# Geography 1000-005 Spring, 2011

***TuTh, 12:30 PM Dr. Ron Mitchelson***

## Course Description and Expectations

GEOG 1000 satisfies 3 hours of Foundations Credit in Social Science at ECU. As such it has three primary goals.

Goal 1. Students will learn the subject matter of Geography as a basic social science. Scholarly study in geography promotes the intellectual abilities essential for an understanding of the complex interrelationships of people, places, and environments.  
Goal 2. Students will learn the research methodology, principles and concepts required to understand and conduct undergraduate-level research in geography. Students will learn how geographers identify research problems and how geographers go about understanding. They will witness how to collect geographic data, how to interpret geographic data and then to make inferences from data.  
Goal 3. Students will learn about the discipline’s contributions to general knowledge. Students will explore the applied and multidisciplinary nature of geography. They will come to understand specific examples of the impact of this knowledge on their own and on other cultures.

The central theme, which will be used to integrate the diverse topics to be covered, is *DEVELOPMENT.* Throughout the semester we will maintain an issue oriented examination of each topic. As a result, we should develop a spatial (and global) perspective on pressing issues such as environmental degradation and justice, resource depletion, multi-nationalism and ethnic discord, development and poverty, population growth and pressure, technological change and innovation, and globalization as a process. The intent is to provide an informative and interesting educational experience. With successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

a) express understanding of fundamental geographic concepts such as scale, region, site, situation and spatial interaction;

b) illustrate the use of key geographic methodologies including the use of maps and statistics;

c) show appreciation for the use of contemporary geographic technologies such as GIS, GPS, and remote sensing to address global issues; and

d) apply geographic concepts and tools to issues of population, resources, economic development, globalization, and social justice.

### Text

Jackson, R.M., 2011. ***Annual Editions: Global Issues 2010/2011***. 26th Edition. Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 978-0-07-805058-9)

***Reading Reactions (30 percent of grade).***

Ten (10) read and react exercises will be assigned. These illustrate understanding of introductory elements of the geographer’s “spatial analysis” and the importance of spaces and places in understanding our world. Each exercise contributes three (3) percent toward the final grade. A high degree of professionalism is expected in each assignment. You should clearly illustrate comprehension of the assigned reading material when responding to the question posed for each article. Each reaction paper will be assigned a grade ranging from 0 to 3. The following grading rubric is used when assigning grades to the reaction papers.

0…………….. well below expected level of performance in writing content and quality (unacceptable)

1…………….. well below expected level of performance in writing content or quality (poor)

2…………….. expected level of performance in writing content and quality (adequate)

3…………….. above expected level of performance in writing content and quality (very good)

An aspect of a specified article will be queried during a class period as indicated within your class calendar. You will be provided 10-15 minutes at the beginning of class to respond to the question posed about that article. Read each very carefully!!

***Examinations (70 percent of grade).***

Exams are a combination of short answer questions (multiple choice, T/F, fill-in). The content of each exam is taken directly from ***class discussions*** and assigned ***text readings***. Special note: you should pay particular attention to place-name geography that is explicitly covered during class sessions.

Examination Percent of Grade Text Readings

1. Exam One (2/03) 15 percent Unit Five, Conflict

2. Exam Two (3/01) 20 percent Unit Three, Global Environment and Resources

3. Exam Three (3/31) 20 percent Unit Two, Population and Food

4. Final Exam (5/03) 15 percent Unit Four, Political Economy

***Office.***

Report to Brewster A206. Office hours are TuTh, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and other times by appointment. Please feel free to email for an appointment or to see me after a class session to establish a meeting time.

Contact Information: 252-328-4068 or 252-328-9474. [mitchelsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:mitchelsonr@ecu.edu). <http://myweb.ecu.edu/mitchelsonr/mitchweb/GEOG1000.htm>

***Other Expectations and Attendance.***

All materials are due as assigned and indicated on your class calendar. No late materials are accepted. However, materials may be submitted prior to the due date. Although there is no formal attendance policy, poor attendance will adversely affect your grade.

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*East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138, 252-737-1016 (Voice / TTY).*