

# Course Syllabus

## Course Information

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**Course Title:** GEO-121-OA01 SU22 World Regional Geography (3 cr) - Tom Rathmann

**Term:** Summer 2022 2nd Term Shared eCourse

## Course Description

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This course is a geographic survey of nations and continents with an emphasis on important physical characteristics of the major regions of the world. Attention is devoted to demographic, economic, political, and cultural development and the consequent contemporary relationship with each other.

## Instructor Information

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**Name:** Tom Rathmann

**Email:** trathmann@eicc.edu

**Telephone Number:** 563-381-0643

**Office Location:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** Within 24-30 hours

**Response Time and Type:** Feedback should be immediate to offer optimal direction to students. Grades for work will generally be posted no later than two days after the due date. Email is the best way to contact me, but phone will also work. Inquiries generally receive a reply within a few hours.

## Additional Instructor Information

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Please email me within Canvas using the Inbox located along the left navigational bar. Email is the best way to reach me. Simply reply to the email I sent to you initially, or click the link in the left-hand column called Inbox. You can expect a prompt response.

## Required Course Materials

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**Textbook Title: Cengage Unlimited**

**Author:** Cengage

**Publisher:** Cengage

**ISBN:** 978-0-357-70003-7

**Comments for Students:** Western Iowa Tech students and students who have purchased access to Cengage Unlimited do NOT need to purchase a physical copy of this text as access to the digital text is included in Cengage Unlimited subscription. Alternative: Fundamentals of World Regional Geography/Hobbs/978-1-3055-7826-5

## Additional Course Materials

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**Go to Modules,** Click on Cengage Unlimited to access Textbook. If you do not have Cengage Unlimited, you will have to set up a Cengage account to access the eBook.

### **Register for your eBook and MindTap Course:**

1. Sign in to your Cengage account. If you do not have a Cengage account, you will have to set one up an account. Please go to <https://account.cengage.com>
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to create your Cengage account and register for eBook. Click and search for your eBook by name, author, or ISBN.
3. Begin your temporary access\* period if you wish.
4. For complete instructions, please go to Announcements or Modules and read **Register for Your MindTap Course.**

**Author:** Joseph J. Hobbs

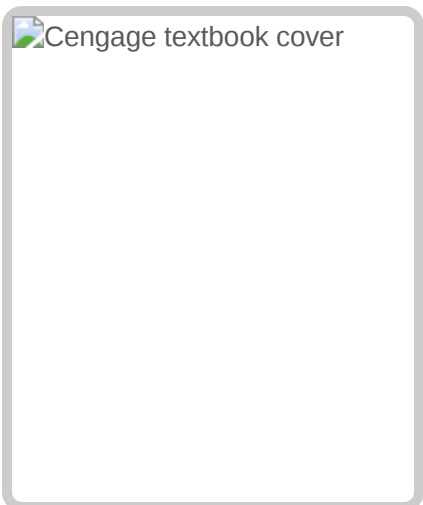
**Title:** Fundamentals of World Regional Geography

**Edition:** 4th

**Publisher:** Cengage Learning

**Year:** 2017

**ISBN:** 978-1-305-57826-0



**Embedded Content, no outside textbook is required: Yes**

### **Electronic Textbook Option**

Students in this class have the option of using an embedded electronic textbook. If you are interested in this option, click on the link called **Modules** in the left-hand column. There is a practice exercise for you to use to prepare for the quizzes and to enhance your learning experience. The first section is called Hobbs Fundamentals of World Geography, 4e, MindTap. Also, there is a Cengage tab located along the left navigation bar below Modules. A hard copy of the text can be purchased but is not required.

## **Technology Requirements & Support**

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**Links to technology requirements for Canvas are provided below:**

**Basic Computer Specifications:** <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721-67952720328>

**Canvas-Supported Browsers:** <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720-67952720329>

### **College Help Desks:**

**Eastern Iowa Community Colleges:** [helpdesk@eicc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@eicc.edu)

**Iowa Lakes Community College:** [helpdesk@iowalakes.edu](mailto:helpdesk@iowalakes.edu)

**North Iowa Area Community College:** <https://www.niacc.edu/student-life/technology-services/help-desk/form/>

**Northwest Iowa Community College:** 712-324-5061 or 800-352-4907

**Southeastern Community College:** [helpdesk@scc Iowa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@scc Iowa.edu)

**Southwestern Community College:** 641-782-7081 or 800-247-4023

**Western Iowa Tech Community College:** [helpdesk@witcc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@witcc.edu)

## **Course Objectives, Outcomes & Competencies**

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Upon successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. Explain the basic concepts and components of physical and cultural geography
2. Locate places on a globe or topographic map
3. Perform basic research about a geographical topic and present the results in written form while using evidence
4. Identify the important physical and cultural traits of the major regions of the world
5. Discuss the interaction and relationship between humans and the environment and between cultures
6. Describe the demographic, economic, social and political aspects of geography

## Course Policies & Procedures

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The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus if necessary. Students will be informed of any changes.

**Attendance Statement:** In an online course, attendance is defined as active and continual participation in course requirements (i.e. quizzes/exams, assignments, discussions, etc.). It is imperative that you closely monitor due dates and deadlines. If you anticipate that anything will interfere with these responsibilities, contact your instructor immediately at [trathmann@eicc.edu](mailto:trathmann@eicc.edu)

**Late Work:** No test or assignment will be administered or accepted after the specified date unless arrangements have been made (with me) prior to the due date assigned for any particular unit/chapter. You are responsible for completing and submitting your assignments and quizzes on time. Save copies of every assignment or project that you submit. This is for your own protection.

**Late Work Exceptions:** Documented personal or immediate family medical emergency or hardship (such as, serious illness or accidents; not short term illness)

Documented death in your immediate family

Documented act of nature (such as, fires, flooding, area-wide power-outage)

Military deployment – with supporting documentation.

Without documentation, the assignment will receive a zero score.

**Please note:** Holidays, vacations, work obligations, computer and/or internet problems are not considered to be extenuating circumstances. All examples above require verifiable documentation to confirm the situation.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as intentionally or unintentionally copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own. In addition, academic dishonesty includes allowing someone else, such as a friend or family member, to edit or rewrite assignments.

Students are responsible for their own learning and development. They have a responsibility to be an active learner by attending class, completing class and laboratory assignments, and preparing in advance of the scheduled class session. Students are expected to understand and maintain high standards of academic honesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism: Using another person's words, ideas, or results without giving proper credit to the originator. Giving the impression the work of another is a student's own work.
2. Cheating: Any form of cheating on examinations.
3. Altering academic or clinical records.
4. Fabrication: Falsifying or inventing information for any assignment.
5. Dual submission: Partly or wholly completing an assignment for another student, or submitting assignments partially or wholly completed by another student.
6. Facilitating academic dishonesty.

**TurnItIn.com:** The Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCOC) has a license agreement with TurnItIn.com (Links to an external site.), a service that helps prevent plagiarism in student assignments. I may use TurnItIn to help review some or all assignments in this course. By taking this course you are agreeing that your assignment submissions can be submitted to and screened by TurnItIn for originality rating and notation of possible text or contextual matches with other source documents. TurnItIn does not make any determination of plagiarism. Rather, it identifies parts of an assignment that may have significant matches with other source documents found on the Internet, in the TurnItIn database, or from other sources. If matches are identified and indicate the possibility of inclusion of material that is not properly cited, I will discuss this information with you before reaching any judgment or decision.

**Netiquette Statement:** In order to maintain a positive online environment for our course, we all need to follow the netiquette guidelines summarized below. All students are expected to:

1. show respect for the instructor and for other students in the course
2. respect the privacy of other students
3. express differences of opinion in a polite and rational way
4. maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students
5. avoid bringing up irrelevant topics when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities

The following list summarizes the kind of behavior that is not acceptable. Each item listed below is grounds for removal from the class.

Students should not:

1. Show disrespect for the instructor or for other students in the course
2. Send messages or comments that are threatening, harassing, or offensive
3. Use inappropriate or offensive language
4. Convey a hostile or confrontational tone when communicating or working collaboratively with other students
5. USE ALL UPPERCASE IN THEIR MESSAGES -- THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF SHOUTING!!!

If I feel that a student is violating any of the above guidelines, I will contact that student to discuss the situation in person.

If you feel that a student is behaving inappropriately, please send me a private e-mail message explaining the situation as soon as possible.

## Grading Policies, Scale & Rubrics

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### Discussion Rubric:

- Did the student post within the first three days of the discussion? If so, five points. If not, zero points.
- Did the student post three times to the discussion? If so, five points, If not, zero points.
- Does the student's writing meeting generally accepted standards of composition? If so, five points. If not zero points.
- Did the student use outside sources for every post? If so, five points. If not, zero points.
- Are the student's efforts a meaningful contribution to the discussion? If so, five points. If not, zero points.

	Quantity	Points
Discussions	4 @ 25 points	100 points
Quizzes	11 @10 points	110 points
Final Exam	1 @ 100 points	100 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>310 points</b>

### Grading Policy:

Points earned from the requirements will be added and calculated as a percentage of the 310 points possible. The percentage will be applied to the following scale:

Above 90% = A  
Between 80 to 89% = B  
Between 70 to 79% = C  
Between 60 to 69% = D  
Below 59% = F

## Assignment & Exam Expectations

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The course has three requirements.

### 1. Discussion.

Discussions are an ongoing class activity. Each is worth 25 points. Check the Course Schedule within the Modules for their beginning and end dates. The links to the discussions are in the modules. You will see a list of questions. Your first post will always be an answer to one of the questions and is to be entered within three days of the start of the exercise.

Your first post gives you access to the actual discussion area. You will now see the entries of your peers and design your posts in response to them. You are to follow the discussion as it unfolds and post periodically.

For each discussion submit at least three posts consisting of at least three full paragraphs each. Enter your posts throughout the discussion period. Multiple posts made on the same day are considered to be one post. Posts should demonstrate an understanding of the material, and adhere to generally accepted standards of college composition. Students are to make their best effort to make a meaningful contribution to the class discussion. Use outside sources for every post. Every post is to be cited.

### 2. Quizzes.

The course contains 11 chapter quizzes, worth ten points each.

### 3. Final.

A comprehensive final exam worth 100 points will be given.

**Extra Credit** An extra credit assignment is available and is worth up to 25 points. Points earned from the exercise will be added to the student's total points earned.

## Instructor Feedback Policy for Gradable Items

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Feedback should be immediate to offer optimal direction to students. Grades for work will generally be posted no later than two days after the due date. Email is the best way to contact me, but phone will also work. Inquiries generally receive a reply within a few hours.

## Course Assignments & Due Dates

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Due Date	Name	Event Type	Points
6/19	<p>Begin participation in Discussion #1 (found within the Modules) within the first three days of class. Note: this is done for Financial Aid purposes.</p> <p><a href="#">Discussion #1 Physical Processes and World Regions, Human Processes and World Regions</a></p>	Discussion	25
6/12	<a href="#">Chapter 01 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
6/19	<a href="#">Chapter 02 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
6/19	<a href="#">Chapter 03 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/3	<p>Begin participation in Discussion #2. The first post is due within the first three days.</p> <p><a href="#">Discussion #2 Russia/Europe and the Near and Abroad</a></p>	Discussion	25
6/26	<a href="#">Chapter 04 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
6/26	<a href="#">Chapter 05 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/3	<a href="#">Chapter 06 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/3	<a href="#">Chapter 07 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/17	<p>Begin participation in Discussion #3. First post due within first three days.</p> <p><a href="#">Discussion #3 Oceania and Antarctica/Sub-Saharan Africa</a></p>	Discussion	25
7/10	<a href="#">Chapter 08 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/10	<a href="#">Chapter 09 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/31	<p>Begin participation in Discussion #4. First post due within first three days.</p> <p><a href="#">Discussion #4 Latin America/The United States and Canada</a></p>	Discussion	25



Due Date	Name	Event Type	Points
7/18	Prepare for comprehensive final exam. Use the review materials found under the link to each chapter within the course, and at the end of each chapter within the text. A review of the chapter quizzes is also helpful.		
7/17	<a href="#">Chapter 10 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/17	<a href="#">Chapter 11 – Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
7/31	<a href="#">Extra Credit, Optional</a>	Assignment	25 extra credit points
7/31	<a href="#">Final Exam</a>	Quiz	100

## Canvas Support & College Help Desk Information

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Canvas Support can be accessed by clicking on the “Help” link located on the main left-hand navigation of Canvas. Canvas Support includes written guides, a phone number and chat feature. Canvas Support will be able to assist you with all the main features within Canvas and your courses, such as submitting assignments, accessing the gradebook, using the Inbox, etc.

For information about supported internet browsers and computer requirements to use Canvas, please refer to <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66>.

For assistance with logging into Canvas via your college portal, accessing your college email account or checking course enrollments, please contact your college help desk. This link will provide you with contact information for each of our partner college help desks: <https://www.iowaconline.org/help>.

## ICCOC Student Ethics Statement

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It is critical that you read and adhere to the ICCOC Student Ethics Statement found in the course. As a student, you are agreeing to abide by this policy and will be subject to disciplinary action, if breached.

## Academic Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

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In post-secondary school settings, academic accommodations are not automatic. To receive accommodations, students must make a formal request to their college and must supply documentation from a qualified professional to support that request. Students, who believe they qualify for academic accommodations, must contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator at their home college. All discussions remain confidential.

For more information and contact information at your college, visit <http://www.iowaconline.org/academic-accommodations>.

## Equal Education Opportunities

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The partner colleges of the ICCOC abide by the laws set forth in the Title IX Education Amendments including the Equal Education Opportunities Act, Clery Act and Violence Against Women Act. For specific information at your college, including contact information, please visit your college's website or go to <http://www.iowaconline.org/equal-education-opportunities> to find a link to your college's information.

## Instructor College's Academic Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

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Persons with documented disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through Disability Services, located in the Admissions & Advising Center, A300, or at (712) 274-8733, Ext. 3216.

## Instructor College's Equal Education Opportunities

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It is the policy of Western Iowa Tech Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, actual or potential parent, family or marital status, or other characteristic protected by law in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by state and federal civil rights regulation.

If you have questions or complaints, please reference Board Policies at [www.witcc.edu/board](http://www.witcc.edu/board) or call (712) 274-6400 ext. 1406 and/or email [Jackie.plendl@witcc.edu](mailto:Jackie.plendl@witcc.edu) (employees) or call (712) 274-6400 ext. 1488 and/or email [Juline.albert@witcc.edu](mailto:Juline.albert@witcc.edu) (students) or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-7204, Telephone: (312) 730-1560, Fax: (312) 730-1576, TDD: (800) 877-8339, Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov).

# Course Outline

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## I. Introduction

### A. Roots

### B. Basic concepts

### C. Physical and cultural attributes

## II. Maps

### A. Projections

### B. Topographic maps and terrain

### C. Patterns and quantities on maps

## III. Physical Geography

### A. Landforms

### B. Weather & climate

## IV. Human Impact on the Environment

### A. Ecosystems

### B. Impact on water

### C. Impact on air and climate

### D. Impact on land and soils

### E. Impact on plants and animals

### F. Solid waste disposal

## V. Population Geography

## VI. Cultural Geography

### A. Components of culture

### B. Interactions of people and environment

### C. Subsystems of a culture

D. Cultural diversity

E. Language, religion, and ethnicity

VII. Political Geography

VIII. Behavioral Geography

IX. Economic Geography

X. Geography of Natural Resources

XI. Urban Geography

XII. Regional Concept

A. Nature of regions

B. Europe, Russia, North America, Middle America, South America, North Africa, India, Southeast Asia.

## Syllabus Disclaimer

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This syllabus is representative of materials that will be covered in this class; it is not a contract between the student and the institution. It is subject to change without notice. Any potential exceptions to stated policies and requirements will be addressed by the instructor on an individual basis, and only for reasons that meet specific requirements.