



# World Geography (WGEO) 1A Syllabus

## Course Name

WGEO 1A

World Geography – Semester A

## Course Information

In World Geography Studies, students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present with emphasis on contemporary issues. A significant portion of the course centers on the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment; the characteristics of major land forms, climates, and ecosystems and their interrelationships. It also centers on the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution and movement of the world population; relationships among people, places, and environments; and the concept of region.

Students analyze how location affects economic activities in different economic systems throughout the world. Students identify the processes that influence political divisions of the planet and analyze how different points of view affect the development of public policies. Students compare how components of culture shape the characteristics of regions and analyze the impact of technology and human modifications on the physical environment. Students use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions.

WGEO 1A is the first semester of this two-semester course, dealing primarily with physical and cultural geography of the world. The topics included in this semester are:

1. Geography Skills
2. Physical and Cultural Geography
3. Geography of the United States and Canada – North America
4. Geography of Latin America

5. Geography of Europe
6. Geography of Russia

## Course Delivery Method

Online

## Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [www.k12.ttu.edu](http://www.k12.ttu.edu).

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. develop practical use of your geographic skills;
2. understand the six essential elements for the National Geography Standards;
3. list the Earth's many different landforms and major bodies of water;
4. describe the many factors that affect the world's climate;
5. understand that geographers divide the world into cultural regions; and
6. describe the physical and cultural characteristics of the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Russia.

WGEO addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

## Textbook and Materials

### **Textbook(s)**

The required **digital** textbook for this course is:

- Boehm, R.G. (2016). *World Geography*. Bothell, WA: McGraw Hill Education. ISBN 978-0-02-143345-2

The **print** textbook is optional:

- Boehm, R.G. (2016). *World Geography*. Bothell, WA: McGraw Hill Education. ISBN 978-0-02-145457-0

## Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://adobe.com))

- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** in the Syllabus section of your course)

## Course Organization

This course consists of six lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

## Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
<b>Lesson 1</b>	How Geographers Look at the World	Three weeks
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Basic Physical and Human Geography of the World	Three weeks
<b>Lesson 3</b>	The United States and Canada	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Latin America	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 5</b>	Europe	Three weeks

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Eastern Europe and Russian Core	Three weeks
<b>Final Exam</b>		

## Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (\*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
<b>1</b>	1-3	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) 1.a. Why Geography Matters: Distribution of Political Power 1.b. Geography Skills Ch. 1 Lesson 1: Must Know Terms Quiz 1.c. Latitude and Longitude Quiz 1.d. Using a Grid Quiz Lesson 1 Discussion Forum
<b>2</b>	4-6	2.a. Economics & Resources: Water Scarcity 2.b. <i>Physical Geography</i> Video Quiz 2.c. Basic Geography Review Quiz 2.d. Physical and Human Geography Must Know Terms Quiz 2.e. Climate Types Chart Assignment 2.g. Cultural Geography Must Know Terms Quiz 2.h. Create Your Own Island Project Lesson 2 Discussion Forum
<b>Exam 1</b>		*Exam 1
<b>3</b>	7-8	3.0.b. The United States and Canada: Regional Atlas Questions 3.1.a. U.S. <i>Sea to Shining Sea</i> Video Clip Questions 3.1.b. U.S. Geography Must Know Terms Quiz 3.1.c. Map of the United States Quiz 3.2.a. <i>Geography of Canada</i> Video Questions 3.2.b. Map of Canada Questions 3.2.c. Canada Geography Must Know Terms Quiz 3.2.d. Venn Diagram Assignment 3.2.e. Summary Statement Activity Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
<b>4</b>	9-10	4.0.b. Latin America: Regional Atlas Questions 4.0.c. <i>Geography of Latin America</i> Video Quiz 4.1.a. Mexico Geography Must Know Terms Quiz

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		4.1.b. Map of Mexico Questions 4.1.c. Arizona Immigration Law Article Assignment 4.2.a. Central America & the Caribbean Must Know Terms Quiz 4.2.d. Panama Canal Research & Summary Assignment 4.3.a. South America Geography Must Know Terms Quiz 4.3.c. Columbian Exchange Questions Lesson 4 Discussion Forum
<b>Exam 2</b>		*Exam 2
<b>5</b>	11-13	5.0.c. Regional Atlas Map Study Questions 5.1.a. Europe/Northern Europe Must Know Terms Quiz 5.1.b. Geography of the World: <i>Europe: Land &amp; Resources</i> Video Quiz 5.2.a. Northwestern Europe Must Know Terms Quiz 5.2.b. Case Study Questions 5.2.c. Map of Northwestern Europe Questions 5.2.e. European Lifestyles Questions 5.3.a. Southern Europe Must Know Terms Quiz 5.3.b. Map of Southern Europe Terms Quiz 5.3.c. Why Geography Matters: Southern Europe, Labor Migration from North Africa Questions 5.3.d. The ABC's of Europe Research Project
<b>6</b>	14-16	6.1.a. Eastern Europe Must Know Terms Quiz 6.1.b. Map of Western Russia Questions 6.1.c. Chernobyl Article Questions on Reading 6.1.d. Settlement Pattern of the Russian People Writing Assignment 6.2.a. Russian Core Must Know Terms Quiz 6.2.b. Sputnik and the Dawn of the Space Age Article Questions 6.2.c. Trans-Siberian Railway Reading Questions Lesson 6 Discussion Forum Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
<b>Exam 3</b>		*Exam 3
		<b>Final Exam</b>

## Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;

- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

## Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

## Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- Summative Assessments **(20% of Course Grade)**
  - Exam 1 (70 points)
  - Exam 2 (80 points)
  - Exam 3 (80 points)
- Summative Final Exam **(30% of Course Grade)**

## Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

## Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of

essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

### [TTU OP 34.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.2.

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

## **Student Expectations**

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

## **Communication**

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

## Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by mail or email.

## Technical Difficulties

### ***Getting Help***

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

### ***Computer Problems***

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

### ***Server Problems***

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

### ***Lost or Corrupted Files***

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.