

General Studies 2017 Course Review

Geography 206

I. Course Description:

Geography 206 World Regional Geography (3-credit hours) Catalog Description: A survey of world geographical regions to include: economic development, people and resources, physical environments and cultural patterns. Perquisites-none

II. Student Learning Outcome:

Geography 206 addresses the self and cultural awareness student learning outcome.

III. Rationale for Student Learning Outcome:

The rationale for World Regional Geography to be linked to this particular SLO is simple and self-evident. Geography is concerned with the distribution of various phenomena over space. Geographers examine both physical phenomena such as climate, landforms, resources and natural disasters, as well as cultural phenomena such as economic systems, migration patterns, population densities, urban planning, political systems, religions and varying cultures from across the world. The Geography 206 course at West Liberty examines these cultures in their regional settings. As shown on the attached syllabus, the course moves from one world region to another throughout the semester. During the examination of each region, cultural awareness makes up roughly 50% of topics covered, while the physical geographical setting in which these cultures exist comprise the other half. Regions covered include Latin America, The Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, The Middle East, South Asia, Former Soviet Union, East Asia and Southeast Asia. Cultural relationships between these regions and Europe or North America are often explored through topics such as colonialism, cultural diffusion and globalization. In short, no other class at the university level may be so appropriately linked to a Cultural Awareness learning outcome as Geography 206.

IV. Course Assessment:

The Self and Cultural Awareness outcome is assessed through each student's completion of the Cultural Diffusion Project. More accurately, cultural awareness is assessed through each map quiz, exam, assignment, forum post and paper completed by students in 206, but we contribute to university level general studies assessment through the cultural diffusion project. This assignment pre-dates the self-and cultural awareness rubric, further detailing the deep connection between geography and cultural awareness. Attached is a copy of the cultural diffusion project, used in all sections of 206, both in the classroom and online.

V. Delivery and Implementation:

The delivery methods for Geography 206 include both classroom and online classes. Each semester at least two sections are offered by Professor Massey in the classroom. No other professor currently offers, or has recently offered 206 in the classroom. When departmental funds allow an online version of 206 is taught by an adjunct, Dr. Stephen Butcher. Professor Massey will occasionally offer this course online in the summer as well. The geography faculty ensure consistency across the various delivery methods by utilizing the same textbook, LiveText cultural diffusion assessment project, and by meeting frequently to discuss issues pertinent to the structure of Geography 206. Professors Massey and Butcher also both have completed the HOLI training for online learning to ensure properly organized and presented online content. Both the online and classroom sections of Geography 206 utilize diverse teaching and learning methods including lectures, readings, videos, music (especially in relation to cultural diffusion), online forums and out of class assignments.

VI. Syllabus and attachments submitted via LiveText.