

**EDC 218, PHYSICAL AND HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Gary K. Clabaugh

Office: Olney 263

Office Hours: Office hours are posted on office door. Appointments can be made via e-mail clabaugh@lasalle.edu.

e-mail: clabaugh@lasalle.edu (All e-mail subject lines should read "EDC 218" plus "Your Name.")

Texts: *Physical and Cultural Geography Workbook* (Newfoundations Press, 2007) Optional: John Allen's Student Atlas of World Geography, published by McGraw-Hill, Getis, Getis and Felman, World Geography). Regularly used web site — <http://geography.about.com/>

Course Description: Geography addresses three fundamental questions:

- **Where is it?**
- **Why is it there?**
- **What difference does it make?**

These questions are investigated by all four major research traditions of geography:

- ✓ **earth-science** — studies actions and changes that shape the surface of the earth and affect its environments
- ✓ **culture-environment** — studies the nature and distribution of people and their food, clothing, shelter, languages, etc.
- ✓ **location** — studies the distribution of such things as climate, crops, cities, mineral deposits, religions, languages, etc.
- ✓ **area analysis** — studies the characteristics of a particular region or locale.
- ✓ **economic geography** — economic systems, markets, interdependence and work and earnings from a geographic perspective.

More specific course content is detailed in the instructor-provided Workbook.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pre-K to 4 Professional Core Elements Addressed in Course;

- ✓ **Science Foundations & Methods**
 - Develop concepts of earth and space sciences
 - Develop concepts of culture
 - Develop concepts of time, continuity and change - understand and reconstruct the past
 - Develop concepts of people, places, and environments
 - Develop concepts of individual development and identity, affected by culture, groups, and institutions
 - Develop concepts of individuals, groups and institutions
 - Develop concepts of power, authority, and governance
 - Develop concepts of production, distribution, and consumption
 - Develop concepts of the impact of technology on society
 - Develop concepts of global connections, interdependence.
- ✓ **Social Studies Foundations & Methods**
 - Develop concepts of civic ideals and practices issues related to citizenship, rights and Responsibilities

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 4-8 Program, Options I & II

- ✓ **Science**
 - Physical Sciences
 - Life Sciences
 - Earth and Space Sciences
 - Science and Inquiry
- ✓ **Social Studies**
 - Study of Culture
 - Time, Continuity and Change - Understand and Reconstruct the Past
 - People, Places and Environments - Perspective Beyond "Personal Location"
 - Individual Development and Identity - Affected by Culture, Groups and Institutions
 - Individuals, Groups and Institutions - Knowledge about how Institutions Are Formed and Operate
 - Power, Authority and Governance - Historical Development and Functions of Governmental Institutions, Exercise of Power and Individual Rights

Production, Distribution and consumption - Understanding of Economy,

- ✓
- ✓ **Production of Goods and Services, and Resource Allocation**
- ✓
- ✓ **Science, Technology and Society - Development and Use of Technology,**
- ✓
- ✓ **the Pace of Change and its Impact on Society**
- ✓
- ✓ **Global Connections - Interdependence**

Instructional Methodologies: Classes incorporate short lectures, guided video viewings, discussions of required readings, small group problem solving, sharing of homework assignments and other student-centered activities.

(NOTE: Students are routinely asked to answer in-class questions whether or not they volunteer.)

Course Requirements:

1. Regular and Prompt Attendance, Thorough Preparation, Completion of Workbook Assignments and Informed Participation. (10% of grade)

NOTE WELL — Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class meeting and is factored in to this grade. Late arrivals are recorded as tardy and these too are considered during grade computation. The instructor must be informed of absences beyond the control of the student, such as illness or serious personal or family situations. If absence extends more than a week the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences should also be notified. Attendance is taken from the first regular class day regardless of the time of registration. Penalties are assessed for any unexcused absence. Missed quizzes due to an unexcused absence may not be made-up and the grade of "F" is assigned. Student *Workbooks* are examined periodically and can be decisive.

3. Major Tests (90% of grade: Normally five or six such tests will be administered. They measure knowledge of major course concepts using true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank and complete the diagram type questions. They also contain a place-name geography component as an addendum, this involves being able to identify major bodies of water, mountain ranges, nations, cities, and so forth. Tests stress procedural knowledge such as problem solving. They also test declarative knowledge (facts) such as place location and regional identification. Tests grades are criterion referenced as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D, 59% or below = F. Unannounced quizzes that measure preparation for class may be administered on an as-needed basis. These are short and emphasize core concepts.

About The Writing Center:

The Sheekey Writing Center is located in Olney 203 where tutors are available, free of charge, to help students expand their skills and sharpen their strengths. The tutors welcome work from all disciplines and across all grade levels, including graduate, and deal with papers in all stages of development, including idea development. The Center also provides information on research and documentation styles as well as study skills. While the Writing Center does not operate as a proofreading service, tutors will assist in the editing and proofreading process to help build the skills necessary to accomplish these tasks. While drop-in service exists, such service depends on tutor availability; therefore, in order to guarantee seeing a tutor, the Writing Center recommends making an appointment through TutorTrac, located on the Student Services page of La Salle's portal. The process is easy, but should you have questions about the process, there is an animated demo that can be accessed in the TutorTrac box on the Student Services page of mylasalle.

About General Subject Tutoring

Tutoring for various subject areas is available free of charge for La Salle undergraduates. General Subject Tutors help students identify what to learn as well how to learn, clarify course content and assignments, assist in learning and practicing the concepts necessary for success in a course, and help students understand their strengths and weaknesses regarding the subject matter. Students should take advantage of tutoring at the first indication of experiencing difficulty in a course or whenever they wish to improve their performance or knowledge in a course, for example, to improve B grades to A grades or to maintain high grades. Students can schedule appointments with General Subject Tutors through TutorTrac, located on the Student Services page of La Salle's portal.

Note well:

- ✓ Extra credit work is not accepted.
- ✓ Spelling and grammar counts! Improper spelling or ungrammatical writing will result in a reduction of at least one letter grade.
- ✓ If you have difficulties with writing you are strongly advised to seek help at the Sheekey Writing Center.
- ✓ Students are responsible for learning all assigned materials whether or not they are reviewed in class.
- ✓ Students who are unclear about their progress are encouraged to ask at any time.
- ✓ Individual help with concepts and assignments is available upon request. (Office hours and an appointment sign-up sheet are posted on my office door— Olney 263.)
- ✓ All Workbook assignments must be completed or grade reductions will be taken.
- ✓ Students Workbooks may be inspected at any time during the semester.
- ✓ Student progress on the textbooks will be regularly monitored. Failure to make satisfactory progress will result in grade reduction.
- ✓ If a student's final grade is on the cusp, the completeness and accuracy of the Workbook is decisive.
- ✓ E-mails are NOT to be used for routine matters that already have been clarified in this syllabus or have been announced in class.
- ✓ Written work submitted after the deadline will NOT be accepted unless the instructor has previously agreed to the delay.

Grading All grades are assigned according to La Salle University grade definitions as follows:

A = Superior	I = Incomplete
B = Very Good	W = Withdrawal
C = Average	
D = Passable	
F = Failure	

The instructor reserves the option of assigning plus or minus grades. Generally they are not used.

The I grade is a provisional grade given to a student who has otherwise maintained throughout the semester a passing grade in the course, but who has failed to complete all assignments for reasons beyond his or her control. All I grades that have not been removed within three weeks of the last regular examination of the semester become Fs. When it is physically impossible for the student to remove this grade within the time limit, he or she must obtain a written extension of time from the Dean of his or her school.

Withdrawal

The W grade is assigned when a student **officially** withdraws from a course prior to its completion. The request for withdrawal from a course is filed with the Dean of Arts and Science's Office. The request must be filed on or before the "Last day to withdraw from a class," as published in the Academic Calendar located in the current edition of the undergraduate catalog and on the [University Web site](#).

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty could result in **course failure** and additional disciplinary penalties at the program and university level. La Salle University has a formal policy on this matter that discusses and defines academic dishonesty and describes the formal procedures and serious consequence that accompany its violation. This policy can be found at http://www.lasalle.edu/portal/provost/interprop/AIP_Fall_2007.swf. Plus, here are supplemental details concerning cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating

Cheating involves obtaining grades fraudulently. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying, or allowing another to copy, answers during an examination
- Giving or receiving test answers by signal
- Asking for or divulging test answers
- Surreptitiously using electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDA's or tape recorders, during tests. (Any secret or overt use of these devices during tests is forbidden.)
- Copying someone else's assignment
- Writing an assignment for someone or having one written for you
- Plagiarism

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and thoughts of another and representing them as one's original work." To avoid plagiarism you must provide a citation whenever you use:

- Someone else's actual spoken or written words or paraphrases thereof
- Someone else's graphs, charts, tables or other illustrations
- Someone else's thought, conclusion, or premise
- Facts that are not common knowledge
- Materials found on, or copied from, the Internet whether or not they are posted for public use

The above is derived from a publication of the University of Indiana which can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

Note Well: If the originality of your work is questioned, you will be required to produce working documents (notes, outlines, rough drafts, photocopies, etc.) that confirm your authorship and/or demonstrate detailed knowledge of the work in question when quizzed.

ALSO NOTE: Errors resulting from failure to spell check and/or grammar check your written work will result in a failing grade for that assignment.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THIS SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY