

Prepared by the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: January 31, 2017

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: February 15, 2017

Effective: Fall 2017

1. **Course Number:** GEO104
Course Title: Geography: Culture and Environment
2. **Description:** This course examines the differences and spatial interactions of various cultures, technologies, and regions. The economic and social possibilities of local, extra-local, and regional environments are viewed from the perspective of their resident human populations. The concept of a “world region” is introduced and used as framework by which to understand the contemporary issues associated with cultural geography. The basic concepts of cultural geography are introduced and the analytical tools of cultural geography are reviewed. At the end of the class, the successful student will be conversant with the basic tools and concepts of cultural geography, the analytical perspectives of the discipline, as well as the broad cultural patterns of the cultural regions of the world.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.
 - Locate the major countries and regions of the world
 - Identify significant world culture areas and describe their salient geo-cultural characteristics
 - Discuss and describe the major concepts of cultural geography.
 - Identify the major elements of world regional analysis.
 - Describe the relationship of geography to culture in the organization of space.
 - Examine from a regional perspective key issues and challenges of the contemporary world.
 - Develop an understanding of the personal significance of place and space within the “Global Community.”
 - Apply critical thinking skills to understanding the relationship of geography to cultural space.
 - Describe the geographic influences informing cultural diversity and difference
 - Recognize the cultural-geographic context of contemporary events and issues.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral or Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** ENL108 (Critical Reading & Thinking) or satisfactory basic skills assessment scores recommended
7. **Semester Offered:** Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Evaluation of student performance includes map identification exercises, topical quizzes, written exams, and class participation and attendance.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
 - Introduction to Culture and Environment.
 - Approaches to Culture and Geography: The Concept of “World Regions”
 - Europe: Culture or Continent?
 - Russia and its Near Neighbors: A Slavic World?
 - East Asia: Economics, Environment, and Demography
 - Southeast Asia: Pluralism and Politics
 - South Asia: Culture and Conflict
 - North Africa and Southwest Asia: Religion as Geography
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: Gender, Health and Education
 - Latin America: The Development of Underdevelopment
 - North America: A continent without culture?
 - Globalization and Geography: Competing or Complementary Forces?