

# Course Syllabus - GSC110

DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCES

COURSE PREFIX: GSC

COURSE NUMBER: 110

CREDIT HOURS: 3.0

Time and Place: T TH 12:30-1:45 PM in Blackburn (BL) 312

Instructor: Ms. Jane Benson Office Blackburn (BL) 418A Office Hours: W F 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM or by app't.  
Email: [jbenson1@murraystate.edu](mailto:jbenson1@murraystate.edu) Phone: 270-809-3106

## I. TITLE: World Geography

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):** A course designed to introduce students to the geographic distribution of major regions of the world. Attention will be focused on the delicate interrelationships between the natural landscapes of the earth and corresponding major cultural activities.

**Prerequisite(s):** none

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of the regional geography of the modern world and how geographers study our environment. Within the framework of a survey of world regions, attention will be directed to the interrelationships of natural and cultural landscapes, the processes by which cultural landscapes developed, and worldwide patterns of development and diversity. The student will be able to

- A. Learn basic geographic concepts;
- B. Explain the relevance of geography to the understanding of the modern world;
- C. Understand the manifestations of globalization and diversity from the geographic perspective;
- D. Understand the indicators of development and the concept of underdevelopment;
- E. Describe the physical and cultural aspects of regions of the modern world and their levels of development.

## IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Introduction                    | G. Southwest Asia and North Africa |
| B. North America                   | H. Sub-Saharan Africa              |
| C. Latin America and the Caribbean | I. South Asia                      |
| D. Europe                          | J. East Asia                       |
| E. The Russian Domain              | K. Southeast Asia                  |
| F. Central Asia                    | L. Australia and Oceania           |

V. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** This course will be conducted using lectures and discussions. Visual aids will include maps, photos, satellite images and selected videos.

VI. **FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:** None.

## VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

- A. Rowntree, Lewis, Price and Wyckoff, 2012. Globalization and Diversity, 4th Ed. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-321-82146-1; ISBN-10: 0-321-82146-7 (REQUIRED)
- B. Videos in the Dept. of Geosciences, holdings in the libraries, and the internet.

VIII. **EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:** Grades will be based on examinations (60%), quizzes (10%), and assignments (30%).

## IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*. Classroom attendance is strongly encouraged. Students absent from more than eight (8) lecture sessions without legitimate excuse will receive reduced credit for their overall grades. Documented excuse is required for any make-ups. No food in class. No cellphone use in class.

**Makeup policy:** Make-ups will only be given based on documented excuses. Contact the instructor as soon as you have knowledge of the absence and schedule a make-up, preferably before the next scheduled class time after the day the quiz or exam is given.

**Late penalty:** 10% per day. Assignments will not be accepted after one week unless a documented excuse is presented.

## **X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

### **Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

## **XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

### Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

### Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).