

**Geography 2010**  
**World Geography**

Course Syllabus  
Fall 2009

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*Kean University*  
*Union, NJ 07083*

# Geography 2010: World Geography

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Course Syllabus  
Fall 2009 – Section 03

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Office Hours: Monday 1 – 3 p.m.  
Tuesday 12:20 – 2 p.m.  
Wednesday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Thursday 12:20 – 2 p.m.

## **Important Dates for Fall Semester 2009:**

9/3 Thursday first day of classes  
9/7 Monday – Labor Day – no classes  
10/12 Monday – Columbus Day - no classes  
11/26-11/29 Thanksgiving Recess  
12/21 Monday - Last Day of Classes

## **Refund and Withdrawal Dates for Fall Semester 2009**

9/9 Withdraw with 100% refund  
9/16 Withdraw with 75% refund  
9/23 Withdraw with 50% refund  
10/30 Last Day to Withdraw with "W" grade

**Student Objectives:** Gain familiarity and experience with the tools and resources of human geography. Demonstrate skill in the use of various types of geographic data and tools particularly maps, graphs, charts and computer resources. Achieve an understanding how human civilizations develop through the exploration of various geographic regions of the earth. Explain the factors that account for the characteristics of human development and culture, understanding differences and similarities.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is required for all quizzes, exams and class presentations.

**Texts:** *Introduction to Geography, People Places and Environment*, 4th Edition, by Edward Bergman and William Renwick, ISBN 0-13-223899-3, Prentice Hall Publishers, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2005.

*Perthes World Atlas*, ISBN 978-0-07329073-7, Klett-Perthes Verlag, Gotha, 2006.

## Evaluation of Student Performance

Student performance for this course is based on knowledge, skills and problem solving, and analysis and interpretation. The following instruments will be used to measure student achievement.

### Evaluation Instruments and Activities

1. 3 Chapter Exams 100 points each (300 total points)
2. Homework Assignments 300 points
3. Projects and Reports 300 points
3. Comprehensive Essay 100 points

**Course Grade:** The grade for the course is determined based on total accumulated points from the above evaluation categories. The point values required for various grades are:

Course Grade	Total Points
A	900 or more
A-	868 – 899
B+	834 – 867
B	800 – 833
B-	768 – 799
C+	734 – 767
C	700– 733
D	600 – 699
F	Less than 500

## ***Performance Evaluation Instruments***

### **Chapter Exams**

Content knowledge is the foundation upon which the development of analysis and interpretation skills is based. The three chapter exams for this course will test for content knowledge. The content material will be primarily based on the chapters assigned from the textbook. Hence reading the chapters is essential. Lectures will focus on specific content and issue areas but will not attempt to cover the entire material of each chapter. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the requisite content background through reading. The exams will consist of short answer questions.

### **Homework**

Homework assignments will deal with enhancing content knowledge, problem solving, and the application of tools and techniques to geography.

### **Projects**

One of the projects for the semester is “Adopt a Country”. Each student will be assigned one of the world’s countries. During the course of the semester there will be various short assignments related to your adopted country. In most cases students will share the information in class to help build a better awareness of the world, its countries and their characteristics.

Other projects may involve teams of students and include both an oral and written report.

### **Comprehensive Essay**

The comprehensive essay is an opportunity for the student to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of specific concepts in world geography. The comprehensive essay is written in class. Students will be given several questions a few weeks before the essay. One of the questions will be randomly selected on the day of the essay and students will write the essay without notes.

## Course Outline

### Unit 1 – Geography: Concepts, Tools, & Data

1. Introduction to Geography
  - a. what is Geography
  - b. core concepts
  - c. geographic themes and standards
  - d. basic comparative quantities
2. Geographic Definitions and Tools
  - a. definitions
  - b. coordinate systems and location
  - c. spatial information - maps
  - d. data interpretation and representation ( maps, charts and graphs)
  - e. remote sensing, computer analysis, GIS, and GPS
3. Earth Systems
  - a. Geologic System
    - i. origin & structure of the earth
    - ii. earth materials
    - iii. geologic processes
    - iv. natural resources and landforms.
  - b. Atmospheric System
    - i. atmospheric variables and definitions
    - ii. atmospheric and ocean circulations
    - iii. water and precipitation, the hydrologic cycle
    - iv. climate and climate regions
    - v. climate change

**Textbook Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, Appendix I

### Unit 2 – Cultural Geography

1. Cultural Geography
  - a. what is culture
  - b. theories of cultural development
  - c. factors that influence culture
  - d. cultural subsystems
2. Language & Religion
3. Cultural Change and Diversity
  - a. cultural source regions and hearths
  - b. cultural diffusion and acculturation
  - c. colonization

**Textbook Reading Assignment:** Chapters 6 and 7

## **Unit 3 – Population: History, Change & Spatial Distribution**

1. Population Geography
  - a. population definitions
  - b. measures of population characteristics
  - c. world population distributions
2. Population Growth & Change
  - a. determining factors
  - b. modeling growth
  - c. population pyramids
  - d. quality of life
3. Migration, Immigration, & Emigration
  - a. root causes
  - b. impacts on growth and decline of populations
  - c. role in cultural diffusion
4. Spatial Distribution of Peoples
  - a. regional concept in geography
  - b. spatial interaction of peoples
  - c. settlement patterns
  - d. modern theories of cities

**Textbook Reading Assignment:** Chapters 5 and 10

## **Unit 4 – Resources, Human-Environment Interactions**

1. Natural Resources
  - a. energy
  - b. mineral
  - c. soils and forests
  - d. water
2. Human-Environment Interactions
  - a. ecosystems
  - b. use of resources
  - c. pollution and waste disposal
  - d. human-environment interactions

**Textbook Reading Assignment:** Chapters 8 and 9, Appendix II

## **Unit 5 – Economic and Governance**

1. Political & Governance Systems
  - a. political systems
  - b. historical development of states
  - c. geographic characteristics and organization of states
  - d. political cohesion and disruption
2. Economic Geography
  - a. economic systems
  - b. history of economic development
  - c. population, resources and economic development
  - d. the influence of technology and globalization

**Textbook Reading Assignment:** Chapters 11, 12 and 13, Appendix III