

University of Mobile
GEO 301: World Regional Geography
Fall 2021

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

GEO 301-01: 9:30 am – 10:50 am — T-R — Ben May Building conference room

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.

Faculty: Mr. Wayne Sirmon
Cell Phone: 251-591-3417
Email: Wayne@Sirmon.US *(Use this email for direct.)*
wsirmon@umobile.edu
Website: <http://www.sirmon.us/um/GEO301.htm>

A webpage for this course can be found by logging into <https://umportal.umobile.edu/ics> and selecting MY COURSES under QUICK LINKS. Online quizzes, gradebook and other course information will be found on CANVAS. 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.

Email communication: All course related emails should be from your UM assigned email. (Should you not be able to use your assigned email, please state your problem at the start of your message.) I would prefer that you **NOT** use canvas for communications. There has been some problems with attachments and I cannot see the thread of conversations so our messages may lose context. When sending attached Article Reviews, you should use your UM assigned email and send it to wsirmon@umobile.edu.

PLEASE: Begin the Subject Line of your email with “**GEO301-Yourname**” This will let me know that you are a student enrolled in this course and section. Also, some students use nicknames for email addresses that I may not recognize. Also, make sure that the Subject Line relates to the current email message.

From time to time I will contact the entire class using your university e-mail addresses and/or canvas. 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.

Office Hours: The preferred method of contacting the instructor between class meetings is by email. I will be available between 11:00 and 12:00 each Tuesday and Thursday. To meet outside of these times, contact Mr. Sirmon by email or phone.

Course Description: **GEO 301 World Regional Geography** 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 regions
3. concept of economic development and factors in global disparities
4. relationship between the physical environment and human culture

Required Text:

Fundamentals of World Regional Geography. Joseph J. Hobbs. 4th edition (2017). Cengage Learning
ISBN: 978-1-305-57826-5.

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, identifying regions and selected countries and topics discussed in chapters 1-3. 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 5 pages) papers. A 15 minute class presentation will be given to discuss the second paper. The due dates for topic selection and paper are on the class schedule. 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. Dates for papers and presentations will be assigned at that time.

The first paper will be an analysis of one of Geographic Regions discussed in chapters 4-7 using one of the five Thematic Concepts. No two students may select the same region or thematic concept.

The second paper and presentation will be an analysis of one of the Geographic Regions discussed in chapters 8-11 using one of the five Thematic Concepts. Each student must select a thematic concept different from that used in the first paper. No two students may use the same region or thematic concept. The second student paper is due at the beginning of the class meeting prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday and the presentations will be giving the final week of regular classes

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
TOTAL	700 points

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

Final Exam Scheduling: Students are expected to take the final exam on the scheduled exam date. Students enrolled in face-to-face classes need to make all travel arrangements to accommodate the date of the final exam. The final exam should not be given early.

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.

Drop Information:

Courses dropped after August 27 will receive no refund of tuition.

Day courses may be added or changed to audit without permission before August 19

Day courses may be added or changed to audit with special permission before August 25.

Day courses may be dropped without the “F” penalty by November 2.

(2021-22 Catalog/ Student Handbook & revised University Calendar)

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. Eligibility for services requires prior documentation of the disability. The Student Support Services Coordinator, located in the Student Success Office behind Weaver Hall in the Rosemary Adams Building (251-442-2284), coordinates services for students with disabilities and is an accommodation resource for faculty and administration.

Tutoring and Writing Assistance:

Tutoring in a variety of areas and writing assistance are available free of charge to UM students through UM's Student Success Center located behind Weaver Hall in the Rosemary Adams Building. Utilize the link below to schedule an appointment with a tutor online or call the Student Success Office at 251-442-2536 . Walk-Ins will be served if tutors are available. https://umportal.umobile.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/Tutoring/ (Go to MyUM>Student Success.)

Academic Integrity:

Academic Dishonesty and Conduct Code

Students attending the University of Mobile are expected to reflect a high standard of academic integrity and conduct in accord with basic Christian principles and the mission of the University. 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.

Each faculty member has the responsibility of defining his or her academic expectations at the beginning of each session or sub-session. If a faculty member discovers a student violating the academic integrity code, he or she must either 1) assign a grade of "0" for the test or assignment; or 2) refer the incident to a faculty committee appointed by the faculty member's dean. After the grading or ruling by committee, the incident, along with the evidence, is to be reported in writing to the vice president for academic affairs with a copy mailed to the student.

The office of the vice president for academic affairs determines whether the incident is the student's second offense and, if so, refers the matter to the academic affairs committee for disciplinary action. A student found guilty of a second offense is subject to academic suspension for up to one academic year. A third offense will result in academic dismissal. The student is entitled to appeal any case involving allegations of academic dishonesty or misconduct, in keeping with the appeal process outlined in the *Student Handbook*. (2018-2019 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook)

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: 2021

Labor Day	September 6
Fall Break	October 6-8
Project Serve	October 22
Thanksgiving	November 22-26

Final Exams: December 7

Students are expected to take the final exam on the scheduled exam date. Students enrolled in face-to-face classes need to make all travel arrangements to accommodate the date of the final exam. The final exam should not be given early.

Tentative Class Schedule: Fall 2021

Aug. 17 Class IntroductionSyllabus & Intro.

Aug. 19 *Objectives and Tools of World Regional Geography* Chapter 1

Aug. 24 *Physical Processes and World Regions*Chapter 2

Aug. 26 *Physical Processes and World Regions*Chapter 2 and Maps

Aug. 31 *Human Processes and World Regions*Chapter 3
(1st Paper Topic **Selection** Due)

Sept. 2 **Map Exam** and *Human Processes and World Regions*Chapter 3

Sept. 7 *Europe*.....Chapter 4

Sept. 9 *Europe*.....Chapter 4

Sept. 14 *Europe*.....Chapter 4

Sept. 16 *Russia and the Near Abroad*.....Chapter 5

Sept. 21 *Russia and the Near Abroad*.....Chapter 5

Sept. 23 *Middle East and North Africa*.....Chapter 6

Sept. 28 *Middle East and North Africa*.....Chapter 6

Sept 30 *Middle East and North Africa*.....Chapter 6

Oct. 5 *South and East Asia*Chapter 7

Oct. 7 **Fall Break – No Class**

Oct. 12 *South and East Asia*Chapter 7
(1st Paper Due)

Oct. 14 *South and East Asia*Chapter 7

Oct. 19 **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 21 *Oceania and Antarctica*Text: Ch. 8
 (2nd Paper/Presentation Topic Selection Due)

Oct. 22 *Project Serve*

Oct. 26 *Oceania and Antarctica*Text: Ch. 8

Oct. 28 *Sub-Saharan Africa*Text: Ch. 9

Nov. 2 *Sub-Saharan Africa*Text: Ch. 9

Nov. 4 *Sub-Saharan Africa*Text: Ch. 9

Nov. 9 *Latin America*.....Text: Ch. 10

Nov. 11 *Latin America*.....Text: Ch. 10

Nov. 16 *Latin America*Text: Ch. 10

Nov. 18 *United States and Canada* ***Student Presentations***Text: Ch. 11

Nov. 23 & 25 **Thanksgiving Break**

Nov. 30 *United States and Canada* ***Student Presentations***Text: Ch. 11

Dec. 2 *United States and Canada* ***Student Presentations***Text: Ch. 11

Dec 7 @ 9:30 **FINAL EXAMINATION**