

Geography Core Class Assessment 2015-2016

There are two core classes in the Geography division of Geosciences. Both fulfill social science core requirements in Fulbright College. Both classes are assessed using a pre/post test format and one section per semester is selected for assessment. Because of changes in personnel, assessment data for these classes is only available for Spring 2016.

World Regional Geography is a 2000-level survey course that is designed to familiarize students with the physical, demographic, cultural and socio-political geography of the principal regions of the world. It fulfills college curriculum goals relating to globalization, multiculturalism, diversity and critical thinking in the context of contemporary global problems.

The class goals are laid out in the syllabus and learning outcomes are assessed through a pre-test, post-test assessment system. Students are not required to put their identification on the tests and once they are graded on the aggregate statistics are used in the assessment. In addition, these tests are administered separately from any grade-related assessment.

GEOS 2003: World Regional Geography

Course Description and Goals: This course is designed to familiarize students with the geography of the principal regions of the world, including demography, culture, environment, political economy, and global integration. By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Understand basic geographic concepts such as diffusion, region, density, time-space compression etc.
- Should be able to think critically (that is; evaluate both sides of an issue and formulate a position based on reason, logic and factual evidence) about global and local issues.
- Should understand the basics facts of demographic change and migration.
- Should understand and be able to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of globalization.

- Should be able to think and write critically about political and economic change in different regions of the world, and understand that change within the specific regional historical and cultural contexts.

Assessment results 2015-2016

The questions are appended to the end of this report.

Question Number	pre_score	Post_score	% Correct Pre	%Correct Post	Difference
1	16	59	14.95327103	64.83516484	49.88189381
2	6	23	5.607476636	25.27472527	19.66724864
3	9	43	8.411214953	47.25274725	38.8415323
4	68	74	63.55140187	81.31868132	17.76727945
5	32	72	29.90654206	79.12087912	49.21433706
6	50	71	46.72897196	78.02197802	31.29300606
7	12	56	11.21495327	61.53846154	50.32350827
8	11	66	10.28037383	72.52747253	62.2470987
9	16	55	14.95327103	60.43956044	45.48628941
10	19	72	17.75700935	79.12087912	61.36386978
11	7	53	6.542056075	58.24175824	51.69970217
12	18	76	16.82242991	83.51648352	66.69405361
13	26	68	24.29906542	74.72527473	50.4262093
14	15	47	14.01869159	51.64835165	37.62966006
15	58	83	54.20560748	91.20879121	37.00318373
Number of Student	107	91	100	100	

It is clear from the changes in the results from the pre test to the post-test that the students demonstrated clear knowledge increases on every question. For a few questions, notably Question 2 and Question 4, the increase in student knowledge is limited, either because the students already knew the material or did not receive an adequate coverage of the material during the class to improve their knowledge. In all other cases however, it appears that the material is being taught effectively and students are leaving the class with a substantially greater knowledge of the world than when they entered it.

On the basis of these results we will consider minor modifications to the taught material.

GEOS1123: Human Geography

Course Description and Goals: The purpose of this class is to provide students with an introduction to the concepts of human geography and to familiarize students with the global dimensions of demography, culture, economics and politics. The class covers the study of population trends and migration patterns; cultural, and ethnic differences; economic activity and settlement patterns; and global political trends and interactions. By the end of the course students should be able to do the following:

- Understand the causes and consequences of globalization at the global and local levels.
- Understand and be able to use basic geographic concepts such as spatial relations, distribution, scale and diffusion.
- Understand the range of human social and cultural diversity.
- Be able to think critically about current global problems including, but not limited to, climate change, demographic expansion, migration and conflict.
- Be able to understand the ways in which technology is impacting human society through global interconnectedness and globalization of cultures and economies.
- Become familiar with the diversity of human social and ethical behavior, the roots of that diversity and should come understand how technology is impacting human society and increasing the global interconnectedness of people and places.
- Be able to link global patterns of change to local problems such as unemployment, pollution, urban decline and political unrest.

Assessment results 2015-2016

The same system of assessment is used in this class. Again the questions are appended to the end of this report.

Test 1	Correct	% Correct Pre	Correct2	% Correct post	Difference
Question 1	26	17	52	41.26984127	24.26984127
Question 2	15	10	29	23.01587302	13.01587302
Question 3	100	65	113	89.68253968	24.68253968
Question 1	45	29	30	23.80952381	-5.19047619
Question 2	85	55	89	70.63492063	15.63492063
Question 3	109	70	92	73.01587302	3.015873016
Question 1	82	53	86	68.25396825	15.25396825
Question 2	76	49	72	57.14285714	8.142857143
Question 3	6	4	33	26.19047619	22.19047619
					-
Question 1	119	77	82	65.07936508	11.92063492
Question 2	81	52	82	65.07936508	13.07936508
Question 3	94	61	109	86.50793651	25.50793651
Question 2	58	37	61	48.41269841	11.41269841
Question 3	41	26	52	41.26984127	15.26984127

The student learning gains are less obvious in this class and there are a few places, particularly in the section on Geographic concepts (the second set of 3 questions) where we will look closely at modifying and/or increasing the emphasis on the material to ensure that these critical concepts are sticking with the students through the end of the class.

For the 2016-2017-assessment period the questions will be rewritten to more closely reflect the broader goals of the social sciences core in Fulbright College. These changes are reflected in the 2016 Social Sciences Core Assessment Plan for Geosciences.

World Regional Geography Core Assessment Test 2015-2016

Date:

Circle the correct answer:

1. Which of the following rivers is NOT located in Asia:
 - a. Yangtze
 - b. Thames
 - c. Ganges
 - d. Euphrates
2. Which Middle Eastern country contains most of the world's natural gas reserves?
 - a. Bahrain
 - b. Saudi Arabia
 - c. Yemen
 - d. Oman
3. What language has the most native speakers worldwide?
 - a. English
 - b. Spanish
 - c. Hindi
 - d. Mandarin Chinese
4. Which of the following countries is NOT an island:
 - a. Australia
 - b. Greenland
 - c. Korea
 - d. Grenada
5. What is the most densely populated city in the world?
 - a. Tokyo, Japan
 - b. Shanghai, China
 - c. Manila, Singapore
 - d. Dehli, India
6. Which of the following countries is NOT part of the British Commonwealth:
 - a. Canada
 - b. South Africa
 - c. Pakistan
 - d. Jordan
7. What is the largest desert in the world?
 - a. Sahara
 - b. Antarctica
 - c. Gobi
 - d. Atacama
8. What is currently the most widely traded currency?
 - a. US dollar
 - b. EU euro
 - c. Japanese Yen
 - d. UK pound
9. What is the longest mountain range in the Americas?
 - a. Rockies
 - b. Appalachians
 - c. Andes
 - d. Ozark
10. What is the most widely practiced religion in the world?

- a. Buddhism
 - b. Christianity
 - c. Islam
 - d. Hinduism
11. Which of the following countries has the largest landmass?
- a. Canada
 - b. Greenland
 - c. China
 - d. Russia
12. Which country exports the most wheat worldwide?
- a. USA
 - b. Russia
 - c. Australia
 - d. Canada
13. Which of the following countries is NOT considered a constitutional monarchy:
- a. United Kingdom
 - b. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - c. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - d. Grand Duchy of Luxemburg
14. Which of the following South American countries is landlocked (i.e. no coast):
- a. Chile
 - b. Bolivia
 - c. Brazil
 - d. Venezuela
15. What country has the highest electricity consumption (MW*h/yr)?
- a. China
 - b. USA
 - c. India
 - d. Japan
16. What is the longest river in Africa?
- a. Nile
 - b. Niger
 - c. Congo
 - d. Gambia
17. What is the most commonly traded commodity?
- a. Coffee
 - b. Gold
 - c. Crude oil
 - d. Cotton
18. What is poorest country in the world (lowest reported GDP)?
- a. Gambia
 - b. Dem. Rep. of Congo
 - c. Somalia
 - d. Zimbabwe
19. What is the tallest mountain in the world?
- a. Mt. Sinai
 - b. Aconcagua
 - c. K2
 - d. Mt. Everest
20. Which of the following countries does NOT border the Mediterranean Sea?
- a. Hungary
 - b. Italy
 - c. Lebanon
 - d. Turkey

Human Geography Core Assessment Test 2015-2016

Date:

Demography

- 1) The major cause of recent world population increase has been
a) increasing birth rates, b) decreasing death rates c) increasing in-migration d) all of the above
- 2) Throughout most of history, human population has
a) growing rapidly slowly b) declining c) almost stable d) fluctuating widely.
- 3) Which of the following countries has had the greatest success in decreasing its birth rate in the last 30 years?
a) India b) China c) South Africa d) Egypt

Concepts

- 1) Which of these topics best represents the concept of hierarchical diffusion?
a) the spread of AIDS b) merchandiser efforts to get college students to adopt their products c) spread of swine flu d) the expansion of Wal-Mart.
- 2) A map of the whole earth is at a _____ scale than one of a single US state
a) larger b) smaller c) the same
- 3) The longest line of latitude is the. _____?
a) Prime Meridian b) Equator c) North Pole d) International Date Line

Economy

- 1) The Industrial Revolution started in which country? a) USA b) Britain c) Germany d) Japan
- 2) Which of the following countries has become a major industrial power despite largely lacking mineral resources? a) China b) Japan c) Germany d) USA
- 3) The US's largest trade partner is a) Canada b) Mexico c) The European Union d) China

Culture

- 1) What is the most widely spoken native language in the world? a) Spanish b) English c) Mandarin Chinese d) Russian

- 2) Which of the following foods is forbidden in certain cultures? a) Pork b) Wine c) Shellfish d) All of the above
- 3) Which of the following religions does not have a known founder? Islam b) Hinduism c) Buddhism d) Christianity

Politics

- 1) Which of the following countries has the highest percentage of women in national elected positions?
a) Cuba b) Germany c) Uganda d) USA
- 2) What is the world's largest (population) remaining colony?
a) The Falkland Islands b) Netherlands Antilles c) New Caledonia d) Puerto Rico
- 3) What is the world's newest country?
a) Lithuania b) Kosovo c) Andorra d) Eritrea