

**Northern Marianas College**  
**CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST**

**Effective Semester / Session:** Fall 2012

**Type of Action:**

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

**Course Alpha and Number:** GE 201

**Course Title:** World Regional Geography

**Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:**

The course guide has been upgraded to reflect changes in the textbook and course assessments.

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Eugene Foels

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*8-14-12*

Proposer

Date

Thomas Sharts

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Department Chair

Date

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*8.14.12*

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

### 1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

### 2. Purpose

This course is designed to give students global and multicultural perspectives to regional and worldwide environmental, economic, political, cultural, social, and demographic issues, problems, patterns, and diversity. This course is timely and useful in a time of regionalization and globalization in climate change (global warming, the greenhouse effect, and acid rain), public health problems, water shortages, natural disasters, land degradation (deforestation, desertification, salinization, loss of arable farmlands), urbanization, economic decline (recession, unemployment, credit shortages, and inflation), and religious fundamentalism.

### 3. Description

#### A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Rowntree, Les, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff.

*Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2012.

Readability level: Grade 12.6

#### B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester

2. **Lab:** None

3. **Other:** None

#### C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3

2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

#### D. Catalogue Course Description

This course is a survey of the major populated geographic regions of the world. Emphasis is placed on how globalization affects the unique nature of regions, the interrelationships of cultures and the landscapes they occupy, and contemporary patterns and problems of economic and social development, environmental issues, and political and religious conflicts. Prerequisite: None. English Placement Level: EN 101. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Fall and Spring)

# Northern Marianas College Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

## **E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course**

This course fulfills one of the General Education requirements for social sciences for the A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and the A.A. Degree in Business, the General Education requirement for Geography for the B.S. Degree in Elementary Education, and the General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Associate in Science Degree in Natural Resource Management and for the A.A.S. Degree in Business Administration: Accounting Emphasis, Business Management Emphasis, and Computer Applications Emphasis.

## **F. Course Activities and Design**

Course activities include lectures, group discussions, homework assignments, viewing and discussing relevant videotapes, unit tests, and a final exam. Students are required to participate fully in discussions, read and discuss textbook assignments, and complete other course assignments.

## **4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**

Prerequisite(s): None

English Placement Level: EN 101

Math Placement Level: None

## **5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed**

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course; the cost of the textbook; and any applicable fees.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, TV/VCR, videotaped and DVD programs, wall maps, and library books to be identified by the instructor.

## **6. Method of Evaluation**

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

### 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

#### 1.0 Diversity Amid Globalization

- 1.1 Globalization of the world and locally in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- 1.2 Physical geography: Environments, regions, landscapes
- 1.3 Population and settlement: People on the land
- 1.4 Cultural coherence and diversity: The geography of tradition and change
- 1.5 Geopolitical framework: Fragmentation and unity
- 1.6 Economic and social development: The geography of wealth and poverty

#### 2.0 The Changing Global Environment

- 2.1 Geology and human settlement: A restless Earth
- 2.2 Global climates: An uncertain forecast
- 2.3 Water on earth: A scarce and polluted resource
- 2.4 Human impacts on plants and animals: The globalization of nature
- 2.5 Food resources: Environment, diversity, globalization

#### 3.0 North America

- 3.1 Environmental geography: A threatened land of plenty
- 3.2 Population and settlement: Reshaping a continental landscape; urbanization
- 3.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: Shifting patterns of pluralism
- 3.4 Geopolitical framework: Patterns of dominance and division
- 3.5 Economic and social development: Geographies of abundance and affluence

#### 4.0 Latin America

- 4.1 Environmental geography: Tropical diversity and degradation of forests, farmland, and urban areas
- 4.2 Population and settlement: The dominance of cities; urbanization
- 4.3 Patterns of cultural coherence and diversity: Repopulating a continent
- 4.4 Geopolitical framework: Redrawing the map; regional economic organizations; international drug trafficking
- 4.5 Economic and social development: Dependent economic growth

#### 5.0 The Caribbean

- 5.1 Environmental geography: Paradise undone; deforestation and soil erosion
- 5.2 Population and settlement: Densely settled islands and Rimland frontiers; urbanization
- 5.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A neo-Africa in the Americas

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

- 5.4 Geopolitical framework: Colonialism, neocolonialism, and independence
- 5.5 Economic and social development: From cane fields to cruise ships
- 6.0 Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 6.1 Environmental geography: The plateau continent; desertification and deforestation
  - 6.2 Population and settlement: Young and restless; HIV/AIDS
  - 6.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: Unity through adversity; Christianity, Islam, and Animism
  - 6.4 Geopolitical framework: Legacies of European colonialism; ethnic conflicts
  - 6.5 Economic and social development: The struggle to rebuild; poverty
- 7.0 Southwest Asia and North Africa
  - 7.1 Environmental geography: Life in a fragile world; deforestation and degradation of farmland
  - 7.2 Population and settlement: Changing rural and urban worlds; urban growth and migration patterns
  - 7.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: Signs of complexity; roles of Islam
  - 7.4 Geopolitical framework: European colonization; never-ending tensions; Arab-Israeli conflicts
  - 7.5 Economic and social development: Lands of wealth and poverty; oil extracting, refining, and exporting
- 8.0 Europe
  - 8.1 Environmental geography: Human transformation of a diverse landscape; air pollution and acid rain
  - 8.2 Population and settlement: Slow growth and rapid migration; low birth rates
  - 8.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A mosaic of differences
  - 8.4 Geopolitical framework: A dynamic map; the Cold War (1945-1991) and its end in 1989-1991; ethnic conflicts and wars in the Balkan Peninsula
  - 8.5 Economic and social development: Integration and transition; the European Union and the European Monetary Union
- 9.0 The Russian Domain
  - 9.1 Environmental geography: A vast and challenging land; air and water pollution
  - 9.2 Population and settlement: An urban domain
  - 9.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: The legacy of Slavic dominance
  - 9.4 Geopolitical framework: Transformation of a global superpower

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

9.5 Economic and social development: An era of ongoing adjustment; economic privatization; oil and natural gas

### 10.0 Central Asia

- 10.1 Environmental geography: Steppes, deserts, and threatened lakes of the Eurasian heartland
- 10.2 Population and settlement: Densely settled oases amid vacant lands
- 10.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A meeting ground of different traditions
- 10.4 Geopolitical framework: A land of fluid boundaries
- 10.5 Economic and social development: Abundant resources and devastated economies; oil and natural gas

### 11.0 East Asia

- 11.1 Environmental geography: Resource pressures in a crowded land; river flooding, dams, soil erosion, deforestation, and pollution in China
- 11.2 Population and settlement: A region of crowded lowland basins; urbanization; China's population control policies
- 11.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A Confucian realm?
- 11.4 Geopolitical framework: Enduring Cold War tensions
- 11.5 Economic and social development: An emerging core of the global economy through industrialization and world trade

### 12.0 South Asia

- 12.1 Environmental geography: Diverse landscapes, from tropical islands to mountain rims; monsoons, cyclones, floods, and deforestation
- 12.2 Population and settlement: Continuing growth in a crowded land; urbanization; family planning
- 12.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A common heritage undermined by religious rivalries
- 12.4 Geopolitical framework: A deeply divided region; political, religious, and ethnic conflicts
- 12.5 Economic and social development: Burdened by poverty; globalization in India's economy; the Green Revolution

### 13.0 Southeast Asia

- 13.1 Environmental geography: A once-forested region; deforestation; air pollution
- 13.2 Population and settlement: Densely settled lowlands and sparsely settled uplands; urbanization
- 13.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A meeting ground of world cultures

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

- 13.4 Geopolitical framework: European and American colonization; wars, ethnic strife, and regional cooperation
- 13.5 Economic and social development: The rollercoaster ride of development based on economic globalization
  
- 14.0 Australia and Oceania
  - 14.1 Environmental geography: A varied natural and human habitat; global warming and rising sea levels
  - 14.2 Population and settlement: A diverse cultural landscape; European and American colonization; urbanization
  - 14.3 Cultural coherence and diversity: A global crossroads
  - 14.4 Geopolitical framework: A land of fluid boundaries
  - 14.5 Economic and social development: A difficult path to paradise; international trade and tourism

### 8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 Basic geographic concepts such as: globalization, regional diversity – physical environments, climates, natural resources; centrifugal forces, centripetal forces, devolution, lingua franca, transnational corporation, metropolis, megalopolis, conurbation, primate city, core and periphery areas; and post-industrial economy
- 2.0 The distribution of world population and settlement, poverty and wealth;
- 3.0 The geographic characteristics of colonialism, immigration, internal migration and trade in Latin America;
- 4.0 Contemporary issues of economic globalization such as free trade agreements;
- 5.0 Labor-intensive manufacturing, outsourcing, offshore banking, and tourism;
- 6.0 Deforestation and degradation of farmland in Latin America, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Southwest Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China;
- 7.0 The geographic characteristics of the demography of Sub-Saharan Africa with its poor, rural, young, and disease-threatened population;
- 8.0 The geography of oil resources and Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia;

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

- 9.0 The geopolitical changes in Europe before, during, and after the Cold War;
- 10.0 European regional cooperation to achieve political, legal, and economic integration through the European Union and the European Monetary Union;
- 11.0 The geopolitical, economic, and environmental changes in the Russian Domain before, during, and after the Cold War;
- 12.0 The geopolitical, economic, and environmental changes in Central Asia and East Asia during and after the Cold War; and since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976;
- 13.0 Rapid economic development in India and China, generating disparities in population and settlement patterns and wealth, and social and political tensions;
- 14.0 Rapid urban growth in Latin America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia;
- 15.0 The geographic characteristics of air pollution in North America, Latin America, Europe, the Russian Domain, China, and Southeast Asia; and
- 16.0 Difficulties in achieving economic development in the island economies of the Pacific.

### 9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Define globalization and give examples of how this concept has affected each of the world's 12 regions;
- 2.0 Describe and give some reasons for the population and settlement distribution of the world's population (demographics);
- 3.0 Explain in general terms the geographic diversity of the earth's physical environments (climate, topography, soils, vegetation, and global warming);
- 4.0 Explain how globalization has changed communications, transportation, and terrorism worldwide;
- 5.0 Describe the geographic characteristics of the postindustrial economy in North America, and its influences in other regions via globalization;



# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

- 6.0 Describe the geographic characteristics of colonialism, immigration, internal migration, and trade in Latin America;
- 7.0 Explain the causes and effects of the deforestation and degradation of farmland in Latin America, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Southwest Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China;
- 8.0 Explain the following aspects of economic globalization and their effects: free-trade agreements, labor-intensive manufacturing, outsourcing, offshore banking, and tourism;
- 9.0 Describe the geographic characteristics of the demography of Sub-Saharan Africa based on the following factors: wealth vs. poverty, urban vs. rural, old vs. young, and health vs. illness;
- 10.0 Describe the geographic characteristics of oil resources and Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia;
- 11.0 Describe the geopolitical changes in Europe before, during, and after the Cold War;
- 12.0 Explain the European regional cooperation to achieve political, legal, and economic integration through the European Union and the European Monetary Union, and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of this integration;
- 13.0 Explain the geopolitical, economic, and environmental changes in the Russian Domain before, during, and after the Cold War;
- 14.0 Explain the geopolitical, economic, and environmental changes in Central Asia during and after the Cold War; and since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976;
- 15.0 Explain the economic, political, and social problems that rapid economic development in India and China has caused;
- 16.0 Describe the rapid urban growth in Latin America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia, and the problems that this rapid urban growth has caused;
- 17.0 Describe the geographic characteristics of air pollution in North America, Latin America, Europe, the Russian Domain, China, and Southeast Asia; and

# Northern Marianas College Course Guide

Course: GE 201 World Regional Geography

18.0 Explain the difficulties in achieving economic development in the island economies of the Pacific.

## **10. Assessment Measures**

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Chapter exams;
- 2.0 An optional extra credit assignment on ANY Geography question raised during the course;
- 3.0 Map assignments; and
- 4.0 Final exam on all chapters.