# GEOGRAPHY 2305

# Fundamentals of Geography (3-0)

# Course Purpose

This course is a Core Curriculum course in the Teacher Education Program. There is no prerequisite. The

course has been designed to help meet the needs of students planning to teach geography, from K-12. This is a “hybrid” course—it is meant to introduce each student to a combination of physical geography, human geography, and world regional geography. This course is intended to give students a broad, general background in geography so you will be able to relate geography in your life and the lives of your future students. This is a course on geography, not a course on teaching methods.

This course is part of the ASU core. The learning outcomes, assignments/general activities, and assessments are identified below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Level Learning Outcomes** | **Proposed 2014 Core Assignments/General**  **Learning Activities for the Core Objectives** | **Proposed 2014 Core Assessments** |
| **GEOG 2305**  **CT1:** Students will be able to collect information, analyze data, evaluate possible outcomes and arrive at an informed decision about a question or issue.  **CS3:**  Students will be able to represent and display data and information visually.  **EQS2:** Students will be able to analyze and evaluate observable data and facts to arrive at an informed and rational conclusion.  **SR1:** Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate behavioral skills in a variety of cultural contexts. | **GEOG 2305**  **CT1:** Assignment to help students develop a mental  map of major human and physical features around  the world and to be able to know where things are  and why they are where they are by acquiring,  analyzing, and using geographic information  **CS3:** Assignment that requires students to  gather data for graphs and map generation, identify,  describe, and understand the concept of region and  be aware of spatial patterns that may be present  **EQS2:** Assignment requires students to demonstrate  the ability to recognize, explain, and use spatial  information and cartographic methods  **SR1:** Assignment to help students develop an understanding of the many elements important to members of different cultural groups including their beliefs, practices, morals, communication style and values | **GEOG 2305**  The components of the assignment may be evaluated with a rubric, in class pop quizzes, and/or pre- and post-test questions |

# Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Explain the five basic themes of geography (location, place, relationships within places, movement and regions), define basic geographical terms and demonstrate an understanding of basic and fundamental geographic concepts.
2. Develop a mental map of major human and physical features around the world; know where things are and why they are where they are by acquiring, analyzing, and using geographic information.
3. Identify and describe geographic patterns on the earth’s surface that result from various environmental processes. In geography, place and spatial distribution are most important.
4. Explain the human-environment interaction that results from cultural traits of a particular group of

people and how those groups modify the environment they live in.

These outcomes will be assessed with four exams and four homework assignments, Muddiest Point, Classroom Assessment Techniques, pop quizzes.

**Pop Quizzes** (for extra credit)

Five pop quizzes will be randomly given throughout the semester. The maximum score on each quiz is 5 points for a possible 25 points total. This is the only extra credit that will be offered for this course.

# Course Grading

The grade *you earn* in this course is based on 4 exams and 4 homework assignments. Each exam is worth

100 points. **The final is not comprehensive, as it will cover only the material that follows the 3rd exam.** Each section will have a homework assignment that is to be turned in a week prior to the exam, due dates are listed below and on the assignment sheet posted on Blackboard. The homework assignments

are worth 25 points each (a possible 100 points total). You should use the Geographica textbook to answer the homework questions. **Please be aware of the due dates, as no late homework will be accepted.** A total of 500 points are possible in the course.

Letter and numerical grades for the course grade are as follows: A = 100%- 90% D = 69%-60%

B = 89%-80% F = 59% and below C = 79%-70%

Make-up exams will only be permitted for verifiable and significant reasons that are described in the Student Handbook. On exam day, students arriving after the first exam has been turned back in will have to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will consist of three essay questions selected by the instructor.

# Map Locations

Map locations will be included on each exam, and will also be posted on Blackboard for each exam

section. Use the text Geographica for the map locations. You do not have to bring the text to class, but it will be used at home for map locations, homework, readings and studying for exams. Your job of completing the map locations will be easier if you have purchased the Goode’s World Atlas. It would also be an excellent addition to your classroom bookshelf. Another quick method to locate the map locations- use Google.

# Class Attendance

Students with an excessive amount of absences will most likely not do well on exams and your final

semester grade will suffer. At the end of the semester and at my discretion, I will take into consideration the number of absences you have for the semester if your final grade is “borderline.”

# Classroom Etiquette

**Sorry, but no laptops or any electronic devises allowed**. **Please turn off cell phones and no text**

**messaging during class.** Because the classroom is small, it is especially important that an effort be made by everyone to be courteous to their fellow students and the instructor. This includes keeping quiet during class (except to ask a question of the instructor), arriving to class before lecture begins and staying until it is completed, not sleeping in class, not reading newspapers or other material irrelevant to the lecture, and not doing your homework for your next class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. If you must leave prior to the end of class or are expecting an important call, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor before class starts.

# Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to

meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

# Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain honesty and integrity in their academic

pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the *Student Handbook*. Cheating and plagiarism, as outlined in the *ASU Student Handbook* section on Academic Integrity, will not be tolerated in this course. Allowing another student to use your exam or written material to cheat or plagiarize is dishonest and will be treated in

the same fashion as cheating and plagiarism. Academic misconduct will result in a score of

zero on that assignment or exam and/or the course and both the Dean of the student’s college and the Judicial Affairs Office will be notified.

# Religious Holy Days

Anyone who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known to the instructor in

writing prior to the absence. Anyone who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student excused under this policy will not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily or in a timely manner.