

Syllabus: World Regional Geography

Geography 1040 – Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College – Spring 2022

Syllabus and schedule are subject to changes at the discretion of the course instructor.



Quality Matters Certified: Quality Matters, a nationally recognized, faculty-centered, peer-review process that certifies the quality of online courses, has recognized this course for its commitment to quality assurance by designing courses that meet Quality Matters Standards.



Zero Textbook Cost: There is no textbook purchase needed for this course.



Mobile-Ready: This course can be completed on a smartphone or tablet. A full-sized computer is still recommended.

Instructor

Dr. Carl M. Lemke Oliver Sack (he/they). I prefer to be called Carl; if you feel more comfortable referring to me by my last name, just use Sack (as in Dr. Sack and Professor Sack).

Contact Information

Email: carl.sack@fdltcc.edu. I reply to all student emails within 24 hours.

Cell Phone: (608) 712-8335. Call or text at any time; you will not bother or disturb me. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a voicemail. I generally reply to voicemails and texts within a few minutes to a few hours.

Office Hours

10:45 AM-12:45 PM Mondays and 1-3 PM Thursdays, or by appointment

Room W222 on campus, via Zoom at [meeting ID 974 2033 5956](#), or by phone at (218) 879-0718

Course Overview

This is a 3-credit online course that provides a study of world regions with an emphasis on internal spatial patterns and the interrelations of regions. You will not only learn where different countries and places are on the map, but what makes those places unique and how they are connected through the processes of globalization.

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

This course satisfies Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MTC) goal areas of Goal 5: History / Social Behavioral Science (Group 2) and Goal 8: Global Perspective.

Course Goals

1. Identify criteria used to define a region.
2. Recognize the physical location of countries on a map.
3. Plan a trip to a selected destination and compose a corresponding travel itinerary and portfolio.
4. Interpret and apply maps to questions posed.
5. Identify characteristics of cultural groups based on religion, social structure, political ideology, language, and economic associations.

Prerequisites

There are no academic prerequisites for this course.

Learning Resources

Much of your reading for the course will come from the free textbook [*World Regional Geography* by Caitlyn Finlayson](#). This book is much shorter than other World Regional Geography texts. It presents a broad overview sketch of each region and uses the regions' characteristics to highlight key geography concepts and theories. Thus, in addition to textbook chapters, you will be assigned other readings and documentary videos that highlight specific aspects of the week's region. You are encouraged to go beyond the text independently as well and research articles on topics you are interested in from Wikipedia and elsewhere.

Technology

This course is offered online and asynchronously, meaning there are no class meetings. This is a mobile-ready course, meaning you can complete it with a smartphone or tablet, although a full computer is recommended. Desktop computers are available in the open computer lab on campus Monday through Friday. You will need the following:

- Basic computer skills
- Internet access (wired, wifi, or cell data plan)
- A laptop or desktop computer OR a tablet or smartphone
- Speakers, microphone, and camera
- Video capture software, such as your computer or phone's photos app
- A modern internet browser; the latest version of Chrome or Firefox is recommended.
- A word processor such as Microsoft Word or LibreOffice (if using a full computer). Note for Mac users: please do *not* save assignments as Pages documents; export to .doc or .docx format instead.

- The Zoom desktop or mobile app
- Access to D2L Brightspace through your campus StarID account. Use of the Brightspace Pulse app is recommended if you are using a smartphone.

If you do not have or are unsure about any of the above requirements, contact Robin Anderson, our Instructional Technology Specialist, at robin.anderson@fdltcc.edu.

Computer Skills

Since this is an online class, you will need to be able to do the following:

- Obtain access to an internet connection for the duration of the course
- Navigate the Brightspace D2L learning management system
- Use word processing software (Microsoft Office or equivalent) to create documents
- Search for information on the internet
- Send and receive email using your campus email account (check it daily!)
- Use interactive web maps, such as Google Maps, to locate countries and places
- Connect to a Zoom meeting room
- Follow directions provided for using specialized websites to find images and create web pages

The college provides several training videos and tutorials on the use of these technologies through the [Student eServices page](#) under “Current Students” on the college’s website, and through the [FDLTCC Brightspace D2L home page](#). Contact Robin Anderson at the email address above for further assistance.

What you can expect from me

I try to bring passion and enthusiasm to the topics I teach. I intend to lay out course expectations in a clear and concise manner and provide user-friendly navigation on the course website. I will give you timely feedback on assignments (within 1 week after the due date) and reach out to you if I see your participation slip. I will post regularly in class discussion forums to facilitate a lively conversation. I will respond as quickly as possible to all communications from students—you are my highest priority. If you need special accommodation, please follow the procedure in the Disabilities Notice below and then let me know as soon as possible so I can work with your plan accordingly.

What I expect from you

This is a college-level course, and you will need to put in just as much effort into it as you would an in-person course. This course is worth 3 credits, which equates to **8-9 hours of class time and homework per week**. Budget your time accordingly. I expect you to keep up with the course reading, participate fully in class discussions, and turn in assignments on time or let me

know *in advance of the due date* if you need an extension. I cannot require, but strongly encourage you to be curious about the material we are learning, ask lots of questions, and consider yourself part of an engaged community of learners.

Course Feedback

Your direct and timely feedback will help improve the class. I am open to any suggestions you have. If you are experiencing a problem, the sooner you let me know, the sooner I will be able to address it and the easier it will be to solve.

Course Structure and Activities

All course content is accessed through the Materials->Content section of the D2L course website. The course is organized into learning modules around different topics and regions, with one learning module assigned per week (except the last week of class, which is dedicated to the Final Project). In keeping with the FDLTCC mission, the course will largely follow the directional sequence of the [Anishinaabeg Medicine Wheel](#). Note that this is different than the sequence of chapters in the textbook. Learning module activities will include:

Readings, Videos, and Interactives

You will be assigned required reading sections from the textbook and/or other readings for each module. External readings will dive deeper into a topic related to a certain region or World Regional Geography as a whole. Several of these will focus on Indigenous peoples around the world. You may also be assigned videos to watch online. All videos you are assigned will have closed captioning and/or a transcript available, so you may read their content as well if you so desire. Finally, some activities will require you to explore an interactive map or website.

Quizzes & Assignments

Some learning modules include an open-book quiz on the world region covered in the module. Half of the points for each quiz are earned by matching the names of countries and disputed territories to a map of the region. The other half consist of form questions (multiple choice, true/false, etc.) based on the textbook chapter for the region. You will be able to take the quiz up to 3 times. Additionally, every learning module includes an assignment. Modules with no quiz have a longer assignment than those with a quiz. You must complete each assignment and upload it to the provided dropbox on D2L by the due date for full points.

Weekly Discussion

Discussion is critical for coming to a shared understanding of the course material. *Do not underestimate the importance of completing discussion assignments (both posts AND*

replies) to your course grade! Many students have received a worse grade in the class than anticipated because they did not think discussion was all that important—IT IS. For each learning module:

- you will write a response of **at least 300 words** OR upload a video response **at least 1.5 minutes in length** based on a provided prompt, and post it to the module's discussion topic; AND
- you will post **at least two replies** to other students' posts from the prior module (this is to give time for all posts to come in before replies are due).

Both your response posts and your replies to other students' posts will be graded based on (1) their thoughtfulness and (2) how much they reflect an understanding of the material. You are free and even encouraged to disagree with someone else (including the instructor!), but keep the dialogue respectful and constructive. Posts with profanity, insults, or bigotry will be deleted and I will ask the poster to rephrase and repost their comments. Multiple incidents from the same person will be reported to college administrators. Further instructions are provided in the Discussion Rubric posted to D2L.

Final Project (final week of course)

You will make an online Story Map or presentation that tells a story about a particular place you would like to visit outside the U.S., showing how that place is both unique and connected to the rest of the world. More details about the final project are included in the Final Project Learning Module on D2L.

The Final Project will be due at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the term (**Tuesday, May 10**). All other assignments and quizzes will be **due at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday** of the week indicated, except Week 5 modules, which are due Tuesday, July 6 due to the Independence Day holiday. There will not be a final exam for the course.

Grading

Percentages of your final grade:

Quizzes and Assignments: 55%

Discussion Posts: 35%

Final Project: 10%

Final grade breakdown:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

I reserve the right to curve grades upward based on the class distribution of final grades. You will never get a lower grade based on your score than what is indicated above.

Late Work and Extensions

Late work will be penalized 10% per day, up to 50%. An assignment turned in 1-24 hours after the due date will be considered 1 day late, etc. (don't go by how late D2L says something is; it's misleading). A full extension will be granted if you email me before the due date to request one. I will suspend the late deduction wherever it stands when you email me after the due date. No late work will be accepted after 11:59 PM on the last day of the term.

Course Preparation

If this is your first asynchronous online course, you may underestimate how easy it will be to fall behind. Once you fall behind, it can be difficult to catch up. An online class requires quite a bit of **independence** and **self-motivation**. On the flip side, online courses can benefit you if you prefer to learn at your own pace and through reading/viewing material rather than hearing it in lecture. Some strategies to make sure you have a positive experience with the course include:

- Set daily goals for yourself ("On Monday, I will complete...")
- *In advance*, block out time on your schedule equal to 16 hours a week (the equivalent of *two full workdays*), then adjust as needed. If you finish a day's work early, great! Go play. If not, you'll at least have the time you need to keep up.
- Do NOT expect that you will be able to finish all of your classwork more quickly than that if you really focus and try. It doesn't work that way!
- Put all class deadlines in a personal planner or calendar you look at every day and can check anywhere (Google Calendar or Apple Calendar work great).
- Do not procrastinate! Get started *early* in the week. If you wait until Saturday to start on the reading and assignment, *you will fail*.
- If you do fall behind, please *e-mail me* to work discuss contingency plans. I understand that sometimes work or life interferes or you just miscalculate what you need to do for the course. There is no judgement on my end; in fact, I'd much rather you let me know if you're struggling than say nothing and keep failing.

Plagiarism

You may not copy or directly paraphrase others' work without attribution, or have others complete your work for you. If you copy text, it must be in double-quotes (""") with citation of the original author and source, and must account for a small minority of your submission. Plagiarism results in an automatic zero on the affected assignment and a warning email. Multiple instances of plagiarism will result in an F for this course and be subject to any other disciplinary actions mandated by this institution and the Minnstate system.

Disabilities Notice

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehab Act, Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College provides students with disabilities (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory or physical) reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first complete an intake form and necessary requirements with Nancy Olsen, Disability Services coordinator, to establish an accommodation plan. She can be reached at nancy.olsen@fdltcc.edu or 218-879-0819.

Sexual Violence

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, gender or sex-based bullying and stalking. If you or someone you know has experienced gender or sex-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing resources, providing accommodations, assistance completing with protective orders and advocacy. For more information regarding the Campus Security Report, the following link will give you a report on the Clery Compliance and Security Report at FDLTCC: <http://fdltcc.edu/about-us/policies-reports/campus-security-policies-reports/>

Please be aware that all Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College employees are required to report any incidents of sexual violence and, therefore it cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, but it will consider a request for confidentiality and respect it to the fullest extent possible. If you wish to report sexual misconduct or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct, please contact Anita Hanson, Dean of Student Services, at 218-879-0805 or anita.hanson@fdltcc.edu.

Data Privacy

Your right to data privacy as a student is specified by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), and described in the [FDLTCC Data Privacy Policy](#). This course requires you to access several different websites, most of which temporarily place tracking Cookies in your browser's web cache. For information on how to delete tracking cookies, see [this article from PrivacyPolicies.com](#). Brightspace D2L receives certain personal information about you from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. [The Brightspace D2L Privacy Policy is located here](#). To complete the Final Project with ArcGIS Story Maps, you are required to create a free public account which allows Esri, Inc. to access your name, email address, and other information about you requested as signup. The [Esri/ArcGIS Privacy Policy is located here](#).

Accessibility Statements

Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs) show how software products meet the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Follow the links below for VPATs for the main software and websites used in this course:

- [Brightspace D2L VPAT](#)
- [Microsoft Office 365 VPAT](#)
- [Pressbooks VPAT](#) (for the *World Regional Geography* textbook)
- [ArcGIS Online VPAT](#)
- [Zoom VPATs](#)

Course Schedule

Readings and assignments are subject to change.

Learning Module (Due Date)	Topic, Readings, Activities
1 (January 16)	<i>What is World Regional Geography?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Syllabus Quiz• Plan for Success• Quiz 1: Textbook Chapter 1• Assignment 1: Introduction to World Regional Geography• Discussion Post 1: Your Place in the World
2 (January 23)	<i>Capitalism and Globalization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 2: Capitalism and Globalization• Discussion Post 2: Your Global Connections• Replies to Discussion 1
3 (January 30)	<i>The Global Environment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 3: The Global Environment• Discussion 3: Your Connection to Nature• Replies to Discussion 2
4 (February 6)	<i>East Asia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 2: East and Southeast Asia Map/Textbook Chapter 9• Assignment 4: East Asia• Discussion 4: Asia in Your Dresser and iPhone• Replies to Discussion 3
5 (February 13)	<i>Southeast Asia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 5: Southeast Asia• Discussion 5: From Colonialism to Globalization in Southeast Asia• Replies to Discussion 4
6 (February 20)	<i>Oceania</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 3: Oceania Map/Textbook Chapter 10• Assignment 6: Oceania• Discussion 6: Western and Indigenous Sciences• Replies to Discussion 5
7 (February 27)	<i>South Asia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 4: South Asia Map/Textbook Chapter 8• Assignment 7: South Asia• Discussion 7: Population and Development in South Asia• Replies to Discussion 6

Learning Module (Due Date)	Topic, Readings, Activities
8 (March 6)	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 5: Sub-Saharan Africa Map/Textbook Chapter 6 Assignment 8: Sub-Saharan Africa Discussion 8: Current Events in Africa Replies to Discussion 7
9 (March 13)	<i>Latin America I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 6: Latin America Map/Textbook Chapter 5 Assignment 9: Latin America I Discussion 9: Revolution and Reaction in Latin America Replies to Discussion 8
10 (March 27)	<i>Latin America II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment 10: Latin America II Discussion 10: Migration Crises in Central America Replies to Discussion 9
11 (April 3)	<i>The U.S. and Canada</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 7: North America Map/Textbook Chapter 4 Assignment 11: The U.S. and Canada Discussion 11: Social Divisions in the U.S. Replies to Discussion 10
12 (April 10)	<i>Europe</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 8: Europe Map/Textbook Chapter 2 Assignment 12: Europe Discussion 12: Migration, Climate Change, and Populism in Europe Replies to Discussion 11
13 (April 17)	<i>The Middle East</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 9: Middle East Map/Textbook Chapter 9 Assignment 13: The Middle East Discussion 13: Geopolitics and Conflict in the Middle East Replies to Discussion 12
14 (April 24)	<i>Russia & Central Asia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 10: Russia & Central Asia Map/Textbook Chapter 3 Assignment 14: Russia & Central Asia Discussion 14: Rethinking Globalization Replies to Discussion 13
FP (May 10)	<i>Final Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Replies to Discussion 14