

GEOG 696
On-Line Course
GEOGRAPHY IN WORLD HISTORY SINCE 1500 AD
“World Geography Connects: 1500 AD to the Present”
3 credits

Old Dominion University
March 22 – April 30, 2010

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“World Geography Connects” is suite of three on-line courses designed for secondary social studies teachers in Virginia:

- The first course focuses on the geography behind world history before 1500 AD.
- The second course focuses on the geography behind world history since 1500 AD.
- The third part focuses on contemporary world regions.

All three are built around the Virginia Standards of Learning. They do not have to be taken in sequence. There are no formal class meetings; rather they are delivered from the

“World Geography Connects” Web Site

Using the “World Geography Connects: 1500 to Present” Web Site at <http://geoconnects1500topresent.pwnet.org>, students work their way through the five parts of the course. Content is delivered in the form of readings, digital photographs, videoclips, interactive lessons, and Internet activities. *Extension Activities* and *Recommended Resources* are included in each part. The five parts of “World Geography Connects” are:

Part I	Landscapes of the Modern World
Part II	Old World, New World, One World
Part III	Political Geography of the 20 th Century
Part IV	Trade, Technology, and the Quality of Life
Part V	The Indian Sub-Continent

In addition to course content and on-line activities, there are two other mandatory parts of the course: (1) the Discussion Forum and (2) the Quiz for each part.

“World Geography Connects” Registration

In addition to registering for GEOG 696 through Old Dominion University, students must also register at the “Geography Connects” web site noted above. Registration begins on February 8 and closes at 5 pm on March 5. Late registration is not permitted because time is needed to set up the Web Site for “opening day” on **March 22**.

“Geography Connects” Lesson Plan or Unit Plan

A graduate-quality lesson plan or unit plan is required in order to get credit for the course. Flawless grammar, creative thinking, good organization, prideful presentation, and adequate background research will all figure into the grade. The lesson or unit plan must . . .

1. **Relate to the geographical content of the course.** You can be sure to meet this requirement if you use the vocabulary of geography (including place names) in your plan.
2. **Link geographical processes to historical events since 1500 AD.** Maps and other graphics will help you make connections between history and geography.
3. **Define exactly what content you plan to cover.** It should be evident early in the plan what geographic location or region you are covering and what period of time is included.
4. **Amplify on at least one of the Virginia Standards of Learning.** Specify the SOL and element of the Curriculum Framework (at any grade level) to which your plan relates.
5. **Include objectives, grade level, materials needed, procedures, and extension activities.** Objectives should be based on, but not synonymous with, the Virginia SOLs.
6. **Incorporate at least one computer or Internet-related component.** Even if you have a traditional plan, you need to find some way to utilize computer technology.
7. **Begin with a cover page (or cover) which includes an imaginative title.** The cover page should also include your name, your school and its location, the course, the date, and other items you deem necessary.

Some other advice for developing your lesson or unit plan

1. **Avoid jargon.** Who knows what *K-L-W*, *anticipatory set*, and *power notes* mean!
2. **Stress content.** Emphasize *what* you are teaching, not procedures.
3. **Do research.** Bring some new information to the plan.
4. **Be creative.** Propose doing something new and different.
5. **Use visuals.** Maps and pictures are welcome.
6. **Don’t recycle.** Come up with something original.

There is no minimum or maximum length for the plan. Remember, though, that this is a graduate course. If you want an above-average grade, you should make sure that both the content and the presentation of the plan commend an above-average grade. Please do **not** submit your plan on school forms (e.g., those templates you fill out to show your assistant principal). If you are having trouble coming up with an idea, try developing one of the *Extension Activities* at the end of each Letter in “World Geography Connects: 1500 AD to the Present.”

Submitting your plan: Mail (do not e-mail, except as a back up) your plan to me so that it arrives on campus by **Monday, May 4, 2010**. **Important** – If you want your plan returned, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

“Geography Connects” Grades

The following elements of “World Geography Connects” will factor into your final course grade:

1. **Quiz Grades**
A 20-question quiz ends each part of “Geography Connects.” You will learn your percentage score immediately after completing each quiz. These quizzes will account for about 30% of your final grade.
2. **Discussion Forum**
Everyone must participate in the Discussion Forum for each part of “Geography Connects.” Both the quantity and quality of your contributions will be evaluated. Your participation will account for about 20% of your final grade.
3. **Why Questions**
Each part of “Geography Connects” includes more than a dozen Why Questions. Choose one of those questions for each part and send a one or two paragraph answer to me at Dzeigler@odu.edu. The question should be retyped verbatim in your email. Your answers (5 in all) will account for about 10% of your final grade.
4. **Lesson or Unit Plan**
Be sure to follow the instructions in this syllabus as you prepare your plan. Your plan will account for about 40% of your final grade.
5. **Responses to E-mail Inquiries**
At various times during the course, I may send you a personal e-mail relating to course content. Responses are expected. Failure to respond could hurt your final grade.

The following letter grades will earn you graduate credit at Old Dominion University: A, A-, B+, B, and B-. At the graduate level, a B is an average grade; an A is an above-average grade. Old Dominion University no longer mails out grades. You are expected to get your grade by going to the “Leo Online” section of the university web site.

Honor Code

The Old Dominion University Honor Code is in effect at all times:

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of dishonesty or deception such as lying, cheating, and plagiarism, which are honor violations. I am further aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn all suspected violators of the Honor System. I will report to an Honor Council hearing as summoned.”