Request for Renewal of Geography 102 as an FGB course

Kapi‘olani Community College, Spring 2012

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I. Course Description (from Course Outline)

COURSE INFORMATION: (date of outline 11/16/09)

GEOG 102 World Regional Geography (3) AA/FGB and AS/SS
3 hours lecture per week
Prerequisite(s): Qualification for ENG 100; qualification for MATH 24.

Geography 102 is a survey of the world’s major cultural regions. Environmental, cultural, political, and economic characteristics of each region and regional interactions are explored from a geographic perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of GEOG 102, the student should be able to:

• Identify the earth’s major cultural regions and their distinguishing characteristics.
• Explain how historical, social and environmental processes shape the world’s major cultural regions.
• Describe globalization and regional interactions and explain how they effect cultural, economic, political, and environmental change within regions.
• Critically analyze concepts and issues within the framework of the course.

II. Changes

No significant changes have been made in Geography 102 since previous the renewal request for Foundations designation was approved.
III. Assessing of Course. Below are samples of course materials that illustrate how the course meets the Foundations Hallmarks. Original course materials may be viewed upon request.

Hallmark 1. Provide students with a large-scale analysis of human development and change over time from prehistory to the present. (Note: the two FG courses will together cover the whole time period from pre-history to present.)

GEOG 102 meets the requirements of category B (content primarily after 1500 CE). Sample lessons integrating recent history include:

Study Questions: North America: “If anything epitomizes North American living, it is reliance on automobiles. The automobile gave Americans great mobility and, in the process, changed urban development patterns permanently. What is a CBD? Describe the characteristics of the "four eras of intra-urban structural evolution" given in the book. In what ways did each of these "eras" affect urban life and industry? How did automobiles contribute to the formation of ethnic neighborhoods and ghettos? What are meant by suburban downtowns and outer cities (also called edge cities)?”

Middle America: “The Spanish and others consolidated large land holdings into haciendas and plantations. What are plantations and haciendas and how do they differ? (page 203) Today the hacienda system is slowly changing by allowing more people access to the land being subdividing into smaller, more productive farms and through cooperative farming efforts.”

South America: “The Incas' reign ended in 1533 when Francisco Pizarro and 183 soldiers killed the ruling Inca leader. Who were the two "Iberian Invaders" in South America? What areas did the Spanish control and where was the Spanish capital? What area was initially given to Portugal by "a treaty in 1494" and how have Brazil's boundaries been modified since that time?”

SubSaharan Africa: “The political boundaries of modern Subsaharan Africa were drawn largely by European colonizers, not the Africans themselves. The result has been continuous conflict between hostile groups thrown together into countries designed for European convenience. Which European countries were the major colonial powers in Subsaharan Africa? When and how were the main political boundaries in Africa established and how long did it take? How did this affect African peoples?”

East Asia: China has gone through tremendous upheaval and change over the past century and a half with the fall of the dynasty system, military encroachment by Great Britain, Japan, Russia, Germany, and France, civil war and revolution, the rise of the Communist party, isolation, and finally reemergence onto the world stage as a player in the global economy. Mao and the communist party took control of China in 1949. What were some of the ways the communists "attacked China's weaknesses?" What "terrible mistakes" were made? What was the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and how was this a "costly episode" and "disastrous" for China?
South Asia: Britain colonized South Asia with their "British Raj" heyday lasting from 1858 until 1947 when their occupation ended. Describe the partitioning of India. When and why did it occur? What countries were created and what groups dominated them? How many people migrated at partition and how large is India's Muslim population today? (pages 387-389) The violence that accompanied partitioning never really ended, as we shall see as we explore individual Regions.

Sample student response to discussion topic:

“The interesting story on BBC News, “Pioneer Keep Flocking to Russia’s Frontier,” is about lives on Nadym, the Yamal peninsula’s region, located northwest of Siberia. The Yamal region holds 90% Russia’s natural gas reserves and is developed by the gas monopolist Gazprom.

The article did show the perspective of the younger generation who plans to pursue higher education and eventually leaves Yamal. As it is common across the Arctic region, the local authorities are working hard and to prevent them from leaving. Students would be sent to school in Moscow on a full scholarship if they promise to return.

This article raises a question as to whether this place should be a desirable place to live for people who desperate for money and better lives, or should it be treated as a haven for hard working adventurers seeking quick fortunes. I think the local authorities are implementing the right measure to keep the locals from leaving. Despite of its rigid weather pattern, the majority of people there are used to it and find comfort in lives there.”

Hallmark 2. Analyze the development of human societies and their cultural traditions through time in different regions (including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania) using multiple perspectives.

The course includes a global survey of human societies and cultural traditions, organized into the following geographic regions (from the course syllabus): Europe, North America, Central America, South America, subSaharan Africa, North Africa/Southwest Asia, Russia, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania).

Multiple aspects of human societies, and how they differ between regions and cultures, are examined. A small sample of study guide questions is given below.

Economy: China: “Over the past 20 years, China has loosened central control of some areas of its economy (but not its political system) and encouraged foreign investment. What are Special Economic Zones (SEZs)? What advantages do they offer to both China and investors? Where were they initially located and why there? (pages 463-464) The greatest economic boom has occurred in Guangdong Province, especially in the Pearl River Estuary (or Hub) area, anchored
by Hong Kong (Xianggang). How do incomes in this area compare with the rest of China? What is Hong Kong's role in the growth of the area and where is (booming) Shenzhen?"

Religion: South Asia, “The subcontinent was home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, built by the original Dravidians along the lower Indus River more than 4000 years ago (see Figure 8-4, page 385). It included the largest city in the world at that time, Harappa, with more than 40,000 inhabitants. The Indus River civilization began to fade 3500 years ago with the arrival of the Indo-European speaking Aryans. Where did the Aryans come from, and how did they influence society? The Aryan's core area developed along the Ganges River, and today that is the spiritual center for all Hindus. What is Hinduism and what are some of its beliefs and rituals? From Hinduism, other religions emerged. What is Buddhism, where did it begin, and what are some of its beliefs and practices? How does it differ from Hinduism? (page 385) Look at the language map, Figure 8-5 (page 386). Where do Dravidian speakers dominate? Where do Indo-European language speakers dominate?"

Politics: Europe: The map of Eastern Europe has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Six new countries were created by the collapse of the Soviet Union and five new countries replaced a fractured Yugoslavia. What is meant by balkanization and what location does the term derive from? Name the major Balkan countries. (page 92) What does the word “yugoslavia” mean, what are the principal religions of the former Yugoslavia, and which groups practice them? (page 98) What devolutionary issues remain in Serbia-Montenegro? Compare the political environment before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

History: Southeast Asia: “The political map of southeast Asia evolved during the European Colonial period. Who were the major European colonizers of Southeast Asia and what areas or countries did they control? Which country remained independent during the colonial period? Why does Malaysia include areas on both mainland and insular parts of southeast Asia? What were the "spice islands?" (page 499-501) While the political boundaries are, as in Africa, largely a result of European colonization, they nonetheless generally coincide with ethnic majority areas, as shown in Figure 10-3, page 498. Many minorities exist, of course, such as the Shan in Myanmar. The Shan are ethnic Thai, but the area was occupied by the British during the colonial period and so it was incorporated into Myanmar (then Burma) at independence.”

Urbanization: South America: “South America is also a land of immigrants and their descendents, although large indigenous populations remain. Unlike the North American "melting pot," however, the different groups did not readily mix and instead retained their homeland cultures. What is meant by a plural society? What are the origins of some of South America’s people and cultures? (page 237) South America is highly urbanized, with as high or higher percentage of the population (79%) living in cities than is the case in North America or Europe. Why has the urban population grown so rapidly? What "pull and push factors are at work" for migrants? In what ways can "the actual move be traumatic?" Describe the transition from agrarian society to wage-based society experienced by the migrants.
Sample Exam Essay Questions: Conflict: Discuss the Arab-Israel conflict giving locations, statistics, history, issues, and neighbor relations with Israel. Clearly explain the perspective of competing factions.

Environment: What is a savanna? What is the relationship between wild animal migration, fences, and farmers? How do African governments try to protect wildlife? Compare the government view of the value of wildlife as a tourism attraction with the local farmers view of wildlife, both as a nuisance and potential source of income.

Migration: What is meant by migration? Why do people migrate? What are examples of push (perceived bad things about present location) and pull (perceived good things about new location) factors?

Writing Assignments. See assignment focused on Globalization (page 13).

Hallmark 3. Offer a broad, integrated analysis of cultural, economic, political, scientific, and/or social development that recognizes the diversity of human societies and their cultural traditions.

The course explores themes that highlight and analyze between and within society diversity. Samples from course materials exploring a few of these themes (many others could be presented) are given below:

Population
Study Questions-(book material): Global Population: “At the most fundamental level, we are studying human populations. Where are the world's three largest population concentrations? Why are the areas marked A, B, and C in Figure G-9 heavily populated? What is the major occupation of people living in these areas? How does the reason for high population in the center marked D differ from the areas A, B, and C?”

Russia Population: “The aftermath of the Soviet collapse has led to an implosion in Russia's population. Discuss the Russian population decline, including today's population, birth rate, death rate, decline in population per year, and reasons for decline.”

India Population “India will soon overtake China as the world's most populous country. It is in the middle of the rapid expansion phase of what is called the "demographic transition." Explain the demographic transition including each of the four stages and why certain stages have high population growth. Why do death rates decline in Stage 2? How large is India's population today?”

China Population: “Although Mao encouraged population growth, his successors realized that continued growth was unsustainable. Why is China's birth rate relatively low compared to other
developing countries? How is this policy enforced? What were some "serious negative consequences?" How was this policy relaxed recently? (pages 445-446) What is China's population today, and in what general areas are China's densest population clusters located?

Writing Assignments: See assignment focused on Population (page 15).

Politics (Conflict)
Study Questions-(book material): Southwest Asia: “The term Middle East is virtually synonymous with bitter, unending strife. What is meant by Middle East and which countries does it include? (pages 352-353) The largest country in the region and the ancient "cradle of civilization," modern Iraq was born with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. In the process, old enemies Sunni Arabs, Shi’ite Arabs, and Sunni Kurds were thrown together and expected to share political power. Eventually, however, the Sunnis gained control of the government, to the great misfortune of the other groups. Which areas of Iraq are dominated by each of the three groups mentioned above? What percent of the population do each of these groups comprise? What happened to the Shi’ites in the south following the Gulf War of 1991 and why? Today, mass graves containing tens of thousands of murdered Shi’ite Arabs are being excavated in southern Iraq following the ouster of Saddam Hussein's regime. pages 353-356, Figure 7-13 page 355). Kurds are not Arab. Who are the Kurds? Where do they live and how long have they been there? What is a stateless nation? What are some of Kurds' problems?”

South Asia: “Another country that gained independence when the British withdrew following World War II, was Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). What should be one of the world's most beautiful and peaceful places is, unfortunately, racked by civil war. What are the two major cultural groups in Sri Lanka, what is the religion of each, and how and when did they come to Sri Lanka, and which is the majority? What areas does each group control? Who are the Tamil Tigers, what do they want, and what is Eelam?”

Middle America: “Nicaragua typifies the recent history of Central American countries. How was Nicaragua "ruled" and "exploited" prior to 1979? What happened between 1979 and 1990? How has the country been governed since 1990 and how does the economy compare with other Central American countries?”

Religion
Study Questions-(book material): Global Religion: Religion is perhaps the most distinguishable cultural feature of people throughout the world. It identifies a fundamental belief system, and, often, a code of social and civic conduct as well. The majority of Earth's people belong to a relatively small number of major religions. Look at Figure 7-2 (pages 328- 329). Which religion (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, or Traditional/Shamanist) dominates the following places? North Africa and Southwest Asia, subSaharan Africa, India, North and South America, southwest China (Tibet) and mainland southeast Asia, Europe and eastern Russia. Southwest Asia: Most of the people (but not all) living in the realm consider themselves to be Arab. What
is meant by the name Arab, and who do ethnologists consider to be Arabic? What are major examples of non-Arabs in the Realm? (page 321) Several of the world's great religions formed here, including Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Islam (the religion practiced by Muslims) is by far the most dominant religion. How, when, and where was Islam founded? Who was Muhammad? What are the Five Pillars of Faith? Once founded, Islam spread extremely rapidly. How and where did Islam spread? (page 331, Figure 7-4 page 332) What are the two major branches of Islam, which is the majority, and how did they diverge?

South Asia: “The subcontinent was home to one of the world’s oldest civilizations, built by the original Dravidians along the lower Indus River more than 4000 years ago (see Figure 8-4, page 385). It included the largest city in the world at that time, Harappa, with more than 40,000 inhabitants. The Indus River civilization began to fade 3500 years ago with the arrival of the Indo-European speaking Aryans. Where did the Aryans come from, and how did they influence society? The Aryan’s core area developed along the Ganges River, and today that is the spiritual center for all Hindus. What is Hinduism and what are some of its features? From Hinduism, other religions emerged. What is Buddhism, where did it begin, and what are some of its beliefs? (page 385) Look at the language map, Figure 8-5 (page 386). Where do Dravidian speakers dominate? Where do Indo-European language speakers dominate?”

Sample student response to discussion topic.

“The article "Row over Afghan Wife-Starving Law" contained much more substance than the apparent matter at hand, leaving readers questioning the future of not only women's rights in the Middle East but also a variety of connected issues happening around the world. A law maintaining that Shia women must have sex with their husbands at least four times a week or else they could be legally starved by their husbands had been put into place and was then repealed after President Karzai realized that the world was watching, women's rights groups everywhere were upset, and he needed the support of the Shia population in an upcoming election. Globalization plays a key role by making this event known to the rest of the world through publicized political moves. The international, heavily followed women's rights battles are also due to globalization, for different groups around the world have different morals, values, and ethics when it comes down to the same issue. The concept of Colonization found on page 27 in the textbook, but not actual Colonization itself, could be applied here, for the United States has maintained quite a large standing in the Middle East while trying to create democracies in place of their unstable governments. Along with the more obvious Gender Equity role on page 32 of the textbook, which takes note of the difficulties women face in politics. This article displays resistance to globalization by the Afghan government trying to keep repressing women despite the rights other women around the world have gained. I found the article to be vulgar, repulsing, and completely disrespectful of women and humanity as a whole. I look forward to a time when every woman on this planet is viewed as an equal.”
Hallmark 4. Examine processes of cross-cultural interaction and exchange that have linked the world's peoples through time while recognizing diversity.

The course addresses the competing trends in the world today of 1) the rapid development of a global culture, or blurring of cultural distinctions, primarily through the development pervasive media and rapid communication technology, and 2) the growth of indigenous culture awareness and backlash against loss of diversity cultural traditions through globalization. It also includes representative historical interactions and change as well. Sample course materials that address inter-societal interactions and change include:

**Video:** Short programs focused on the emergence of the European Union explore the economic and cultural merging of global society and multinational companies doing business in China, for example. (Annenberg Multimedia Collection, Programs 12 and 25). An example of backlash against globalization in an attempt to preserve tradition includes a program discussing the rise of Islamic fundamentalism (Sword of Islam, PBS documentary).

**Study Questions:** Middle America: “Although the Mayan language is still spoken by millions in Middle America, the Mayan civilization eventually declined. The Toltecs followed it, and later, the Aztecs, who thrived in the area surrounding what is now Mexico City. **Spanish conquistadors** arrived in the early sixteenth century, quickly overthrew the ruling Aztecs, and subjugated the indigenous population. The Spanish legacy dominates the Realm today. What are some of the lasting effects of Spanish conquest of Middle America?”

**subSaharan Africa:** “What percentage of people in Subsaharan Africa live in rural areas and what percent live in urban areas? What does this suggest is the occupation of most people in the Realm? (Table G-1, page 35) **Land tenure** in Subsaharan Africa is somewhat different than other places. Describe the system of landownership and use. What is meant by "land alienation" practiced by European colonial powers? What happened to this privatized land after "the Europeans withdrew?" Why does "rapid population growth (make) the problem worse?"”

**Southeast Asia:** “Before the Europeans arrived, settlement and conquest brought Indian and Chinese influence into the Realm. What countries formed French **Indochina**? What influences does the "Indo part of Indochina" refer to? What influences does "the China in the name Indochina" signify?”

**Pacific:** “While modernizing the economic base is an important issue facing Australia, "more serious challenges" dominate the headlines. What was the Mabo ruling and what effects did it have? What is the Native Title Bill and what are its provisions? (pages 552-554) In general, where are the **Aboriginal** land claims mostly concentrated? What is the status of the Northern Territory?”

**Russia:** “The **External Southern Periphery** consists of three Caucasus countries having an incredibly complex social mosaic, with dozens of languages spoken and histories of occupation
by invading armies from all directions. Armenia and Azerbaijan are in dispute over a small area called Nagorno-Karabakh. Describe the history, people, religion, and dispute in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Writing Assignment: See assignment focused on Arab-Israel conflict (page 17).

Student response to discussion topic.

“In the article "Gates Looks at Black Experience Throughout Latin America" the topic of racism towards Blacks in Latin America is discussed. Issues that arise in the article include the conflict between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where the Dominican Republic hold resentment towards the Haitians for being Black and of a different religion, the social class rankings in Cuba based on skin color, and the racial identification blunders in Brazil. This article relates to the book when it mentions the dilemma of being Black in Brazil, where on page 111 in the textbook the 2000 census gives rise to an interesting piece of information. Eleven percent of the population in Brazil identifies themselves as Black, however sociologists of the region claim that more than fifty percent of the population in Brazil is of African descent. This shows the level of shame associated with being Black in Latin America. The dilemma of self-identification is brought up in the article, apparently when asked on the street a group of Brazilian men could not identify themselves as any race. I was never consciously aware of the large African population living in Latin America, it simply never occurred to me before. I was shocked to find out that being Black there is considered to be degrading, this has opened my eyes to the way life is for Blacks in Latin America.”

Hallmark 5. Include at least one component on Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian societies and their cultural traditions.

Approximately 50% of the course covers Asia and the Pacific (including Hawaii). Examples of lessons include:

Writing Assignments: See assignment focused on China (page 18).

Study Questions (book material): South Asia: “A caste system, in one form or another, was a common feature of many ancient civilizations. Today, although officially outlawed in India, it endures in Hinduism. What is the caste system? What determines a person's caste? Can a person change castes, and if so, how? What are some of the ways it affects ordinary life?”

East Asia: “The two Koreas share a common culture and history, and at one time a unified Korea was governed from the capital of Seoul. What is meant by regional complementarity and in which ways do North and South Korea complement each other? North Korea is one of the most destitute countries on earth. Describe life in North Korea. What recent events suggest
better relations between the Koreas and renewed hope for reunification? How would the reunification task compare with what Germany experienced?"

**Southeast Asia:** “Millions of southeast Asians depend on the Realm's largest river, the Mekong. What countries does the river touch or cross? In what ways do people depend on the Mekong? What "problems loom?"”

**Pacific:** “Polynesia covers the largest spatial area of any cultural region on Earth. What islands form the corners of the Polynesian triangle? How does Polynesian culture "exhibit a remarkable consistency and uniformity from one island to the next?" Describe Polynesian seafaring. What are some independent countries in Polynesia?”

**Sample student responses to discussion topic:**

““No Aloha for Micronesians in Hawaii,” by Chad Blair considers the attitudes and dispositions toward Micronesians in Hawaii. The tensions were attributed to the somewhat recent emigration of people from the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. All of which are under the agreement of Compact of Free Association.

“I have only lived in Hawaii for 2 ½ years now, but I have heard of these feelings toward Micronesians before. What I have heard was that many Hawaiians look down on Micronesians and think that their disposition is ungrateful. I discussed this with both friends from a multicultural education class and friends outside of school. I had also learned what is supported in our text that the U.S. is still attempting to, “resolve a generation of legal and medical problems that grew from U.S. nuclear bomb testing” (Rowntree 424). However, I have not actually seen any discrimination first hand. I was extremely curious to hear about this because everything I knew about Hawaii up until that point was like what Governor Neil Abercrombie said (diversity defines us, not divides us). What was interesting for me to read from this article was the responses. A few people had said that they expected Micronesians to assimilate and that was why they caused problems and showed that they were ungrateful. This was so interesting to me because in my Hawaiian studies class we discussed how the Hawaiians were made to use English and assimilate with Western culture and how this was an affront to the Hawaiian society. My question is, what is the point when culture no longer becomes a separate entity but a mosaic in this great state or what was it that needed to occur that connected all other cultures so far?”

**Hallmark 6.** Engage students in the study and analysis of writings, narratives, texts, artifacts, and/or practices that represent the perspectives of different societies and cultural traditions.

The course uses multiple modes or presenting cross-societal perspectives, including:
Video: an example would be short videos shown to students comparing high-technology rice production in Japan with low-technology methods used in Vietnam. Paradoxically, even though rice yields and prices are high in Japan, once-sacred rice farming is a declining industry, while it is booming in Vietnam, now the world’s 3rd largest rice exporter, a revealing contrast of cultural traditions and economic development. (Annenberg Multimedia Collection, Programs 12 and 25) Other comparisons in the series would be an in-depth look at conflict in the Caucasus Mountains from native Dagestani and Russian perspectives (Program 7), religious significance of Jerusalem from Muslim, Jewish, and Christian perspectives (Program 17), and a look at disease issues from African and Western perspectives (Program 20).

Discussion: KCC attracts students from around the world and Geog 102 instructors utilize this diversity by encouraging cross-cultural dialog and presentation of home-country perspective. This can include in-class dialog as well as online bulletin board posts. Below are samples:

Student from Myanmar: “Multinational companies exploit the poor labors. I could describe the example, well-known UNOCAL has investments in my native Myanmar. UNOCAL is doing the oil and natural gas industry with corrupted regime. Regime is committing the crimes for UNOCAL for example, they use the forced labors for the UNOCAL projects and regime takes all of the benefits, forced labors haven't been paid for their jobs. This is one of the examples of the exploitations of the international companies in a poor country.”

Student from China: “In China, the birth rate keeps growing too fast …. I know some of the families have around 6 to 10 children, especially in the poor city. Because (the family) have no birth control policy, but it makes the family lost the children’s education and health care. I think the government should still use this policy in China and India.“

Student from Canada “I also lived in a town called Cap-de-la- Madeleine, which literally means "Cape of the Madeleine". Most towns in Quebec are named very Catholic names because of the church’s strong influence.”

Student from Japan on Iraq: “I think America is keep attacking them until they feel pleased with themselves for it. What I see is they just want us to see and think that America is the most strongest in the world. I think US troops should pull up, because war doesn't fix anything.”

Student from Colombia on Caribbean Diaspora: “I agree with all of them, been myself in the same situation but different country. I yearn to go back home some day but it’s easy to live here than over there. I can afford to live here but not in my country. I'm also afraid in the event I cannot adjust to a different life style from the one I left about 20 years ago.”

Student from China on globalization: “In my view, globalization is a historical unavoidable flow. The world economic would be worse if there is not any multinational companies.”
Student from Japan on the environment: “Developed countries like America, Europe, and Japan cannot say developing countries to do not destroy environment to develop their economies because developed countries also did the same thing before to develop their economies.”

Sample student response to discussion topic (source was Al Jazeera Arab news outlet)

“The article I read, The Arab Awakening: Iraq, from Al Jazeera, was about many different countries in the Arab world protesting due to political unrest. I specifically focused on the portion about Iraq because I spent some time there while in the Marines. I haven’t really kept up on what has transpired there since my last visit in 2007. The article is about protests in Iraq as a result of corruption by the government. In Iraq, unlike some of the other countries also rioting in the Arab world, they aren’t calling for the government to be "ousted"; they just want to be provided with better "basic services" such as electricity and food. These were also some of the things that the Iraqi people were asking for us to provide them while we were there. Its good to see that a government is in place and is in the process of being held accountable for their actions by the people of Iraq and not the United States.

Writing assignment referenced in Hallmark 2

GEOG 102 - WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Below is the information for the first writing assignment. In your work, I would like you to give a very brief summary of the topic and then fill most of the paper with your own opinion, experiences, and thoughts about the topic. In other words, you do not need much background reading, but you will need to spend time reflecting on the topic and composing thoughtful comments.

Your write-up should be a minimum of 400 words (about a page and a half double spaced). Write the report in standard paragraph form, not as an outline. The entire report must be written in your own, original words.

GLOBALIZATION

Globalization refers to human activities taking place independent of country borders. It includes manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of material products (food, cars, electronics), international media (TV, radio, music), and political developments (NAFTA, European Union, international terrorism), and other facets of human society. Manufacturers locate around the world seeking cheap labor in places like China, Mexico, and Turkey. As trade barriers fall and transportation and communication improves, new markets open up. Previously isolated southern hemisphere countries, like Zimbabwe, Chile, and New Zealand and now major produce suppliers to northern hemisphere markets. Some caution that much of the income from globalization ends up in the hands of relatively few people, which increases the divide
between the haves and have-nots. Others counter that the creation of new jobs for the labor force does indeed increase the average standard of living, especially in poor countries. In addition, globalization blurs distinctions between states and cultures. There is now a global culture, largely promoted through the ubiquitous media that tends to weaken or replace existing cultures. Review the book’s discussion of globalization on pages 27 through 29. Use any other resources you wish for further background information, if you wish.

GRADING

I am looking for your own thoughts, written in your own words. There are no right or wrong answers. You will be graded on the quality of your thoughts and how well you compose the required paragraphs (below). Also, do not worry too much about grammar; I realize that many of you are non-native English speakers. The focus is on your thoughtful comments, not on perfect English grammar.

Required Elements:

**Paragraph 1:** In your own words, briefly summarize the meaning of globalization. Give specific examples.

**Paragraph 2:** In your own words, list some of the ways that you feel globalization has affected you personally, and give examples of globalization that you see, or have seen, in your daily life.

**Paragraph 3:** In your own words, explain why you think globalization a good thing, a bad thing, or a combination of good and bad. There is no right or wrong answer; I simply want you to give your opinion and explain why. Some things you might (but are not required to) consider include:

- Do multinational companies exploit poor laborers or improve their standard of living?
- Should we mourn or embrace the merging of cultures into the new "globalized media" culture?
- Can globalization foster peace by encouraging international cooperation?
- Is globalization used to evade environmental laws, and if so, what effects will that have?

**Paragraph 4:** In your own words, explain how you think the world will change in the future as globalization continues. Some things you might (but are not required to) consider include: Is there any alternative to globalization, or is it here to stay? Will the world eventually merge into a single global culture? If so, what will it most resemble? American life? Asian life? Some combination or something else entirely? Use your imagination to speculate.

When finished, post your report to the Writing topic in the Bulletin Board. I highly recommend writing your paper in a word processor first, and then cutting and pasting to the Bulletin Board. That way you have a permanent copy in case something goes wrong. Please do not use attachments.
Writing assignment referenced in Hallmark 3

**GEOG 102 - WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

Below is the information for the third writing assignment. In your work, I would like you to give a very brief summary of the topic and then fill most of the paper with your own opinion, experiences, and thoughts about the topic. In other words, you do not need much background research, but you will need to spend time reflecting on the topic and composing thoughtful comments. Your write-up should be a minimum of 400 words (about a page and a half, double spaced). Write the report in standard paragraph form, not as an outline. The entire report must be written in your own, original words.

**WORLD POPULATION**

Recently, a couple of numerical population milestones were reached: Earth's human inhabitants now number more than 6 billion, and the country of India joined the billion club (whose only other member is China). Does that seem like a lot of people? Consider this, if you took all the people on Earth and gave them 3 square feet to stand on they would only fill up an area the size of Maui. But fly around the world looking out of the window and you'll see the landscape has been altered by humans just about anywhere you go. The average human demands a huge amount of resources than can only be obtained by subjugating the land. How many humans can be sustained? Can we or should be try and limit population growth? Two hundred years ago, Thomas Malthus predicted that a population size catastrophe was inevitable and the result could only be:

"... famine, distress, havoc and dismay will spread around; hatred, violence, war and bloodshed will be the infallible consequence; and from the pinnacle of happiness, peace, refinement and social advantage we shall be hurled once more into a profounder abyss of misery, want, and barbarism that ever by the sole operation of the principle of population!"

Malthus was not an optimist, to say the least. Not everyone believes his gloomy forecast, many feel that either population will stabilize or technology will find a way to accommodate more people on Earth.

**BACKGROUND**

**How many** people are there? The US Census Department offers a population clock with the latest estimates. The Census also has a ranking of countries by population size. The book contains population discussion on pages 17-19 (global population), 384-385 (why populations grow), and 439-440 (China's one-child policy). Key issues concern the rapid growth rate in the poorest countries while the richer countries populations are stabilizing, the rapid migration from rural to urban areas causing a rapid growth of cities, and environmental degradation. You
can review these issues, and others, in an overview from the United Nations Population Fund (you do not need to read the entire report, but should skim the main points).

**GRADING**

I am looking for your own thoughts, written in your own words. *There are no right or wrong answers.* You will be graded on the quality of your thoughts and how well you compose the required paragraphs (below). Also, do not worry too much about grammar; I realize that many of you are non-native English speakers. The focus is on your thoughtful comments, not on perfect English grammar.

**Required Elements:**

**Paragraph 1:** In your own words, briefly summarize the state of world population today, including its size, the most populous countries and some of the relevant issues related to population growth (or decline).

**Paragraph 2:** In your own words, what has been your view of Earth's population as a whole in the past, regarding your impressions of overcrowding (or not), environmental effect (or none), growth of cities (or none), rapid growth in the poorest countries (or not), or any other impressions you may have had.

**Paragraph 3:** In your own words, give your thoughts on controlling population. Should humans attempt population control or let the population develop naturally without any official intervention? What about some of the moral trade-offs of enforced, or coerced, population control regarding benefits (such as less demand on resources) versus costs (such as gender bias when having babies)?

**Paragraph 4:** Give your thoughts on the future of humanity with regard to population growth. Do you agree with Malthus that "famine, distress, havoc and dismay" prevail on Earth? Or will scientific advances help to accommodate more people? Or will population stabilize or even shrink?

When finished, post your report to the Writing 3 topic in the Bulletin Board. I highly recommend writing your paper in a word processor first, and then cutting and pasting to the Bulletin Board. That way you have a permanent copy in case something goes wrong. Please do not use attachments.
Writing assignment referenced in Hallmark 4

GEOG 102 WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Below is the information for the second writing assignment. In your work, I would like you to give a very brief summary of the topic and then fill most of the paper with your own opinion, experiences, and thoughts about the topic. In other words, you do not need much background research, but you will need to spend time reflecting on the topic and composing thoughtful comments.

Your write-up should be a minimum of 400 words (about a page and a half, double spaced). Write the report in standard paragraph form, not as an outline. The entire report must be written in your own, original words.

ARAB- ISRAELI CONFLICT

For the first paper, we discussed ways the world is becoming more integrated through globalization. How customs and people fuse into a world culture. For the second paper, we address an opposing phenomenon occurring in the world today: fragmentation, in some areas, into ever more divisive political units, continuing civil war, and unending bitter hatred. Nowhere is conflict more sharply defined, and more geopolitically dangerous, that the Middle East. The creation of Israel following World War II began a series of wars and civil violence cycles that have touched most countries in the globe, from bombing of embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, to the World Trade Center massacres, to the seemingly limitless daily strife that plagues the people of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Review the book’s discussion of Israel in Chapter 7, pages 357-361. Use any other resources you wish for further background information, if you wish.

GRADING

I am looking for your own thoughts, written in your own words. There are no right or wrong answers. You will be graded on the quality of your thoughts and how well you address the paragraph requirements (below). Also, do not worry too much about grammar; I realize that many of you are non-native English speakers. The focus is on your thoughtful comments, not on perfect English grammar.

Required Elements:

Paragraph 1: In your own words, briefly summarize the creation of Israel and subsequent wars and boundary changes, including the history and significance of Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.

Paragraph 2: In your own words, tell what you know of the conflict through reading or watching the news, or from any other source.
Paragraph 3: In your own words, give your feelings, opinions, and understanding regarding the reasons for conflict. You might consider:

- The roots of Islam lie in Judaism. They share the same God. Why do they hate each other?
- Why can people of different religions coexist in one place, but not in another?
- Israelis and Palestinians both claim that their historical presence in the region gives them the right to create a nation-state there. Which side do you believe and why? Is one claim stronger than another?

Paragraph 4: Realistically, do you think the Arab-Israeli conflict will be resolved in your lifetime?

- If yes, then how? If no, how might it escalate?
- How (if at all) should the international community interfere, or help, in the conflict?

When finished, post your report to the Writing 2 topic in the Bulletin Board. I highly recommend writing your paper in a word processor first, and then cutting and pasting to the Bulletin Board. That way you have a permanent copy in case something goes wrong. Please do not use attachments.

Writing assignment referenced in Hallmark 5

GEOG 102 WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Below is the information for the third writing assignment. In your work, I would like you to give a very brief summary of the topic and then fill most of the paper with your own opinion, experiences, and thoughts about the topic. In other words, you do not need much background research, but you will need to spend time reflecting on the topic and composing thoughtful comments.

Your write-up should be a minimum of 400 words (about a page and a half, double spaced). Write the report in standard paragraph form, not as an outline. The entire report must be written in your own, original words.

CHINA

China is growing into a major world power, both militarily and economically. It was home to one of Earth's longest-lived continuous governments (the Dynasty system), is a relatively homogeneous country ethnically (93% are considered Han Chinese), and has the world's largest population (1.3 billion). The country is emerging from a century of tremendous social upheaval, which included the overthrow of the 4000-year-old Dynasty system in 1911, war with Japan ending in 1945, the rise to power of Mao and the Communist Party in 1949, Mao's disastrous "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," and more recent experimentation with the free market
system. The Western world today views China somewhat apprehensively, given its enormous size, different political system, economic power, and military capability, and wonders if China will reemerge from its recent tumult to once again be a dominant power.

**Background**

**Economic expansion:** China's most significant development over the past 30 years has been to liberalize and decentralize its economy, allowing both foreign investment in "Special Economic Zones" near coastal cities and promoting rural industries. Please review pages 463 through 468 in the book.

**Human Rights:** The Chinese Communist Party retains a tight hold on political expression, as demonstrated by the crackdown on the Falon Gung movement. One of the most well-known human rights issues concerns the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Even the Internet has been successfully censored by the government, with the aid of large corporations like Yahoo and Google.

**Taiwan:** The Taiwan issue dates back to 1949, when Mao's Communists overthrew the ruling Nationalists and chased them across the Straits of Formosa to Taiwan. Since that time, mainland China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province and has threatened war if Taiwan declares itself independent. Should war occur, George Bush has stated that he would do "whatever it took to help Taiwan defend herself."

**Environment:** The recent toxic chemical spill into the Songhua River highlights the huge environmental degradation issues China faces as it modernizes. Other problems include air pollution from burning dirty coal as a primary energy source, the controversial Three Gorges Dam project, deforestation, toxic waste dumping, and soil erosion. Read more from the Overseas Young Chinese Forum. Even as the Chinese government suppresses information about environmental degradation (as it attempted in the Songhua spill), it recognizes the human toll caused by the problem and has taken steps to improve environmental standards.

**Visiting China:** A country with magnificent natural beauty, home to one of the world's first civilizations, and a political enigma to the West, China has much to offer the curious tourist. Tourism is booming, in fact, according to a recent article by CNN. Explore some of the destinations at the China at official (and very slow) sites like ChinaTS, ChinaNTA, and ChinaVOC, or one of the larger travel companies like China-Tours or take virtual tours from ChinaVista. Where would you like to visit?

**GRADING**

I am looking for your own thoughts, written in your own words. There are no right or wrong answers. You will be graded on the quality of your thoughts and how well you compose the required paragraphs (below). Also, do not worry too much about grammar; I realize that many
of you are non-native English speakers. The focus is on your thoughtful comments, not on perfect English grammar.

**Required Elements:**

**Paragraph 1:** In your own words, briefly summarize your own view of China’s political system. It is different from Western governments, allows no dissent, censors freely, and yet it has kept the country relatively peaceful for the past three decades and has begun to raise standards of living by encouraging free enterprise.

**Paragraph 2:** In your own words, briefly summarize your views of the other issues raised above. Can the Taiwan issue be resolved? What responsibility (if any) do the Chinese have to prevent environmental degradation within their country and beyond their borders, such as the toxic water from the Songhua that flowed into Russia?

**Paragraph 3:** In your own words, please predict what will happen in China over the next 50 years. Will the political system change, or perhaps be widely adopted elsewhere? Will it become a world power in either military or economy? How will it interact with the other countries of the world, both rich and poor?

**Paragraph 4:** In your own words, discuss traveling to China. Have you ever done so, and if so, please describe the experience of that of someone you know has been there. If you have never been to China, would you like to visit? If yes, where would you like to go? If you are not interested in visiting China, please explain why.