

Geography Social Science Core Class Assessment 2016-2017

There are two core classes in the Geography division of Geosciences that 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.

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

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.

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 2016-2017

The questions are appended to the end of this report.

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Fall 2016 Geography Core Assessment				
Pre-test: 90 Student		post-test-86 Students		
Part 1	Number of students correct per question	Percent correct	Number of students correct per question	Percent correct
1	6/90	6.66	59/86	68.6
2	23/90	25.55	78/86	90.69
3	0/90	0	43/86	50
Part 2				
4	14/90	15.5	66/86	76.7
5	45/90	50	80/86	93.02
6	33/90	36.66	75/86	87.21
Part 3				
7	15/90	16.66	58/86	67.44
8	54/90	60	83/86	96.51
9	14/90	15.55	57/86	66.27
Part 4				
10	81/90	90	85/86	98.37
11	51/90	56.66	82/86	95.34
12	15/90	16.66	79/86	91.86
Part 5				
13	20/90	22.22	68/86	79.06
14	50/90	55.55	81/86	94.18
15	24/90	26.66	72/86	83.72

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 10, the increase in student knowledge is limited, because the students already knew the material. 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 are satisfied that the class is currently being taught in a way that maximizes student learning.

However, for the 2017/2018 teaching cycle the current pre/post test for World Regional will be rewritten to conform more closely to the learning goals of the Social Sciences core curriculum.

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 2016-2017

For the 2016-2017-assessment period the questions were rewritten to more closely reflect the broader goals of the social sciences core in Fulbright College, changes that were recommended in the 2016 Social Sciences Core Course Assessment report for Geography. The assessment numbers for the two sections that were tested were very similar and have been combined in this report to reflect a single score for all the students in the two sections.

Combined Classes	Pretest Total	257	
2016-2017	Post-test Total	223	
	Questions	15	
Pre-Test Percent Correct			
		Post-Test Percent Correct	
Part 1			
			-
	1	11.11111111	7.142857143 3.968253968
	2	12.12121212	15.71428571 3.593073593
	3	2.02020202	8.333333333 6.313131313
Part 2			
			0
	1	14.14141414	36.9047619 22.76334776
	2	35.35353535	77.38095238 42.02741703
	3	39.39393939	52.61904762 13.22510823
Part 3			
			0
	1	14.14141414	15.47619048 1.334776335
	2	55.55555556	67.85714286 12.3015873
	3	15.15151515	34.28571429 19.13419913
Part 4			
			0
	1	71.71717172	83.33333333 11.61616162
	2	81.81818182	92.61904762 10.8008658
	3	25.25252525	39.04761905 13.7950938
Part 5			
			0
	1	1.90346712	5.040679345 3.137212225
	2	32.9187245	43.1786435 10.259919

The student learning gains are less obvious in this class and there are a few places, particularly in the section on Geographic concepts (the first 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. During this assessment period the class was taught by several different instructors and it is possible that lack of continuity impacted some of the scores. In 2017/2018 we will return to a single instructor across all sections.

Tests

World Regional Geography Core Assessment Test 2016-2017

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

c) Female literacy rate

d) Number of doctors/capita

SSLO4 - Identify and/or explain how technology affects individuals, groups, and/or social institutions

- 1) The technological treadmill affects agriculture by;
a) forcing farmers to produce more crops
b) forcing farmers to invest in more technology
c) forcing farmers to use more water and fertilizer
d) a, b and c
- 2) Space-time compression occurs when new technology makes it easier to do what?
a) grow food
b) produce industrial goods
c) communicate over distance
d) produce visual images of the earth
- 3) International trade agreements became common in the 20th century as a response to what global event?
a) WWII
b) WWI
c) The Great Depression
d) The independence of European colonies.

SSLO5 - Identify and/or explain the changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world

- 1) Which of the following countries represents the largest (by population) Muslim country in the world?
a) Indonesia
b) India
c) Pakistan
d) Egypt
- 2) Which of the following is the best example of a super-state?
a) The USA
b) The European Union
c) NATO
d) The Geneva Conventions
- 3) What is the new name that is being used to discuss the most recent era of earth history; the era that has been affected by humans.
a) the Holocene
b) the Eocene
c) the Anthropocene
d) the Neolithic