



## Course Description

In this course, we will examine the cultural, environmental, political and socio-economic dimensions of our world, with an emphasis on Africa, Asia and Europe. Organized around the concept of regions, we will observe distinct human activities and physical processes taking place within each, with a special focus on broad themes of environmental change, globalization, economic development and regional diversity. The goal of the course is to let you develop a sense of place and space for each region at the local, national and global scales.

**Instructors :** Stella Capoccia and Samuel Thomas Ledermann

**Class Time:** Monday and Thursday 12:00 - 1:20

**Room:** BE 253, LIV

## Office Hours:

- Stella Capoccia: Room B264 @ 2:30 - 4:00 pm each Thursday or by appointments
- Samuel Thomas Ledermann: Room B229 @ 2:30 - 4:00 pm each Thursday or by appointments

## Email:

- Stella Capoccia: [scapocci@rci.rutges.edu](mailto:scapocci@rci.rutges.edu)
- Samuel Thomas Ledermann: [sledermann@gmail.com](mailto:sledermann@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://eden.rutgers.edu/~samuell/> (for lectures) and <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal> (grading)

**GEO450:205 satisfies the following requirements:** Diversity, Global Awareness and Social Science


**Required Text:** Pulsipher and Pulsipher, 2008, *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives, Fourth Edition*, W.H. Freeman and Company, New York, ISBN: 9780716777922. (Available at Rutgers Bookstore).


**Note:** This is the brand-new 4th edition which we'll use for the course. While we strongly encourage you to purchase it, as it often proves to be useful beyond this course, we understand that its high price-tag might put a strain on your budgeting efforts. Consequently, if you are able to obtain a used copy of the previous edition (try <http://www.isbn.nu>), feel free to use it as it should work fine for the most parts of the course. Furthermore, there is a less-detailed version available without the subregions (ISBN: 978-0716785224), which could further cut your costs. Finally, in case you'd opt for either of these two alternatives, yet are in need to access the full 4th edition, we'll provide a free copy of it on reserve under our course name at the Livingston library.


As a companion to the book, there is also a homepage offered by the publishers (<http://bcs.whfreeman.com/pulsipher4e/default.asp>), that offers some useful online information. In case you'd have any remaining questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Website:** Please check regularly our class homepage, as we'll use it to post our lecture notes, assignments and photo posts, and other updates throughout the semester. Sakai is used for the grades.

**Class Assignments:**

 **Exams:** There will be a total of five examinations, scheduled at the end of each region studied (with some regions added together). The final grade will be based on the average score of the **four highest examinations**, with the lowest exam score dropped. Instead of a final exam, the 5th exam will cover Chapters 2 and 3 (and the Poles) on the last day of class, May 4th. All five exams are currently scheduled preliminarily below, yet likely changes will be made due to unforeseen circumstances, such as us running behind schedule, elephants raining from heaven, etc. Either way, any change of exam time will be announced well in advance in class and posted on the website! The exam itself consists of 40 multiple choice questions and 10 content-based map quizzes at 2 points each. The fifth exam will consist of 30 multiple choice questions at 2 points each and one take-home essay question at 20 points. These exams, while not cumulative in the traditional sense, will cover all materials covered in lectures relating to the regions, including movies, as well as the textbook and maps. **No makeup exams** are given, unless you have a **legitimate, documented reason for missing an exam**. If you know of your absence beforehand (i.e. scheduled doctor's appointment, sister getting married), you have to let us know **in advance**, or you will receive a score of zero. Rest assured, if you have a valid excuse and did not wait with approaching us, we will find a solution together.

 **Photo Post and Investigation:** Geographers study places and spaces, and their interactions across multiple scales. While this sounds complicated, it starts with the simple action of satisfying your own curiosity by paying attention to our surroundings. Since we can't take a fieldtrip across the globe, we'll stretch each other's imaginations by investigating a classmate's (not your own) picture of anywhere they've travelled on this globe using the seven criteria (if appropriate) of: *landforms, vegetation, ambience, material culture, activities and their possible meaning, evidence about the economy, and location (x/y coordinates)*. Each person will submit an electronic copy of their picture by **Monday, February 2nd 11:59 am**, which includes the date the picture was taken and location (in x/y coordinates). In case you have no digital pictures, feel free to scan it in, or ask us for help in advance. We will then upload all the pictures anonymously onto our class-homepage (only showing the date) and assign one picture to each student to investigate. A two-paged double spaced essay on each respective picture will be due on **Thursday, February 12th 11:59 am** in class. Your grades will not be affected if you identified a different environment, as long as you made an honest attempt at covering all the relevant seven criteria. Furthermore, since we often fail to critically engage with our own immediate surrounding, pictures of your favorite neighborhood in New Jersey are just as much appreciated as the *exotic* island in the Pacific we only see on postcards in our offices.

 **'Before- and After-' Reflection Paper:** Each of us have different preconceived notions of the world we live in. Shaped by our social surroundings, including but not limited to our families, teachers and media-personalities, we each hold numerous stereotypes and generalizations when it comes to 'foreign' cultures and countries. For this assignment, you will write down ten characteristics (generalization) about Stella's first region after the Spring Break, Africa, on a sheet of paper and hand in to the instructors. After finishing the lectures on the

region, we will hand the lists back to you. Your assignment is now to critically reflect on three to four of your most interesting generalizations and why they were dispelled afterwards. Explain your thought process on why you picked them in the first place and if they were dispelled, how you reached that conclusion. Your at least two full pages, double-spaced papers, attached with the previous list, will be due on **Thursday, April 16th in class.**

🎧 **Reaction Paper:** Throughout the course, we will watch documentaries (including <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/>) and movies in order to bring our 'textbook' geography and world cultural regions to life! We will view approximately one movie or clip for each region covered, and each movie is followed by an in-class group discussions. In order to generate stimulating discussions, each of you will choose a region on **February 2nd** so we can schedule the dates of your reaction paper and discussion presentation. The 1st group will post a reaction paper on Thursday, February 5th by 9 p.m after the movie in-class that same date. You will submit your reaction electronically to all your classmates prior to that deadline. The subsequent class period, the 5th group (who will post their reaction papers on April 20th) will present together the reaction papers and lead a group discussion for the first half in the following class period. The 2nd group's reaction post, due on February 19th, will be presented by the first group, and so forth. In case you are unclear about this assignment, please don't hesitate to ask us or always consult your reaction paper handout (posted online as well). Your reaction paper is worth 10 % total, with 5 % for discussion and 5 % for the post.

🎧 **Extra Credits:** Since we are all adults, we will NOT take daily attendance. In order to succeed in the course, however, you should be attending each class period, as the posted lecture slides will not prepare you for the exam. Furthermore, in order to reward regular attendance, we'll undertake three unannounced attendances, worth 1 point each. No matter the reason for your absence, **no make-up** will be given for extra credits from attendance. You can also receive a maximum of 1 additional extra credit if you are within the top 10 % of any special in-class or take-home assignments mentioned during class.

#### General Notices:

🎧 **Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty and integrity are essential in academia and the highest standards will be maintained. Violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism, are serious offenses and will be swiftly dealt with accordingly. For more information regarding the policies, consult

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

🎧 **Special Classroom Accommodation:** Please don't hesitate to let us know if you are in need of special accommodation.

🎧 **Class Policies:** It is essential that you show respect to your fellow classmates. Students who interrupt the class, talk, or sip a latte while trying to crack the morning newspaper's Sudoku puzzle will be asked to leave. Also, **TURN YOUR CELLPHONES OFF** (not vibrate, OFF!)! Please refrain from using your laptop/PDA if not necessary. Finally, although the class might end sooner than the 80 minutes assigned at times, expect to spend the entire class period!

Date	Lecture Material	Activities, Assignments, Exams
Jan 22nd (Th)	Introduction	
Jan 26th (M)	Chapter 1: Intro	
Jan 29th (Th)	Chapter 1: Intro (cont.)	
Feb 2nd (M)	Chapter 4 and 5: Europe and Russia	Schedule Reaction Papers and <b>Submit Photo-Post Picture</b>
Feb 5th (Th)	Chapter 4 and 5 (cont.)	Reaction Post - Set 1 @ 9 P.M.
Feb 9th (M)	Chapter 4 and 5 (cont.)	
Feb 12th (Th)	Chapter 8 and 9: East and South Asia	<b>Submit Photo-Post Investigation</b>
Feb 16th (M)	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 4, and 5)</b>	
Feb 19th (Th)	Chapter 8 and 9 (cont.)	Reaction Post - Set 2 @ 9 P.M.
Feb 23rd (M)	Chapter 8 and 9 (cont.)	
Feb 26th (Th)	Chapters 10 and 11: South-East Asia and Oceania	
March 2nd (M)	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 8 and 9)</b>	
March 5th (Th)	Chapters 10 and 11 (cont.)	
March 9th (M)	Chapters 10 and 11 (cont.)	
March 12th (Th)	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 10 and 11)</b>	
March 16th (M)	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 19th (Th)		
March 23rd (M)	Chapter 6: North Africa and SW Asia	<b>Submit 'Before-Reflection' List</b>
March 26th (Th)	Chapter 6 (cont.)	Reaction Post - Set 3 @ 9 P.M.
March 30th (M)	Chapter 7: Sub-Saharan Africa	<b>Return 'Before-Reflection' List</b>

Date	Lecture Material	Activities, Assignments, Exams
April 2nd (Th)	Chapter 7 (cont.)	
April 6th (M)	Chapter 7 (cont.)	Reaction Post - Set 4 @ 9 P.M.
April 9th (Th)	Chapter 7 (cont.)	
April 13th (M)	<b>Exam 4 (Chapter 6 and 7)</b>	
April 16th (Th)	Chapter 3: Middle, South America and the Carribean	Submit 'After-Reflection' Paper
April 20th (M)	Chapter 3 (cont.)	Reaction Post - Set 5 @ 9 P.M.
April 23rd (Th)	Chapter 2: North America	
April 27th (M)	Chapter 2 (cont.)	
April 30th (Th)	Select Reading: The Poles and Reaction Post - Set 6 @ 9 P.M.	
May 4th (M)	<b>Conclusion and Exam 5 (Chapter 2, 3, The Poles)</b>	

## Preliminary Course Outline

<b>Basis for Grading</b>	4 (out of 5) Exams @ 18 points	72 %
	Photo post and investigation	10 %
	Before-and-After Reflection	8 %
	Reaction Post and Discussion	10 %
	Extra Credit (Attendance, etc.)	max. 4%

**Please don't hesitate to see us with any questions or concerns throughout the semester!  
Let's hope it will be a fantastic one!**