

## **Geography 15000: World Regions in Global Context**

Fall 2022

Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:00pm to 2:15pm

**Instructor:** Brendan O'Connor

**Email:** [boconnor@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:boconnor@gradcenter.cuny.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

**Room:** HN-510

### **Course Overview**

In this course, we will learn about world history at the level of the region, considering how physical geography shapes (and is shaped by) economic, social, and political relations within different regions, why different regions have developed (or been developed) in different ways, and how the world's regions have influenced each other at a global scale. We will work primarily from a textbook—a PDF of which will be posted on Blackboard—that will take us across ten distinct regions: Europe; the Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus; the Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; the U.S. and Canada; Latin America and the Caribbean; East Asia; South Asia; Southeast Asia; and Oceania.

As we move across these different regions, we will consider how the unique histories of specific places are tied to broader, more general experiences, and vice versa—how the particular and the universal are indelibly linked. We will practice thinking critically about current events by contextualizing and historicizing them. By the end of the course, students will have begun developing the tools to answer what Ruth Wilson Gilmore identifies as the fundamental question of the geographer: “Why do things happen where they do?”

**Required textbook:** *World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments* (6th Edition) by Sallie A. Marston, Paul L. Knox, Diana M. Livermant, Vincent Del Casino Jr., and Paul F. Robbins.

### **Grading**

Participation (20%) – Students are expected to show up to every class on time, having done the reading, prepared to contribute to class discussion. That being said, life gets in the way: trains get delayed; your boss holds you late at work; families have emergencies. Unexplained absences will be counted against your participation score, so if you need to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. Also, students are required to post discussion questions to Blackboard three times throughout the semester. These questions can cover anything you like: if something comes up in class that is unclear, articulate that as a discussion question—you're probably not the only one who is wondering about it! If something comes up in the reading that you want to make sure we discuss in class, make a note so it doesn't get missed.

Quizzes (40%) – There will be four short, multiple-choice quizzes posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. You will have five days to complete each quiz. Quizzes will be posted online after class on the following days:

- Tuesday, September 13 – First Quiz (World Regions; Europe)
- Tuesday, October 18 – Second Quiz (Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus; Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Friday, November 4 – Third Quiz (The U.S. and Canada; Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Friday, November 18 – Fourth Quiz (East Asia; South Asia)

Final Exam (40%) – The final exam will be a mix of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions, posted to Blackboard after class on Tuesday, December 13. You will have seven days to complete the final exam.

### **Email Policy**

Please feel free to email me with any questions you have about the class, about the readings, about my own research—anything at all! However, if you do so, please use your @myhunter email address, and please include “GEOG 15000” in the subject line. On weekdays, I will respond within 24 hours, but please allow me 48 hours over the weekend.

### **Preliminary Course Schedule**

#### Week 1

- Friday, August 26 – Introduction

#### Week 2

- Tuesday, August 30 – Chapter 1: World Regions in Global Context
- Friday, September 2 – No Class

#### Week 3

- Tuesday, September 6 – Chapter 1: World Regions in Global Context
- Friday, September 9 – Chapter 2: Europe

#### Week 3

- Tuesday, September 13 – Chapter 2: Europe
  - First quiz posted on Blackboard; answers due Sunday, September 18
- Friday, September 16 – Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus

#### Week 4

- Tuesday, September 20 – Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus

- Friday, September 23 – Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus

#### Week 5

- Tuesday, September 27 – No Class
- Friday, September 30 – Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa

#### Week 6

- Tuesday, October 4 – No Class
- Friday, October 7 – Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa

#### Week 7

- Tuesday, October 11 – Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa
- Friday, October 14 – Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa

#### Week 8

- Tuesday, October 18 – Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Second quiz posted on Blackboard; answers due Sunday, October 23
- Friday, October 21 – Chapter 6: The U.S. and Canada

#### Week 9

- Tuesday, October 25 – Chapter 6: The U.S. and Canada
- Friday, October 28 – Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Week 10

- Tuesday, November 1 – Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean
- Friday, November 4 – Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Third quiz posted on Blackboard; answers due Wednesday, November 9

#### Week 11

- Tuesday, November 8 – Chapter 8: East Asia
- Friday, November 11 – Chapter 8: East Asia

#### Week 12

- Tuesday, November 15 – Chapter 9: South Asia
- Friday, November 18 – Chapter 9: South Asia
  - Fourth quiz posted on Blackboard; answers due Wednesday, November 23

#### Week 13

- Tuesday, November 22 – No Class
- Friday, November 25 – No Class

#### Week 14

- Tuesday, November 29 – Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
- Friday, December 2 – Chapter 10: Southeast Asia

#### Week 15

- Tuesday, December 6 – Chapter 11: Oceania
- Friday, December 9 – Chapter 11: Oceania

#### Week 16

- Tuesday, December 13 – Final Class / Exam Review
  - Final exam posted on Blackboard; answers due Tuesday, December 20

### **Academic Integrity**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

### **ADA Policy**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: [\(212\) 772-4857](tel:2127724857) or [\(212\) 650-3230](tel:2126503230).

### **Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources available at Hunter College to assist you. The Counseling and Wellness Services division at Student Affairs offer free and confidential short-term counseling to students. Please visit their website for all contact information: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/cws/counselingservices/welcome>.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

For the full CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>