

## World Geography TCSU LBST 730

Note: This course must be approved currently for CSU GE-Breadth Area D.

### A. Description

This course is an introduction to basic concepts in Geography. These include systems of location (including latitude and longitude), the display of locational data (maps); the distribution of major global geographic features, such as landforms and climate patterns; the geographic distribution of population as well as spatial patterns of cultural, economic, and political activity; and the themes of cultural landscape and culture-environment interaction. The course may introduce these concepts in either a topical or a world regional format.

### B. Recommended Preparation

None Specified

### C. Prerequisites

None Specified

### D. Minimum Unit Requirement

3 semester units

### E. Course Topics

Must include but are not limited to:

- Relative location, absolute location, and the system of latitude and longitude
- Geographic time (time zones and the International Dateline)
- Basic properties of maps and map projections
- Distribution of major global landforms and climate patterns
- Distribution of world population and patterns of migration
- Concepts of cultural geography, including cultural regions, cultural diffusion, cultural landscapes, and culture-environment interactions
- World cultural patterns, including language, religion, and economic activity
- Patterns of settlement and land-use (both rural and urban)
- Basic elements of political geography
- The *regional concept* and major world regions

### F. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the difference between *absolute* and *relative* location

- describe the operation of the latitude and longitude system, the most commonly used system for identifying global *absolute* location. This includes being able to define and identify the significance of *parallels*, *meridians*, the *prime meridian*, *the equator*, *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn*
- describe the role of time zones and the International Dateline in determining geographic time over the surface of the globe.
- explain the difficulties involved in representing the spherical earth on a flat surface and the basic properties of map projections.
- identify the elements that go into the production of an effective map.
- Identify major features of earth physiography (landforms) and processes that produce them
- describe the location and characteristics of the Earth's major climate regions.
- describe in general the distribution of world population and summarize basic demographic characteristics (population structure, growth rates) for populations of principal world regions.
- explain what is meant by *cultural region*, *cultural diffusion*, and *cultural landscape* and apply these concepts to examples on both a local, regional, and global scale.
- distinguish between *Environmental Determinism* and *Possibilism* as ways of explaining the interaction between human societies and their physical environment.
- describe basic cultural patterns, including those of language, religion, economics, settlement and land use, and identify the historical and geographic factors that shape those patterns.
- display an understanding of basic concepts of political geography, including political boundary types and their consequences, the effects of political morphology, and processes of political evolution and devolution.
- demonstrate an understanding of the concept of regions and apply it at different scales, including the global.

## G. References

Elementary Subject Matter Content Specifications for History & Social Science,  
 Domain 1  
 CSU Executive Order No. 405