

Course Code & No. - Section:	INTL 221 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits):	Political-Economic Geography (3)
Term & Year:	Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80171
Instructor:	Brennan Lagasse
Phone(s):	508-769-0006
Email:	blagasse@sierranevada.edu
Office:	
Office Hours:	Tuesday's after class and by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	T 1600-1845
Location:	TCES 206
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None

Course Description

This course discusses the political geography of the modern world and the spatial relations between its system of nation-states. It also surveys the world's political, economic and demographic patterns, including forms of governance, trade, finance, economic cooperation, environment, GNP, health, culture, language, etc.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Properly define the major world regions based on cultural, political, economic, and natural criteria;
2. Illustrate the main elements of globalization and localization;
3. Analyze why regional geography is relevant to understanding our world today;
4. Compare and contrast students own world region with others across the globe;
5. Understand how natural environments affect human actions and how human activities affect natural environments;
6. Compare major political systems and how they affect economic policies.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Daily attendance and participation;
2. Current events articles;
3. Midterm;
4. Final Paper/Project and Presentation.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, small groups, and individual work in class using laptop computers, inquiry learning, discussion and case studies.

Required Texts and Materials

1. Blij, Harm de. (2010). *The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny, and Globalization's Rough Landscape*. Oxford University Press.
 2. Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements)
 3. Microsoft Word (I recommend Open Office if you do not have Microsoft Office, however all assignments must be submitted in Excel or Word formats)
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Attendance/Participation

These are the two cornerstones to being successful in INTL 221. If you are not in class regularly, and if you are not contributing to our collective learning space by participating in class then you will not receive a satisfactory grade. Readings and other course assignments are meant to be stimulating. You should come to class after having finished a particular reading and be able to articulate your thoughts with your classmates. I understand issues and conflicts arise each semester, so if you do have something that will cause you to miss one of our classes contact me. You will not be docked for attendance points if I know you will not be in class, AND your reason for missing class is *appropriate*.

Class Requirements

The following is a list of course requirements

- All students are required to bring a laptop computer to each class meeting
- Cell phones must be turned off during class-no texting!
- All Students must arrive on time to class

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
 - 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
 - 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.
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Grading Policy

Item	Weight
Map Presentations	15%
Current Events Article	15%
Participation/Attendance	30%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading scale:

A+ 100-98 A 97-93 A- 92-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-73 C- 72-70 D+ 69-67 D 66-63 D- 62-60
F 59 and below

Map Presentation

Each week we will discuss countries around the world that correlate to our reading, examine maps, and discuss specifics related to various regions around the globe. On November 17th, you will be required to give an oral presentation that is backed up by a written and visual component. Half the class will present on the Global North, and half the class will present on the Global South. More specifics will be discussed in class.

Current Events Article

Each student will be responsible for bringing in a relevant current events articles about World Geography. You will need to monitor current news sources; articles older than one month will not be accepted. Furthermore, you will have to filter the news to determine what is relevant to political-economic geography.

The beginning of each class will be dedicated to current event presentations. The articles you select should spark thought and discussion; therefore, each student will give a five-minute presentation on your article/topic, with supporting material. The student will then facilitate a discussion amongst the class of a minimum of ten minutes. We will begin presentations the second week of the semester.

Grading will be based on relevance of the article, creativity of the presentation, and ability to facilitate discussion.

Midterm

Your midterm will take the form of several essays. We will discuss specifics in class prior to the midterm date

Final Paper/Project and Presentation

Your culminating experience in INTL 221 will take the form of a research paper or project that will be discussed in class. During our final exam period you will be expected to present your research to the class. Your overall grade will be dependent on the adequacy of your written/visual/and oral delivery.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:**Liberal Arts****Professional Preparedness****Entrepreneurial Thinking****Sustainability**

Class Schedule

Below is a tentative itinerary for the semester, which is subject to change based on notice you'll receive either in class or through email.

Date	Topic	Homework (To be completed before next class session)
8/18	Review syllabus Objectives and Tools of World Regional Geography	Chapter 1: Globals, Locals, and Mobals
8/25	Mobilization	Chapter 2: The Imperial Legacy of Language
9/1	Language	Chapter 3: The Fateful Geography of Religion
9/8	Religion	Chapter 4: The Rough Landscape of Human Health
9/15	Health	Chapter 5: Geography of Jeopardy
9/22	"Chance" and Place	First Half Review
9/29	World Map Introduction	Prepare for Midterm, Semester Check In
10/6	Midterm (Essay Format)	Chapter 6: Places Open and Shut
10/13	Geography and Place	Chapter 7: Same Place, Divergent Destinies
10/20	Economy and Place	Chapter 8: Power and the City
10/27	Power and Urbanization	Chapter 9: Promise and Peril in the Provinces
11/3	Hope	Chapter 10: Lowering the Barriers
11/10	Systems	World Map Presentation Preparation
11/17	World Map Presentations (Global North and Global South)	Prepare for Final
11/24	No Class	Thanksgiving Break
12/1	Semester Recap	Prepare for Final
12/11	Final Exam	1500-1800 (Friday)