety and to view available resources, visit the Campus Safety web page.

Attendance/Withdrawal Policies:

Initial Attendance:

Initial attendance will be entered at the end of the second week of the semester/mini-mester. A student who has not met initial attendance requirements will be marked as "not-attending" and administratively withdrawn from the class. The withdrawn student is still financially responsible for the class. See the college catalog for more details.

Withdrawal:

Once the Add/Drop period passes, students deciding to discontinue class attendance and/or online participation have the responsibility for formal withdrawal by the withdrawal deadline.

Withdrawal Deadline: March 29th, 2021

Instructor Policies

Classroom Etiquette:

Diversity statement: The instructor will foster an environment that values the discussion of multiple viewpoints. Students may not agree with all of the thoughts discussed in class. However, students will respect the views of others and debate topics in the class in a civil and respectful manner. The instructor will not tolerate remarks or discrimination based on age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Attendance: Students are expected to log into the online course at least twice weekly. Participation in online discussions and other weekly activities are vital to successfully completing this course.

Makeup examinations: None will be given except in the case of a documented illness or emergency. Travel plans do not constitute a valid excuse for missing an exam.

Late Work Policy:

Quizzes and Discussions may not be completed late. The Geographic Area Project and Final Exam Essay will **not be accepted more than three days** after midnight of the due date; they will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late.

Plagiarism Statement:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and the instructor uses tools to detect plagiarism for all class assignments. Upon the first detection of plagiarism, the instructor will use a formal written warning, while he will also issue an assignment grade of zero for intentional plagiarism. The second case of plagiarism will incur a grade of zero for the assignment and an incident report filed with the college. The third case of plagiarism will incur a failing grade for the course.

Assignment Overview & Grade Breakdown

Category	Description	Grade %
Online Quizzes	Weekly Quizzes Based on Assigned Readings	400 points
Discussions	Discussion Forum Contributions	300 points
Research Project	Geographic Area Project	200 points
Final Exam Essay	Future Applications of Geography	100 points
Letter Grades	A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 59% and below	

Course Calendar

Date	Course Content
Week 1 **(1/11–1/17)**	1. Read over the course syllabus and watch the welcome video 2. Watch *Windows on the World* (2010) in the Week 1 Module 3. Complete the Week 1 Discussion **All items for Week 1 due by Monday 1/18 at 9:00 AM**
Week 2 **(1/18–1/24)**	1. Read Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography 2. Complete the Chapter 1 Quiz 3. Complete the Week 2 Discussion **All items for Week 2 due by Monday 1/25 at 9:00 AM**
Week 3 **(1/25–1/31)**	1. Read Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change 2. Watch: *The Great Barrier Reef: Coral, Carbon, and Climate Change* (2017) & *Seychelles Climate Change* (2017) in the Week 3 Module 3. Complete the Chapter 2 Quiz 4. Complete the Week 3 Discussion **All items for Week 3 due by Monday 2/1 at 9:00 AM**

Date	Course Content
Week 4 **(2/1–2/7)**	1. Read Chapter 3: Landforms 2. Watch *Faces of Earth: Assembling America* (2013) in the Week 4 Module 3. Complete the Chapter 3 Quiz 4. Complete the Week 4 Discussion **All items for Week 4 due by Monday 2/8 at 9:00 AM**
Week 5 **(2/8–2/14)**	1. Read Chapter 4: Biosphere 2. Watch: *Ecotourism in the Amazon Rainforest: Manu Biosphere Preserve, Peru* (2017), *Amazon Tribe Battle Rainforest Decimation* (2019), and *Complicit: The Amazon Fires* (2020) in the Week 5 Module 3. Complete the Chapter 4 Quiz 4. Complete the Week 5 Discussion **All items for Week 5 due by Monday 2/15 at 9:00 AM**
Week 6 **(2/15–2/21)**	1. Read Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection 2. Complete the Chapter 5 Quiz 3. Review the Geographic Area Project instructions (nothing to submit yet) **All items for Week 6 due by Monday 2/22 at 9:00 AM**
Week 7 **(2/22–2/28)**	1. Watch: *What is GIS?* (2014) & *Introduction to GIS (Geographic Information Systems)* (2012) (stop at 41:40) in the Week 7 Module 2. Download and explore layering options in Google Earth Pro 3. Complete the Week 7 Discussion 4. Keep working on your Geographic Area Project (nothing to submit yet) **All items for Week 7 due by Monday 3/1 at 9:00 AM**
Week 8 **(3/1–3/7)**	1. Read Chapter 6: Population and Migration 2. Complete the Chapter 6 Quiz 3. Watch: *Overpopulated* (2014) in the Week 8 Module 4. Complete the Week 8 Discussion 5. Keep working on your Geographic Area Project (nothing to submit yet) **All items for Week 8 due by Monday 3/8 at 9:00 AM**
Week 9 **(3/8–3/14)**	1. Read Chapter 7: Cultural Geography 2. Take the Chapter 7 Quiz 3. Read Chapter 8: Languages and Religions 4. Watch: *Spirit of the Age* (2010) in the Week 10 Module 5. Take the Chapter 8 Quiz 6. Complete the Week 9 Discussion 7. Keep working on your Geographic Area Project **All items for Week 9 due by Monday 3/15 at 9:00 AM**
Week 10 **(3/15–3/21)**	1. Continue to work on your Geographic Area Project over Spring Break 2. Submit your Geographic Area Project in Canvas by **Monday 3/22 at 9:00 AM**
Week 11 **(3/22–3/28)**	1. Read Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture 2. Take the Chapter 9 Quiz **All items for Week 11 due by Monday 3/29 at 9:00 AM**

Date	Course Content
Week 12 **(3/29–4/4)**	1. Read Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization 2. Watch: *Growing Pains: Managing Megacities* (2016) in the Week 12 Module 3. Take the Chapter 10 Quiz 4. Complete the Week 12 Discussion **All items for Week 12 due by Monday 4/5 at 9:00 AM**
Week 13 **(4/5–4/11)**	1. Read Chapter 11: A World of States 2. Watch: *Plunder and Possession* (2010) in the Week 13 Module 3. Take the Chapter 11 Quiz **All items for Week 13 due by Monday 4/12 at 9:00 AM**
Week 14 **(4/12–4/18)**	1. Read Chapter 12: Economy and Development 2. Complete the Chapter 12 Quiz 3. Complete the Week 14 Discussion 4. Begin researching and developing the main content areas for the Final Exam Essay (nothing to submit yet) **All items for Week 14 due by Monday 4/19 at 9:00 AM**
Week 15 **(4/19–4/25)**	1. Allocate plenty of time for composing the Final Exam Essay and revising it for grammar, spelling errors, and sentence structure. 2. Refer to the Writing Critiques file and feedback on your Geographic Area Project to improve your Final Exam Essay before submission. **All items for Week 15 due by Monday 4/26 at 11:00 PM**
Week 16 **(4/26–4/30)**	1. Submit your Final Exam Essay in Canvas **Due on Monday 4/26 at 11:00 PM**

Basic Needs Statement:

Any student who faces challenges securing basic needs such as food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is encouraged to contact a campus dean at deanofstudents@lssc.edu. The deans will then be able to share any resources at their disposal.

Syllabus Disclaimer:

Information contained in this syllabus is, to the best knowledge of this instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed to the student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within policies and procedures of Lake-Sumter State College, to make necessary changes in course content or instructional techniques with notification to students.