

## What you will learn from this course

1. You will be able to locate the countries and ecosystems of the world, and to synthesize the two. For example, you will know which countries of Africa are in the desert, and which are in the tropical rainforest.
2. You will be able to explain the physical processes that shape patterns on the Earth's surface, such as landforms and the mechanisms that create the summer and winter monsoons of South Asia.
3. You will be able to discuss the ways that physical systems affect human systems, such as the effect of topography on language distribution in the Middle East.
4. You will be able to identify and analyze the ways in which humans have modified the physical environment, such as the effect of agriculture on the tropical rainforests of the world.
5. You will be able to understand the patterns and networks of economic interdependence, such as the manufacturing patterns in Mexico that are affected by proximity to the USA.
6. You will be able to identify and evaluate the distribution and migration patterns of human populations, such as the influence of volcanic soil on settlement patterns in Southeast Asia and Central America.
7. You will be able to evaluate the role of religion and language in different societies, such as Islam in the Middle East, Hinduism in India, and the Basque language in Spain.
8. You will be able to use geography to help understand the past, such as how the environment fostered early civilizations in Mesopotamia. You will also understand how history has influenced the current geographic identity of places, such as how Israel is such a contentious place today.

## Classroom Policies & Suggestions to Maximize your Effort for a Good Grade

1. Bring your Textbook and Course Notebook to every class. The Course Notebook is absolutely essential for note-taking from the Powerpoint lectures.
2. Before we cover a region, first read the summary at the end of the chapter, then look at all the photos and maps in the chapter and read the captions carefully.
3. Attend every class and be on time.
4. Review your notes after class within 24 hours of class time. If you get to class early, review your notes to remind yourself what topic we are on.
5. There will be map assignments. In addition, you should label and study the maps from the back of the course notebook. Do not just label all the locations covered in class, but also try to write your notes onto the map.
6. Do your work before the last minute. Plan to finish assignments at least 24 hours before it is due. Late assignments will result in a lower grade, and the later you turn it in, the greater is the point reduction. Turning in late assignments sometimes causes a student to fall short of earning their desired grade.
7. During class time you should be focused on Geography. Do not chat with classmates. Do not read the newspaper or books for other classes. Do not eat or drink in class, except bottled water.
8. Turn off cell phones before coming to class.
9. Do **NOT** sleep in class.
10. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in being given a failing grade for that assignment or test or for the entire course.