

Mayville State University

GEOG 330 Geography of Asia

Spring 2025

3 Credit Hours

Course and Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Senjuti Mallik, Ph.D.

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Contact Information: Office – Classroom Building, room 115B

Office Phone- 7017885240

Hours of Availability: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

(Note: Outside my office hours, I will try to respond to emails during regular business hours (9 am-5 pm CST). Please allow 24 hours for a response during the week and 48 hours during class breaks.) Do not expect a response from me on weekends! Plan accordingly).

Instruction Mode: on-campus face-to-face

Time Zone: All times indicated throughout this syllabus reflect Central Time (CT).

Lecture times and location: Classroom Choir C-101, Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Course Materials and Technologies

There is no textbook required for this class. I will post journal articles as required in some weeks on Blackboard.

- The main channel for communication will be the Blackboard Ultra site for this class. The Announcements function will alert you to assignment changes and the occasional reminder. I will not, however, remind you of every single quiz or assignment due. It is your responsibility to keep a current calendar. You will also be able to check your grades through the Grades feature on Ultra.
- Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the syllabus, to arrange access to a computer, and to ensure that your Ultra account is working properly. It is also your responsibility to track your grade and communicate any concerns to the course instructor promptly.
- On Ultra we will have weekly modules which will include everything that you need to complete for that week, including the readings. We will use Ultra for announcements, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams.

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to the human geography of Asia, considering such topics as political/economic geography, urban geography, agricultural geography, environmental geography, and the geography of ethnicity. Asia, an entity which might better be referred to in the plural as “the Asias,” includes such diverse cultural regions as East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Southwest Asia (the “Middle East”) and Central Asia.

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Course Objectives

To successfully complete this course, the learner will be expected to meet the following objectives, as aligned to English Education Program Approval Standards through North Dakota's Education standards and Practices Board ([ND ESPB](#)):

In this course, we will explore basic themes and tools that human geographers use to study cultural, political, and economic activities and connections among people and processes in different places. We will look particularly into different regions of Asia and explore different dimensions of human geography in each week of the course such as globalization, language, religion, population, identity, political geography, economic development, agriculture, etc. The activities and assignments for this course are designed to help students develop critical thinking skills about the social, historical, and spatial processes that structure different regions of Asia. As a student in this course, you will understand human geography of Asia in its many aspects, develop critical thinking skills by interacting meaningfully with the text and your fellow students, and practice applying the knowledge gained from the readings and each other into writing.

Standards Alignment (English Education Program Approval Standards-ND-ESPB)

- 15035.1 In the social studies composite major curriculum the program requires the study of a broad base of social studies including history (eighteen semester hours) and at least two of the following three core areas: political science and civics (twelve semester hours), economics (twelve semester hours), and geography (twelve semester hours). Additional electives to the social studies composite may include: sociology (six semester hours) or psychology (six semester hours) or anthropology (six semester hours) or global studies (six semester hours).

Course Expectations

How to be Successful in the Course

COME TO CLASS ON TIME – BE RESPECTFUL of me and your classmates. If your tardiness becomes an issue, we can discuss you dropping the class.

Filming of me, your fellow classmates or our classroom activities is strictly prohibited without permission. This also includes posting unauthorized videos on any social media platform or in virtual communications. You must have permission from the person to film!

Computer usage is acceptable for note taking and “in class” activities. Social networking, internet surfing or any other unnecessary technological usage is prohibited. If I feel cell phones and other technology usage is disturbing myself or the class, I will ask you to leave class which will negate all points earned for that day!

This course is primarily lecture/note based. Attendance is very important, as each chapter will build on the next. I strongly suggest that you read the chapters prior to class, this will make your note taking more comprehensive. The more you expose yourself (reading, note taking & discussing the material) the more the material becomes familiar. Lecture presentations will only cover partial topics or the “headliners”. YOU are responsible for the reading. Everything discussed, lectured, and shown in class is fair game for the unit exam. Participation in this class includes being present (and awake!), joining in class discussion, being prepared to discuss the material, and participating in group work.

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Instructor/Student Communication

Students are accountable for all academic communications sent to their Mayville State University email address. I do not have a preference regarding communication; you may contact me via email. I will return any attempt at communication within 24 – 72 hours. However, I do not always check emails over the weekend or after 4:00 p.m. In other words, please plan accordingly if you need input from me.

Course Requirements

Announcements will be made using Ultra. Students are responsible for checking Ultra at least **once every day**. If you do not generally use your email, it is your responsibility to make sure the email sent to your MaSU email address is forwarded to you at an appropriate address. When you receive an email from the instructor, please read it!

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in all lectures. **You will earn two points in each class for attendance. One point for being present and one point for participating in class. Students are allowed three free absences in total from lectures during the entire semester. For every absence after that, your grade will drop by 2 points for each class (until excused with documentation).** Students are still expected to turn in their assignments on time, even if they miss class or granted an excused absence. Students should actively participate in the discussion sections of the class and finish the discussion assignment allotted in the class. The class is made up of a combination of Lectures, Reflection Assignments, Quizzes, and Discussion Posts and exams. All are equally important, and you are responsible for all material presented. Attendance will be observed in class by way of quizzes and through participation in discussions in classes.

Readings: There will usually be 2 reading assignments per unit. Further, there will occasionally be supplementary videos assigned. The length of each reading will vary but should not be overwhelming: generally, between twenty and fifty pages. Even though we may not directly discuss a particular reading in the lecture, the readings are an essential part of this course; you are expected to complete the assignments and may be quizzed on them.

Submitting Assignments: The assignment deadlines are due according to the time indicated on the syllabus in Central Standard Time. *Late work is NOT accepted.*

Assignments and Assessments

The class Blackboard page will be your main directive for assignment criteria, due dates, and all communication for the course.

For the sake of consistency, all assignments will be due at 11:59pm of a given deadline and you are encouraged to submit a little earlier (i.e., not at 11:58pm).

a) 2 Mental Maps: There will be 2 Mental Map assignments during the semester. The assignments are designed to make you think about applying what you have learned from the readings and lectures and facilitate an opportunity for you to express your ideas clearly and concisely. Mental Maps will have you draw a map of the world without the assistance of outside materials and write a short essay in response to 2 articles and your experience. The Mental Map image must be uploaded as a picture. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. I prefer you use MLA or Chicago format for your essays. The article citations will be provided for you. Be sure to check your spelling and grammar. Each assignment has a large window period but is ultimately up to you to submit on

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time. Since there is such a fair amount of time to work on and submit assignments, *there will not be any extensions granted*. Manage your time wisely and pace yourself accordingly. You can earn up to 15 points for each Mental Map.

b) 5 Current Event Reports: There will be 4 Current Event Report assignments during the summer session. The assignments are designed to show how the topics discussed in class relate to events going on in the world. Current Event Reports will have you locate a newspaper article from a list of pre-approved news sources around the world and write a short essay in response to the news item and the course materials. You will need to provide a direct link to the article you select. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. You will need to provide a full citation for the article you select (the URL alone is NOT a citation). Be sure to check your spelling and grammar. Each assignment has a large window period but is ultimately up to you to submit on time. Since there is such a fair amount of time to work on and submit assignments, *there will not be any extensions granted*. Manage your time wisely and pace yourself accordingly.

c) 5 Discussion Posts: You are expected to post responses to a prompt and reply to your peers on Blackboard discussion boards. For each prompt, you are to write one substantial comment (100-200 words) and respond to the comments of two of your peers. Your responses to your peers may be shorter (50-100 words) than your comment. You can earn 20 points in each discussion: 10 for your post and 5 for each response to a peer.

d) 5 Journal Reflection assignments/ Paper Review: are weekly opportunities to provide you a space to write about the week's concepts and reflect your thoughts on the different journal articles. The assignments are designed to make you think about applying what you have learned from the readings and lectures and facilitate an opportunity for you to express your ideas clearly and concisely. There will be no reflection assignments on the weeks of Midterm examinations and Final exams.

Out of the 5 reflection assignments, **some will be discussion assignments** that you will be assigned and required to finish in the class. You need to be present in the class, participate and finish the discussion assignment to gain full points. If discussion assignments are posted online, and you are required to participate on Zoom, you will be informed earlier.

Classes sometimes might be moved online on Zoom on particular days if required. In that case, students will be informed prior.

Since there is such a fair amount of time to work on and submit assignments, there will not be any extensions granted. Manage your time wisely and pace yourself accordingly.

e) Midterm Exam 1 is scheduled for after the completion of Unit 1. The midterm exam will mainly consist of fill-in-the-blank and some multiple-choice questions. Midterm exams are scheduled to be online.

f) Midterm Exam 2 is scheduled after the completion of Unit II. A **discussion post due is** in the week of the Midterm 2 examination. Midterm Exam 2 will also consist of fill-in-the-blank, a few true and false and some multiple-choice questions.

g) Film Discussions/ Film Essays (2 Films): There will be **2 film essays** (or essays that will attempt to explain or "expose") this term based on two films: The essays will explain observations and understandings with information and examples from the films, as opposed to simply your opinion. The essays are meant to have you critically consider various aspects of human geography in Asia, including environmental change, identity, poverty, and urbanization, among others. Moreover, these essays will help you develop skills to analyze and write about multiple aspects of identity

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situated in place. You will view each film on your own and proceed to complete your essay before the scheduled in-class discussion day. Each essay will have a 500-word minimum, are worth 20 points each, and will be submitted through Blackboard. These essays will also form the point from which we discuss these films in class. **Essays will be due in the week of Midterm Exam** PRIOR to our in-class discussions. More information about writing expectations and how to view films will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

h) The Final Exam will take place during finals week. The final exam will be due on May 14 (Wednesday) at 1 p.m. The final exam will not be cumulative and only covers course material presented after the midterm exams. The final exam will consist of fill-in-the-blank, true/ false, multiple-choice questions.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Policies

If campus is closed because of weather, items are still due in Blackboard and will not be reopened. Late work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If an emergency arises which interrupts student's abilities to turn assignments in on time, you must contact me at least a day prior to the class period in which it is due.

Attendance/Participation Policies

Coming to class ensures that you receive the correct & current information! If exams days or content changes, if impromptu points are rewarded, if assignments are handed out or if quizzes are administered and miss class without a university sanctioned excuse, you miss those points. I will be taking attendance daily. This can strongly impact your grade.

University sanctioned excuse with proper documentation for missing class periods, exams, quizzes, projects, films, and other items:

- Hospitalization
- Death in the Family
- Jury Duty
- Military Duty
- Illness
- Athletics, Student Government, Speech, DECCA, Multi-Cultural Club, CRU & Drama.

Grading

Student Work

Available Points

1. Mental Maps (02)	=	30 (6%)
2. Current Event Reports (05)	=	75 (15%)
3. Discussion Posts (05)	=	100 (20%)
4. Journal Reflection (05)	=	75 (15%)
5. Midterm Exam 1	=	25 (5%)
6. Midterm Exam 2	=	25 (5%)
7. Film Essay (02)	=	40 (8%)
9. Final Exam	=	50 (10%)
9. Attendance	=	80 (16%)

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Total = **500 points**

Grading Scale

We will use the standard grading scale for the class:

A 100-90% B 89-80% C 79-70% D 69-60% F 59-0%

A=Outstanding achievement to meet course and assignment requirements

B=Work above requirements

C=Barely meeting requirements

D=Work that does not fully meet requirements

F=Failure to meet requirements

Extra credit assignments will not be given. Incompletes will not be given in lieu of a final grade. Automatic "W" will not be given after the final withdrawal date deadline. GRADES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE. Grades will **NOT** be changed for any of the following reasons:

- 1) You are trying to get into business school
- 2) You want to keep/earn a scholarship/award
- 3) You want to rush and need to boost your GPA
- 4) You want to study abroad and need to boost your GPA
- 5) You tried really hard
- 6) This class was more difficult than you expected
- 7) You worked on assignments with a friend, and they got a higher grade than you

Your grade may change if you find a legitimate mistake in scoring or calculating a grade on your assignments. You must provide the original graded assignment to the instructor and show them the error for this to occur.

In this class, your grade is the grade you earn! A little effort can go a very long way towards earning an A!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about your grades, please speak to me in person, but remember all grades are non-negotiable. I am not permitted to discuss your grades with outside parties by law and will not discuss grades via email or telephone. If you have concerns, please come to my office hours or make an appointment.

Academic integrity

Mayville State University prohibits academic misconduct. According to the Rules and Regulations of the University Senate (Art. II, Section 6), academic misconduct is defined as “the disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.”

Academic misconduct and academic dishonesty (plagiarism and cheating) will be treated in accordance with the Student Affairs policy on Academic Misconduct. In this course, I expect you to do your own, original work that has not been previously or concurrently submitted for credit. Penalty for academic misconduct may

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include a failing grade on an assignment or for the course overall. If you have questions or concerns about academic integrity, please bring these to my attention.

Course Policies

Late Assignments and Absences:

Late work will **not** be accepted. Make-up exams and assignments are not allowed. If you have an exceptional circumstance that requires you to miss class, such as a serious illness or death of a loved one, **you must submit documentation in order to have the absence excused**. You must notify the instructor of the excused absence no **later than the end of the second working day** after the last date of absence. **Do not expect to get partial credit for undocumented and unexcused late assignments.**

Accessibility and Accommodations

I am happy to make accommodations for differing abilities in the classroom, and I encourage you to talk with me about these accommodations early and often. The Disability Support Services coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible MSU students with disabilities

Dealing with stress

Know that there are resources on and off campus to help if needed:

MSU Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://mayvillestate.edu/student-resources/counseling/>
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (24 hours) 1-800-273-8255

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct: Don't do it. Just don't. Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. The University Senate Rules and Regulations (2.6.1) states:

Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.

Plagiarism is the act of passing off somebody else's work as your own. (By "somebody else's work," we mean not only the work of other students in class, but also ideas and writing in books, articles, and even on blogs and sites on the internet, including Wikipedia.) Additionally, the resubmission of an assignment you have submitted to another class, in full or in part, is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional, but it can also be committed inadvertently by failing to follow standard citation practices. Either way, plagiarism is a serious violation of academic standards and invalidates your work. The instructor reserves the right to give a failing grade for the course to a student for any instance of cheating, including plagiarism. Appropriate MSU disciplinary procedures will also be taken. It is also your responsibility as a student to make sure you understand and follow all rules regarding plagiarism. Any work that is found to be involved with such misconduct will receive a failing grade and the incident will be handled according to the policies set out by the Mayville State University.

We also consider academic misconduct to include misconducting yourself in class, like antagonizing or baiting other classmates, bullying, and name-calling, or other personal attacks. If you experience any harassment in this class that has gone unnoticed by the instructor, please contact us without hesitation so we can deal with the situation.

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Tech Help: Because this course relies on a number of online tools, it is reasonable that some tech issues might come up. **You should immediately notify me if you cannot access the course.**

Should you lose internet access or if Ultra goes down while you are interacting with it, notify me immediately. Please note, however, that if you wait until the last minute to submit an assignment or exam, there will be little I can do unless there are some extenuating circumstances. Again, procrastination will not be a valid excuse. Be aware that Ultra has an auto-timeout feature where if you leave them idle for long enough, you will be logged out. You can prevent this by interacting with the website every couple of minutes.

Content Warning

Like all forms of cultural expression, human geography articulates both positive and negative values and attitudes. Students may find some of the material in this course offensive in terms of language and/or content. This includes “bad words,” obscene or threatening gestures, sexual references, jokes, ethnic slurs, stereotypes (of race, nation, gender, religion, etc.), etc. By discussing such items in lectures and discussion sections, we do not endorse or justify the attitudes they reflect, rather, we recognize the importance of trying to understand them as part of human communicative practices and the complex experience of living in a society. **If you cannot deal with this material with a mature and academic attitude, and in language that respects the feelings and opinions of others, you should not take this class.**

Enrollment Verification

The U.S. Department of Education requires instructors to conduct an activity which will validate student enrollment in this course. Class attendance will be used to verify enrollment in on-campus courses. If you do not attend, your enrollment in this course will be at risk.

Proctor Notification

No proctors are required for this course.

Important Student Information

In the Announcements section of the Blackboard Institution Page, you can view and download the Important Student Information document for the current academic year. It includes information about:

- ✓ Land Acknowledgement Statement
- ✓ Academic Grievance Concerns and Instructor English Proficiency
- ✓ NetTutor - Online Tutoring Program
- ✓ Starfish - Student Success System
- ✓ Students with Documented Disabilities
- ✓ Student Learning Outcomes / Essential Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Academic Honesty
- ✓ Emergency Notification
- ✓ Continuity of Academic Instruction for a Pandemic or Emergency
- ✓ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- ✓ Diversity Statement (Title IX)

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Course Timeline/Schedule

The class Blackboard page will be your main directive for assignment criteria, due dates, and all communication for the course. Course Timeline and Schedule are subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor. (** The following dates are approximate and **subject to change**: Students should **pay attention to announcements during class and on the Blackboard.** **)

Week 01 Jan 14 – Jan 17

- Introduction To Geography
- Syllabus
- 01 Discussion Board Introduction

Week 02 Jan 20-24

- **Jan 20 Martin Luther King Day NO CLASS**
- Five Themes of Geography
- Regional Geography
- 01 Mental Map

Week 03 Jan 27– 31

- Southwest Asia
- The Middle East and North Africa
- 02 Discussion Board

Week 04 Feb 3 -7

- Southwest Asia
- The Middle East and North Africa
- 01 Current Event Report

Week 05 Feb 10- 14

- South Asia
- 01 Journal Article Reflection

Week 06- Feb 17- Feb 21

- **Feb 17 President's Day NO CLASS**
- South Asia
- 03 Discussion Board
- 01 Film Essay
- **MIDTERM EXAM 1**

Week 07 Feb 24 - 28

- Southeast Asia
- 02 Current Event Report

Week 08 March 3-7

- Southeast Asia
- 02 Journal Reflection

Week 09- March 10-14 Spring Break NO CLASS

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Week 10 March 17-21 Review Week

- **MIDTERM EXAM 2**
- 04 Discussion Post
- 02 Film Essay

Week 11 March 24-28

- **AAG Conference No in-person class (Lectures will be posted online)**
- East Asia
- 03 Journal Reflection

Week 12 March 31- April 4

- East Asia
- 03 Current Event Report

Week 13 April 7- 11

- Central Asia
- 05 Discussion Board

Week 14 April 14- 18

- **April 18 Good Friday No Class**
- Central Asia
- 04 Journal Reflection

Week 15 April 21 – 25

- **April 21 NO CLASS Easter**
- Globalization
- Five Themes of Globalization
- 04 Current Event Report

Week 16 April 28 – May 2

- East Asian Economic Miracle
- 05 Journal Reflection

Week 17 May 5 – May 9

- East Asian Economic Miracle
- Globalization and petroleum, textiles, and consumption
- 05 Current Event Report

Week 18 FINAL EXAM May 12-16

- **FINAL EXAM on May 15 (Thursday) at 10.00 A.M.**
- 02 Mental Map