

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

Spring 2012

GEOG 223

### Course Description

This course focuses on Islam as a major component of culture in various regions of the world. Religions intertwine with other cultural traits such as politics, family structure, education, business protocol, celebrations and common daily behaviors. Students will study cultural traits that are influenced by Islam as well as the physical environments of Muslim Regions. Climate, landforms and cultural landscapes can serve as refuge or barriers to particular cultural practices. The spread of Islam through a variety of cultural and environmental filters give distinctive cultural expression to various regions of the Muslim World. Spatial patterns, cultural landscapes, understanding cultural points of view are key to this course., with particular emphasis on the visual aspects – the cultural landscapes of places.

### Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Locate Islamic countries and capitals on an atlas
- Correlate development of Muslim culture through history and art in regions
- Identify and understand regions of contemporary conflict
- Understand the daily life of people in these regions
- Recognize the role of climate and topography in the development of cultures

### Required Text

Husain, Mir Zohair (2005) Global Studies: Islamic World, Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw Hill ISBN 978-0-07-352772-7

Access to a current Atlas is also a requirement, either through purchase of one or use in a library.

### Assignments and Evaluation

*One Final Exam:* The exam, worth 80 points; a take home final to be turned in according to college final schedule.

*Four Map Quizzes:* Each worth 10 points

*Four assignments:* Each of varying point value.

*Additional in-class assignments may be added at the discretion of the instructor.*

All map quizzes must be taken on the day they are scheduled. Approval for a makeup quiz or exam may be given only in emergency situations. This requires prior arrangement or acceptable excuse conveyed by immediate contact with the instructor. Examples of acceptable excuses include death in the family, documented illness, or change in work schedule. If the instructor is not contacted immediately, a "0" will be given for the quiz. Similarly, assignments turned in late will have points deducted from the grade. Assignments turned in after the rest of the class has received the graded assignment back will not be accepted.

### Attendance

Attendance is required. Missing more than three (3) classes will result in failure for the term.

### Availability and Office Hours

If you need to reach me outside of regular posted office hours , please feel free to do so via email (preferred) or phone. I can arrange to see you when my schedule allows.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism, presenting the writings, images or paraphrased ideas of another as one's own, is strictly prohibited. Properly documented excerpts from others' work, when they are limited to an appropriate amount of the total length of a student's paper, are permissible when used to support a researched argument. Plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course. THIS INCLUDES HOMEWORK AND TAKE HOME EXAMS!

## **Students with Disabilities - College statement here**

### **Evacuation Procedure**

Please proceed to the nearest exit when the strobe lights flash and an audible alarm occur.

### **Personal Conduct Standards**

The following actions are grounds for dismissal from the class period and a marked absence on attendance: excessive talking, sleeping, computer gaming, cell phone calls/text messaging, surfing the Web, doing work for other classes and any other disruptive behavior according to the instructor's judgment.

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Topic and Reading Assignment</b>
1	Introduction to Islam and the Region (Chap. 1-2) Foci: Islam as a way-of-life; the diffusion of Islam
2	Arabian Peninsula: Birthplace of Islam (Handout) Focus: Petro-states & Wahhabis
3	Middle East: Cradle of Civilizations Focus: Israel and Palestine <b>Map Quiz 1</b>
4	North Africa and Europe Foci: Transition Zone of East Europe Ethnic Enclaves, Architecture & Art
5	Terrorism and Islam Focus: Western Perceptions, Islamic Realities <b>Map Quiz 2</b>
6	African Transition Zone: African or Arabian? Focus: Culture Clashes
7	Turkey and Iran: The Empire States Foci: Ancient Empires, Westernization <b>Map Quiz 3</b>
8	Central Asia: The Great Game Revisited Focus: The Soviet Legacy & Afghanistan
9	South Asia Focus: Islam as a minority <b>Map Quiz 4</b>
10	Southeast Asia Population
11	Final Exam Due. Please make sure to turn yours in ON TIME.

## **Some Basic Definitions:**

**Cultural Landscape:** the imprint of human activities on the physical landscape. This includes buildings, roads, bridges and farm land. Any human built or altered piece of the earth.

### ***Physical Geography Terms and Concepts***

Latitude: Lines of latitude are Parallels that align east-west across the globe, from 0° at the Equator to the north (90° N) and south poles (90° S). Used to measure distance from the Equator and correlate to different climate zones.

Longitude: Lines of longitude called Meridians align north-south representing marks from pole to pole. Meridians intersect parallels to make up the Geographic grid or graticule. 0° Longitude begins at the Prime Meridian which runs N/S through Greenwich, UK to the poles. 0° to 180° east and 0° to 180° west, meet in the central Pacific Ocean at the international date line. Longitude measures distance and time from of the Prime Meridian.

Climate: The weather at a given location over an annual period. Most important aspects are temperature and precipitation averages on an annual and monthly basis for a location.

Topography: Altitude, slope, and (water) drainage are key components of landform study. They have a direct impact on human habitation and development of the cultural landscape.

Relative Location: Location as *related* to other locations. "Paris is about 130 miles south of the English Channel in north central France."

Absolute Location: Location as pinpointed on a graticule through latitude and longitude. "Paris is found at 48° 51' N, 2° 19' W."

### ***Political Geography Terms and Concepts***

Nation: While often used synonymously with country, social scientists define a nation as "A group of PEOPLE with a common history, language, and culture."

State: Social science's term for country (can be used interchangeably). Defined as "a unit of territory with delineated legal borders, resident population and a functioning government". To be official, Italy is a state, while the Italians are a nation. Some nations do not have their own state, such as the Basque (in Spain/France) or the Kurds (in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran). Some nations live together within a state with other nations (Afghanistan).

Nation-State: States that contain one nation (excluding immigrants). For example, the French live in France, Irish live in Ireland, etc. Most of them are found in Europe; in the rest of the world nation-states are somewhat less common.

Empire: A political unit where one state or nation-state rules one or more other nations or states. Empires are usually built by force. Some modern European examples: British Empire, Nazi Germany, Ottoman Empire, the Soviet Union.

Physical Geography: The names of some physical landforms (islands or continents in particular) are often substituted for states or nations. However, it would not be correct to do so. For example Great Britain is an island, on which most of the United Kingdom (a state) sits. America is often substituted for the USA, when in fact it derives from North America, a continent.

## ***Economic Geography Terms and Concepts***

### **Economic Activities**

**Primary** – Activities that extract, catch, harvest raw materials; e.g. mining, farming.

**Secondary** – Activities that process a primary good; e.g. industry, food processing.

**Tertiary** – Activities that can best be described as services; financial businesses, retail, consulting. Includes the FIRE sector (see below).

**Quaternary** – Specialized services that often require a high level of education, often service related; research and development, higher education, government, health care.

**FIRE sector** – The tertiary sector of the economy that involves *Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate associated with globalization*. FIRE sector size and impact is typically the benchmark of a post-industrial economy in a region or city. Cities with a strong FIRE sector can be classified as *World Cities*, i.e. cities whose financial sectors have a world impact. The *World System* is multi-tiered, with the first tier containing only four top-ranked cities: New York, London, Tokyo, and Los Angeles.

## ***Regional Geography Terms and Concepts***

**Formal Boundaries/Regions**: Regions that are defined by a level of similarity; this similarity is measurable and often visual. The region is delineated with boundaries. Can be singular featured (a region of language use or ethnicity), or multi-featured (Europe).

**Functional Boundaries/Regions**: Regions that are defined by a systematic functioning order based on lines of communication, with an established core (center) and periphery (outskirts). They are often based on one defining but functional purpose; e.g. the US North American Manufacturing Core (now known as the Rust Belt).

**Transition Zone**: A zone of overlap between two regions that exemplifies aspects of both regions; a transition between the two. Most regions have a transition of some sort, though it may be thin or deep. Perhaps the largest is the African Transition Zone, where Arabic, Muslim North Africa gives way to Black Christian/Animist Sub Saharan Africa.

**Core**: The cultural/economic center of a region where distinctive cultural attributes and goods of the entire region can be found; typically an urban area or agglomeration of several urban areas. Daily life that takes place in the core often affects the periphery around them.

**Periphery**: The area surrounding the core of a region, supplying it with representative cultural traits, local resources and a market. Peripheries are mostly rural, though they may contain urban areas smaller than the core. Specific attributes and contributions of the periphery are acknowledged and accepted by the core. Daily life in the periphery doesn't typically affect the core in a direct manner.