

GEOG 650
An On-Line Course
CONTEMPORARY WORLD REGIONS
“World Geography Connects: Contemporary Regions”
3 credits

Old Dominion University
October 19 - November 30, 2009

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“World Geography Connects” is a 3-part sequence of courses designed for secondary social studies teachers in Virginia:

- The first course focuses on the geography behind world history before 1500 AD.
- The second course focuses on the geography behind world history since 1500 AD.
- The third course focuses on the geography of contemporary regions.

All three are built around the Virginia Standards of Learning, but they do *not* have to be taken in sequence. Course delivery is on-line. There are no formal class meetings.

“World Geography Connects” Web Site:

Using the “World Geography Connects: Contemporary Regions” Web site students work their way through the five parts of the course. Content is delivered in the form of readings, digital photographs, videoclips, interactive lessons, and Internet activities. *Extension Activities* and *Recommended Resources* are included in each part. The five parts of this part of “World Geography Connects” are:

- Part I Globalization and World Regions
- Part II Environmental Problems and World Regions
- Part III Cultural Change and World Regions
- Part IV Urbanization and World Regions
- Part V Africa as a World Region

In addition to course content and on-line activities, there are three other mandatory parts of the course: (1) the **Why Questions**, (2) the **Discussion Forum** and (3) the **Quiz** for each part.

“World Geography Connects” Registration

In addition to registering for GEOG 650 through Old Dominion University, students must also register at the “Geography Connects” Web site: <http://geoconnects.pwnet.org> (select “Contemporary Regions”). Registration begins on September 8 and ends on October 2. Late registration is not permitted because time is needed to set up the Web site for “opening day” on **October 19**.

“Geography Connects” Lesson Plan or Unit Plan

A graduate-quality lesson plan or unit plan is required in order to get credit for the course. Flawless grammar, creative thinking, good organization, prideful presentation, and adequate background research will all figure into the grade. The lesson or unit plan must . . .

1. **Relate to the content of the course.** Focus on contemporary regions and use the vocabulary of the course (including place names) in your plan.
2. **Define exactly what content you plan to cover.** It should be evident early in the plan what geographic location or region you are covering and what period of time is included.
3. **Amplify on at least one of the Virginia Standards of Learning.** Specify the SOL and element of the Curriculum Framework (at any grade level) to which your plan relates.
4. **Include objectives, grade level, materials needed, procedures, and extension activities.** Objectives should be based on, but not synonymous with, the Virginia SOLs.
5. **Incorporate at least one computer or Internet-related component.** Even if you have a traditional plan, you need to find some way to utilize computer technology.
6. **Begin with a cover page (or cover) which includes an imaginative title.** Include your name, your school and its location, the course, the date, etc.

Some other advice for developing your lesson or unit plan . . .

1. **Avoid jargon.** Who knows what *K-L-W*, *anticipatory set*, and *power notes* mean!
2. **Stress content.** Emphasize *what* you are teaching, not procedures.
3. **Do research.** Bring some new information to the plan.
4. **Be creative.** Propose doing something new and different.
5. **Use visuals.** Maps and pictures are welcome.
6. **Don't recycle.** Come up with something original.

There is no minimum or maximum length for the plan. Remember, though, that this is a graduate course. If you want an above-average grade, you should make sure that both the content and the presentation of the plan commend an above-average grade. Please do **not** submit your plan on school forms (e.g., those templates you fill out to show your assistant principal).

If you are having trouble coming up with an idea, try developing one of the *Extension Activities* at the end of each Letter in “World Geography Connects: Contemporary Regions.”

Submitting your plan: Mail (do not e-mail, except as a back up) your plan to me so that it is postmarked by **Monday, November 30**. If you are running late, send me an email explaining your situation – don't pay for expensive overnight delivery! **Important** – If you want your plan returned, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

“Geography Connects” Grades

The following elements of “Contemporary Regions” will factor into your final course grade:

1. **Quiz Grades**
A 15-question quiz ends each part of “Geography Connects.” You will learn your percentage score immediately after completing each quiz. These quizzes will account for about 30% of your final grade.
2. **Discussion Forum**
Everyone must participate in the Discussion Forum for each part of “Geography Connects.” Both the quantity and quality of your contributions will be evaluated. Your participation will account for about 20% of your final grade.
3. **Why Questions**
Each part of “Geography Connects” includes a set of *Why Questions*. Choose one of those questions for each part and send a 1-paragraph answer to me at dzeigler@odu.edu. The question should appear verbatim in your email (and please reference the Part number). Your answers (5 in all) will account for about 10% of your final grade.
4. **Lesson or Unit Plan**
Be sure to follow the instructions in this syllabus as you prepare your plan. Your plan will account for about 40% of your final grade.
5. **Responses to E-mail Inquiries**
At various times during the course, I may send you a personal e-mail relating to course content. Responses are expected. Failure to respond could hurt your final grade.

The following letter grades will earn you graduate credit at Old Dominion University: A, A-, B+, B, and B-. At the graduate level, a B is an average grade; an A is an above-average grade. Old Dominion University no longer mails out grades. You are expected to get your grade by going to the “Leo Online” section of the university web site. You will need a UIN (University Identification Number) and a password to get to your personal records.

Honor Code

The Old Dominion University Honor Code is in effect at all times:

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of dishonesty or deception such as lying, cheating, and plagiarism, which are honor violations. I am further aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn all suspected violators of the Honor System. I will report to an Honor Council hearing as summoned.”