

World Regional Geography

We live in a globalized world. Once distant lands and cultures are now linked through the global economy and by rapid advancements in communication and transportation technology. While the forces pulling us closer together have allowed for a greater sharing of knowledge and a better appreciation of global diversity, they also have profoundly reshaped the socioeconomic and environmental livelihoods of individuals and given rise to ethnic and cultural tensions across the globe.

This **Social Understanding (SOCU)** common core course is a journey around the world to explore how unique combinations of environmental and human factors produce regions with distinctive landscapes and cultures and how the processes of globalization have profoundly altered and reshaped these distinctive regions. In our short time together, we will explore how several themes play out across the globe:

- Globalization and the links between the global and local
- The unevenness of political, economic and social development
- Cultural coherence and diversity in a globalized world

Text: To save money we will use a slightly older version of Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development. Buy the 5th edition which will cost you around \$25 used.

Readings: You will be expected to read 1 chapters per week (roughly 40 to 50 pages). Additionally, you will be expected to read the international section of a major newspaper regularly.





Viewings: You will be expected to listen to podcasts and watch short video clips, documentaries and movies related to the course content during the semester.

Writings: You will use your newfound knowledge to address some questions that I pose to you and your fellow classmates. Other students will read your posts and comment on them. In addition, you will have several short reflections.

Maps: We will work on developing your literacy of physical and human locations while developing your map interpretation skills.

Workload: It is assumed that a student will spend 5 to 10 hours a week on the course.

Grading:	Discussion Posts	12 x 100
	Reflections	6 x 100
	<u>Quizzes</u>	<u>10 x 100</u>
	Total	2800 pts

Schedule

Week 1:	Welcome & Introductions
Week 2:	Globalization
Week 3:	The Global Environment
Week 4:	Latin American
Week 5:	The Caribbean
Week 6:	Sub-Saharan Africa
Week 7:	North Africa & Southwest Asia

Week 8:	Europe
Week 9:	The Russian Domain
Week 10:	Central Asia
Week 11:	East Asia
Week 12:	South Asia
Week 13:	Southeast Asia
Week 14:	Australia and Oceania
Week 15:	Tying it all together

My goal is to show you how globalization permeates through your everyday life from the clothing you wear to the food you eat. You will leave this course not only with a greater appreciation of the diversity of the world but also with an understanding of how environmental and human landscapes come together to create unique and ever increasingly interrelated regions across the globe.

For more information, please contact:

- Dr. Timothy LeDoux, Geography & Regional Planning
- Email: tledoux@westfield.ma.edu

