

GEOG 1200: Global Societies (INET)

Instructor Information

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Online Office Hours: Big Blue Button [Tuesday 12 - 1 pm or by appointment](#)

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The main objective of this course is a global survey of world regions. Of course, this could encompass literally everything on the planet, so to focus our learning I will emphasize the three foundational questions of geography: What is where? Why is it there? Why does it matter?

A. What is where?

Answering “What is where?” requires building foundational knowledge. We need to learn facts about cultures, history, politics, and the environment. In geography, foundational knowledge also includes learning key geographic concepts, vocabulary, and processes.

B. Why is it there?

The question “Why is it there?” is the core of higher-level geographic research and knowledge. Geography is about making connections among facts to tell a story. You will strengthen your spatial thinking skills by applying geographic theory to foundational knowledge and recognizing important relationships between the environment, culture, power, and society. Geographic thinking is a type of critical thinking in which we must challenge our own assumptions and consider multiple viewpoints.

C. Why does it matter?

Finally, we must answer, “Why does it matter?” My answer is simple. If you go on to a degree or career in geography, I want to give you the tools and knowledge to be successful at higher levels. If you are not a geography student, I want you to know enough about your world to be a responsible consumer of news. You will strengthen your communication skills as we analyze past and present current events. You will practice articulating thoughtful and complex ideas. Perhaps even more importantly, you will improve your understanding of your own neighborhood, community, state, country, and world.

Course Structure

This is a full-semester online course. You will work through 16 modules covering a wide array of topics and world regions.

Required/Recommended Materials

Required Text: World Regional Geography. Authors: Caitlin Finlayson. This book is part of the Open Textbook Library created by the University of Minnesota. The book is available for free in PDF and online forms. If you wish, you can order a hardcopy. The Link to access the text is:

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/world-regional-geography>.

Some activities in this course may require the use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). These programs are available on every public computer on campus as well as for free through your UNT webmail platform.

Communication Policy

Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Come visit me or schedule a Zoom meeting. I encourage you to connect with me for support.

Policy on Students with Disabilities

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. ~~Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment.~~ Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Assessing Your Work

Your final grade will be assigned based on the standard A-F grading scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = Below 60

There are 16 modules for this course. Each module will follow the assessment/grading scheme below.

Goal	Assessment Tool	Points
Foundational Knowledge	Quizlet 1	10
	Quizlet 2	10
	Quizlet 3	10
Organizing Knowledge	Activity	15
Practice	Mini-lab	25
Total		70

Each week, one or two discussion topics will be open and posted at Canvas. There will be five discussions and your participation in each discussion is required and worth 6 points. The rubric of the discussions is given as follows:

Discussion Rubric				
Criteria	Ratings			Pts
Timeliness	2 pts On Time	1 pts One Day Late	0 pts More than one day late (may not be accepted)	2 pts
Substance	2 pts Full Marks Student response is relevant to the question and addresses every component of the prompt.	1 pts OK Student put in a good faith effort but failed to answer part of the question.	0 pts No Marks Response is irrelevant to the question	2 pts
Replies	2 pts Full Marks Student adequately responds to two classmates	1 pts OK Student adequately responds to only one classmate	0 pts No Marks No replies given	2 pts
Total Points: 6				

Your final grade is computed as follows:

Final Grade=Total 16 module grades/16+ Discussion Points

Course Schedule

I will open one or two modules every week. Any changes will be announced well in advance. Assignments will be due at 11:59 pm.

Date:	Module:
Aug 18 - Aug 25, 2025	Getting Started and Module 1: Introducing the Course
Aug 26 - Sept 1, 2025	Module 2: Introducing Geography
Sept 2 - Sept 8, 2025	Module 3: Places and Spaces
Sept 9 - Sept 15, 2025	Module 4: Europe
Sept 16 - Sept 22, 2025	Module 5: Russia, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia
Sept 23 - Sept 29, 2025	Module 6: Middle East
Sept 30 - Oct 6, 2025	Module 7: Caribbean and Atlantic Realm
Oct 7 - Oct 13, 2025	Module 8: Africa
Oct 14 - Oct 20, 2025	Module 9: Latin America
Oct 21 - Oct 27, 2025	Module 10: USA and Canada
Oct 28 - Nov 3, 2025	Module 11: Introducing Asia
Nov 4 - Nov 10, 2025	Module 12: East Asia
Nov 11 - Nov 17, 2025	Module 13: South Asia
Nov 18 - Nov 24, 2025	Module 14: Southeast Asia
Nov 25 - Dec 4, 2025	Module 15: Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania
Nov 25 - Dec 4, 2025	Module 16: Arctic and Antarctic

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. In that circumstance the calendar is subject to change.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

In addition to standards for success in courses, there are UNT policies and procedures that you may list or link to in your syllabus. You can access these policies in Navigate ([Navigate.unt.edu](https://navigate.unt.edu)), in Canvas under the Help menu, in EIS, and on the [Student Support Services & Policies](#) page. To encourage students to read and absorb these important processes, you can use a syllabus quiz to check for understanding. A 10-question quiz about current institutional policies and resources is available in Canvas Commons. To access and upload the quiz to your course, follow the [Syllabus Quiz Access](#) directions.

Attendance and Participation

Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to learning. Some of our project-based activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. If you must miss a deadline, please let me know prior to the due date.

Student Resources

Whether you're fresh out of high school or back in school after a long career or deployment, college is a transitional phase for most of us. Money may be tight, and we may face obstacles we hadn't anticipated. If you're hungry, sick, or housing insecure it's hard to focus on getting the most out of your education. Below I've listed some resources available for common issues, but there are many more resources on campus and in the community. Please feel free to talk to me about any of these resources or if you need help with an issue not addressed here.

A. Mental Health

For many of us college is when we learn to self-soothe our stress and manage our time wisely. This alone can be quite difficult. Add in substance abuse, eating disorders, dysfunctional relationships, trauma, depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, ADHD, autism, and/or schizophrenia and things can quickly escalate out of control. Young adults are especially vulnerable to developing severe mental illness, serious diseases that get worse without management. The resources below offer individual, group, and couples counseling or medication. Seeking help for mental health issues before they get worse is a responsible step toward adult self-care and future stability.

- UNT Counseling and Testing (Short-term counseling and referrals)
 - Chestnut Hall #311
 - (940) 565-2741
- UNT Psychology Clinic (Longer-term talk therapy)
 - 1611 W. Mulberry St. (Chilton Hall)
 - (940) 565-2631
- UNT Psychiatry (Medication, no talk therapy)
 - Chestnut Hall
 - (940) 565-2333
- S.U.R.E Center
 - Substance Use Resource and Education Center
 - Provides self-assessments and connections to both on and off campus recovery options
 - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sure-center>

B. Hunger

As college prices soar and student employment options diminish, the Government Accountability Office estimates that 30% of college students are food insecure. You do not have to go hungry. The resources below can offer some relief.

- UNT Food Pantry
 - Any current UNT student in need can visit the Food Pantry 8am-7pm Monday-Thursday and 8am-5pm on Fridays during the long semesters.
 - Students will check-in at the Dean of Students Office front desk in the Union, Suite 409.
 - Students may go directly to room 366 from 5pm-7pm, Monday-Thursday
 - There is also a pantry located at Discovery Park in Room A160 next to the College of Engineering-Office of the Dean. The Discovery Park location is open Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

- Our Daily Bread
 - 300 West Oak Street, Suite 100
 - (940) 566-1308
 - <https://www.ourdailybreaddenton.org/>
 - Our Daily Bread is a community soup kitchen with no requirement to prove income or need. You can just walk in, no questions asked. They provide:
 - Breakfast Monday-Saturday
 - Snack packs for Sundays
 - Lunch Monday-Saturday
 - Occasional dinners

C. Various

- UNT Legal Assistance
 - StudentLegal@unt.edu
 - (940) 565-2614
 - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>
- Nest Watchers
 - Draw on the UNT student population to find babysitters so you can attend class or study
 - Students have undergone background checks
 - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-activities-center/programs-and-services/nest-watchers>
- Student Money Management Center
 - Learn to budget and make the most of your student salary.
 - Emergency aid available
 - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-money-management-center>
- Student Veteran Services
 - Help with VA benefits, enrollment, graduation
 - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-veteran-services>