GEOG 400 Section 001 **Spring 2010** **Craig-Lee 104**
Regional Geography **MW 2:00 pm -3:20 pm**

Professor: Seth Dixon
Office: 136 Craig-Lee
Office Hours: M W 2-3pm or by appointment
Contact: sdixon@ric.edu; (401)456-8378
Mailbox: 217 Craig-Lee (Political Science Dept.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan 25-M	Course Introduction		
Jan 27-W	Defining a Region		
Feb 1-M	Colonization and the Political Map	Chapter 1	
Feb 3-W	Globalization and Diversity		
Feb 8-M	North America	Chapter 2	North America Quiz
Feb 10-W	Regions of North America		
Feb 15-M	Mexico	Chapter 3	Latin America Quiz
Feb 17-W	Central America and the Caribbean		**Essay Topic Due**
Feb 22-M	South America		
Feb 24-W	**EXAM #1**		
Mar 1-M	Europe	Chapter 4	Europe Quiz
Mar 3-W	European Union		**Essay Explain Due**
Mar 8-M	Russian Domain	Chapter 5	Russia/C. Asia Quiz
Mar 10-W	Central Asia		
Mar 15-M	SPRING BREAK (No class)		
Mar 17-W	SPRING BREAK (No class)		
Mar 22-M	Southwest Asia	Chapter 6	Middle East Quiz
Mar 24-W	Middle East: Conflicts		**Annotated Biblio.**
Mar 29-M	North Africa and the Sahel		
Mar 31-W	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7	Africa Quiz
Apr 5-M	Sub-Saharan Africa		
Apr 7-W	**EXAM #2**		
Apr 12-M	South Asia	Chapter 8	South Asia
Apr 14-W	India		
Apr 19-M	East Asia	Chapter 9	East Asia Quiz
Apr 21-W	China		**Essay Due!**
Apr 26-M	Southeast Asia	Chapter 10	SE Asia Quiz
Apr 28-W	Regions of Southeast Asia		
May 3-M	Oceania	Chapter 11	Oceania Quiz
May 5-W	Global Connections		
May 10-15	**SEE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**		

Class Schedule. I shall do my best to stick to the syllabus schedule; although I reserve the right to modify it if something unexpected comes up during the semester. Students are expected to attend each class and are responsible for their own notes. An excused legal or medical note is required for an excused absence.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Regional Geography (Geog 400) provides a broad introduction to the complex social, political, economic, and environmental processes that are currently reshaping the world's geography. We will use geographic concepts to explore how such global transformations have had, and continue to have, divergent outcomes throughout the world

The course examines a number of contemporary themes—such as globalization, war, human rights, uneven development, nationalism, rural-to-urban migration, tourism, and environmental politics—while also maintaining a focus on the regional variation in these global patterns and processes. In order to understand contemporary events, it is crucial to consider the historical context that has led to the present state of affairs. Therefore, the course explores the history of European colonialism and imperialism in the different world regions as well as the process of de-colonization. We shall examine how concepts like 'the West' and 'the Third World', as well as the more recent global 'North' and 'South' (*e.g.* 'core' and 'periphery') have shaped the geographical imagination of contemporary popular discourse.

By emphasizing patterns and processes, this course hopes to move beyond a narrow focus on memorizing geographical 'facts'. Instead, a greater emphasis is placed on learning to think *critically* about the structural forces that are actively re-shaping the world's regions as well as how each individual plays a role (whether consciously or not) in re-making the geography of the world.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on tests, map quizzes, essay, attendance as well as class participation.

1st exam:	150 pts
2nd exam:	150 pts
3rd exam	200 pts
Map Quizzes (10 quizzes)	153 pts
Essay	100 pts
Essay Assignments (15 pts each)	45 pts
Group project	100 pts
Participation	50 pts
Attendance and Punctuality	50 pts

Examinations. There will be three exams over the course of the semester (see Schedule below for dates). The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and one longer essay question, and they will cover material from the lectures and readings. There will not be a cumulative exam during finals week (but it will be holistic). Each exam will only include material covered since the previous exam.

Map Quizzes: There will be ten map quizzes the semester, one quiz for each region. For each of these quizzes you will be given a blank outline map of a region or regions that we have discussed in class and will be asked to label geographic features such as countries, major cities, water bodies and physical features.

Group Project: Groups of three (or two) will present to the class on an in-depth topic (Ethnic genocide in Darfur, Amazonian deforestation, German guest workers, etc.). Each group will present on the day that the corresponding lecture (Amazonian deforestation would present on Feb. 22nd). Prepare to present for about 10-15 minutes.

Essay: 5 page minimum, 8 page maximum (double-spaced, word-processed, 12pt, Times New Roman or comparable font). Toward the end of the class, you will be asked to construct an argument on a topic of your choice, for instance on an ongoing conflict between countries or between a government and an independence-seeking group within the country. This is a deliberate essay so this isn't to supposed to be an encyclopedia entry explaining what is, but arguing why it is (or isn't) and how it could be the it should (according to your world perspective). Be creative, but make sure with me that the topic is feasible.

Feb 17	Essay Topic Due (General region, theme)
Mar 03	Essay Explanation Due (1 paragraph)
Mar 24	Annotated Bibliography (5 sources-at least 3 books and articles)
Apr 21	Essay Due

Attendance and Participation. All students are required to attend the course lectures. There will be material discussed in lectures and films that is not covered in the course readings, which will be tested on the exams. Make-up exams will only be permitted with documentation of legal or medical emergencies. All make-up exams will be oral tests mixed with some essay questions based on the materials covered in class and the book.

Readings. You are expected to acquaint yourself with the assigned material prior to attending the corresponding lecture. The textbook is *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives*, by Pulsipher and Pulsipher.

The campus bookstore has the 4th edition WITHOUT SUBREGIONS. However, the 4th edition WITH REGIONS or the 3rd edition would work suitably for the course. The lectures will draw on major themes from the readings as well as material not discussed explicitly in the readings. The exams will cover material from both the lectures as well as the readings.

POLICIES:

Office Hours. I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. My main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class, please come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

Academic Integrity. Be good, be honest, please don't cheat. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic 'F' for the assignment (potentially the course grade), as well as possible disciplinary action by the college. If you don't understand the ethical policies and procedures Rhode Island College expects, please consult the Student Handbook on page 24. http://www.ric.edu/studentlife/pdf/RICStudentHandbook.pdf

Deadlines. All exams will be given during the regularly scheduled lecture times on the dates listed in the syllabus schedule (see below). Students cannot re-take exams. Make-up exams can only be taken if the student has official, written documentation of a death in the family or a personal medical emergency. Late assignments will be marked down one letter grade for every day that they are turned in after the due date.