

University of Mobile  
**GEO 301: World Regional Geography**  
Fall 2014

**GEO 301-01:** 8:00 am – 9:25 am — T-R — Garner Hall, Room 2

**Credit:** 3 Semester Hours. One credit hour is equivalent to fifteen hours of faculty instruction and a minimum of thirty hours of student reading and work on other assignments in addition to class time.

**Drop Information:**

Courses dropped after the 2nd day of the term will incur a drop fee and receive a 100% refund of tuition.

Courses dropped after August 29 will incur a drop fee and no refund of tuition.

Day courses may be added or changed to audit without permission before August 22.

Day courses may be dropped without the "F" penalty before November 4.

*(2014-15 Catalog/Student Handbook)*

**Faculty:** Mr. Wayne Sirmon  
**Cell Phone:** 251-591-3417  
**Email:** History@Sirmon.US *(Use this email for direct.)*

Wsirmon86@rams.umobile.edu

The preferred method of contacting the instructor between class meetings is by email. He will be available between 9:30 and 11:00 each Tuesday and Thursday. To meet outside of these times, contact Mr. Sirmon by email or phone.

**PLEASE:** Begin the Subject Line of your email with “**GEO301-Yourname**” (not Sirmon).

This will identify you as a member of this course. Also, some students use nicknames for email addresses that I may not recognize.

From time to time I will contact the entire class using your university e-mail addresses. If you do not check your UM email on a **daily** basis, I suggest that you have it forwarded to your primary email address. I expect every student to check for course email not less than every two days. Therefore I will expect all email information to have been received after 48 hours of it being sent.

**Website:** [www.Sirmon.US/um/geo301](http://www.Sirmon.US/um/geo301)

A webpage for this course can be found by logging into <https://umportal.umobile.edu/ics> and selecting MY COURSES under QUICK LINKS. In order to comply with the Higher Education Act which requires verification of student identity in online work, all online coursework submitted to the faculty member must be completed by file exchange through the course website or sent from the student’s official University E-MAIL ACCOUNT.

**Course Description:**

Geography 301 is a course intended to provide the student with an introduction to the major regions and countries of the world with emphasis on population, place, location, environment, and economic development. Class time will consist of formal presentations by the instructor as well as student presentation and class discussion of assigned readings, documents, etc.

## Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of this course, it is expected that the student will have a greater knowledge of the:

1. fundamental concepts of geography
2. physical and cultural characteristics of the world's realms
3. concept of economic development and factors in global disparities
4. relationship between the physical environment and human culture

## Required Text:

*World Regional Geography Concepts*. L. M. Pulsipher, A. A. Pulsipher, C. Goodwin. 2nd edition (2010). W. H. Freeman and Company.

Additional readings (or links to them) will be posted on the course website.

## Assignments:

Assigned work includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Complete all assigned reading assignments from the text before the class in which it will be discussed. Additional reading assignments or changes to the schedule may be made during the semester. Announced schedule changes are the responsibility of the student.
2. Students are encouraged to attend various lectures and other events that are related to the study of geography. Information on approved events will be announced in class. Bonus points will be awarded (with proof of attendance) at events recommended by the instructor.

## Exams, Papers and Presentations:

Students will take three in-class exams. The first will be a map exam. This will include the basics of map reading as well as identifying regions and selected countries. The mid-term and final exams will include objective (multiply choice, matching and map identification) and short-answer/short-essay questions. See class schedule for the dates.

Students will also take periodic on-line quizzes. The schedule for these quizzes will be announced in class.

Each student will complete two 2,500 word (approximately 10 pages) papers. A 15 minute class presentation will be given to discuss the second paper. The first paper will be on the relationship between Regional and Systematic Fields of Geography. The due date for topic selection and paper is on the class schedule.

The second paper and presentation will be an analysis of one of the 12 Geographic Realms using a different Systematic Field. Selection of student topics will be made on a first come-first serve basis using email date-time beginning one week before the selection due date. Any student, who has not made a selection by the beginning of class on the due date, will have the topic randomly assigned by the instructor.

The second student paper is due at the beginning of the class meeting one week prior to the accompanying presentation. (e.g. a student **paper** due on Nov. 11, will have the **presentation** scheduled for Nov. 18.)

**Evaluation:**

Map Exam	100 points
Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Quiz Avg.	50 points
Papers (100 pts each)	200 points
Presentation	50 points
Participation	100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700 points</b>

**Course letter grades will be assigned:**

“A”	>= 90%	>= 630 points
“B”	>= 80%	>= 560 points
“C”	>= 70%	>= 490 points
“D”	>= 60%	>= 420 points
“F”	< 60%	< 420 points

**Participation:**

Students are expected to have read the text prior to class so that they are able to engage in the discussion of the day’s lecture. Lack of attention or failure to have a basic understanding of the material will have a negative impact on the student’s grade. Experience has shown that the majority of students will not receive greater than 80 participation points.

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend every class. You are also expected to be *on time* for class. Understandably, situations will arise that require you to be absent or tardy. These situations should not occur regularly. Roll will be taken at each class. Any absence or tardy will affect your participation grade. Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of 3 points from the Class Participation portion of the course evaluation.

Absences due to university-sponsored activities will be excused ONLY IF prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students who participate on UM athletic teams should have their coaches send a schedule of anticipated absences as early in the semester as possible. Students in performing arts ensembles should have their director notify the instructor as early as possible. It remains the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to make sure that this communication has taken place.

Unexcused absences from a test will result in a grade of **0**. Every effort should be made to contact the instructor as soon as it becomes apparent that the student will be absent from the scheduled test. Arrangements for making up the test **MUST** be completed within 4 calendar days of the absence.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of the University of Mobile to provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University coordinates support resources for students with disabilities and is an accommodation resource for faculty and administration. Eligibility for service requires that prior documentation of the disability be reviewed and accepted by the disabilities coordinator.

It is the responsibility of the student to exercise initiative in identifying and obtaining support services. The student must arrange to have all documentation of his/her disability forwarded to Student Support Services (SSS). The student must make an appointment with SSS following registration to discuss possible accommodations. The student should arrange to meet with the Student Support Services Coordinator after the first week of classes to determine any changes to accommodations. Students will be

able to obtain letters for course instructors within 48 hours of request once official documentation has been received and approved.

It is the responsibility of the student to meet with course instructors at the beginning of the semester to provide information regarding their disability and to discuss accommodations and strategies that will be appropriate. The Student Success Center will provide supportive assistance when requested by the student. *(2014-2015 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook)*

### **Academic Integrity:**

Any student found to be disruptive in class, or copying, plagiarizing (with or without an intent to deceive), cheating, engaging in unauthorized use of a test, forging, or lying to a faculty member in order to complete an assignment will be subject to disciplinary action.

If a student violates the academic integrity code, the student will receive a grade of "0" for the test or assignment. The incident, along with the evidence, will be reported in writing to the vice president for academic affairs with a copy mailed to the student.

For additional information refer to University Catalog section on Academic Integrity and Conduct Code.

### **Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones should be on silent and **out of sight**. **No** iPods, etc. are to be **used or visible**. Laptop computers are permitted for taking class notes. Failure to follow these rules will negatively impact participation grades.

### **Fall Semester Holidays: 2014**

Labor Day – September 1

Project Serve – September 26

Fall Break – October 8-10

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 24-28

### **Final Exams: December 8-11**

## Tentative Class Schedule: Fall 2014

Aug. 19	Class Introduction .....	Syllabus & Intro.
Aug. 21	Cartography – Map Reading.....	H/O & Text: p3-8
Aug. 26	<i>Geography: An Exploration of Connections</i> .....	Text: Ch. 1
Aug. 28	<i>Geography: An Exploration of Connections</i> .....	Text: Ch. 1
Sept. 2	<i>Geography: An Exploration of Connections</i> .....	Text: Ch. 1
	(1st Paper Topic Selection Due)	
Sept. 4	<b><u>Map Exam</u></b> <i>North America</i> .....	Text: Ch. 2
Sept. 9	<i>North America</i> .....	Text: Ch. 2
Sept. 11	<i>North America</i> .....	Text: Ch. 2
Sept. 16	<i>Middle and South America</i> .....	Text: Ch. 3
Sept. 18	<i>Middle and South America</i> .....	Text: Ch. 3
Sept. 23	<i>Europe</i> .....	Text: Ch. 4
Sept. 25	<i>Europe</i> .....	Text: Ch. 4
Sept. 30	<i>Russia and the Post-Soviet States</i> .....	Text: Ch. 5
Oct. 2	<i>Russia and the Post-Soviet States</i> .....	Text: Ch. 5
	<b>(1st Paper Due)</b>	
Oct. 7	<b><u>Mid-Term Exam</u></b>	
Oct. 9	<b><u>Fall Break</u></b>	
Oct. 14	<i>North Africa and Southwest Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 6
Oct. 16	<i>North Africa and Southwest Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 6
	<b>(2nd Paper/Presentation Topic Selection Due)</b>	
Oct. 21	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> .....	Text: Ch. 7
Oct. 23	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> .....	Text: Ch. 7
Oct. 38	<i>South Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 8
Oct. 30	<i>South Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 8
Nov. 4	<i>East Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 9
Nov. 6	<i>East Asia</i> .....	Text: Ch. 9
Nov. 11	<i>Southeast Asia (Guest Lecturer)</i> .....	Text: Ch. 10
Nov. 13	<i>Southeast Asia</i> <b>Student Presentations</b> .....	Text: Ch. 10
Nov. 18	<i>Southeast Asia</i> <b>Student Presentations</b> .....	Text: Ch. 10
Nov. 20	<i>Oceania: Australia, New Zealand</i> <b>Student Presentations</b> ....	Text: Ch. 11
Nov. 24-28	<b><u>Thanksgiving Break</u></b>	
Dec. 2	<i>Oceania: the Pacific</i> <b>Student Presentations</b> .....	Text: Ch. 11
Dec. 4	<i>Antarctica</i> <b>Student Presentations</b> .....	Text: Ch. 11
Dec 9	<b><u>Final Exam (8:00 am)</u></b>	