Lewis-Clark State College

- Spring Term 2023 – GEOG 102.60 (Online) Introduction to Geography



Course Description:

This course uses the world-regional approach. That is, it is designed to offer students an introduction to the study of the interconnections among places and humans in the context of continuous change. It links geography to related physical sciences and social sciences.

General Course & Contact Information:

Instructor: Leif Hoffmann	Office: Spalding Hall, Rm. 206
Class Dates : On-line – check syllabus and Canvas course site for due dates.	Advising Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9am to 10am; Mondays 5pm to 6pm; or by appointment Zoom Office Hour Info: Zoom ID: 898 4841 5879 Zoom Code: 730632
Classroom: On-line	Phone : 208-792-2818
Credits: 3	Email: lshoffmann@lcsc.edu
Prerequisites: None	

General Education Competency Areas:

Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing & Diversity

General Education Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Social and Behavioral Way of Knowing:

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of a particular Social Science discipline. (geography)
- 2. Develop an understanding of self and the world by examining the dynamic interaction of individuals, groups, and societies as they shape and are shaped by history culture, institutions, and ideas.

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- 3. Utilize Social Science approaches, such as research methods, inquiry, or problemsolving, to examine the variety of perspectives about human experience.
- 4. Evaluate how reasoning, history, or culture informs and guides individual, civic, or global decisions.
- 5. Understand and appreciate similarities and differences among and between individuals, cultures, or societies across space and time.

Diversity:

- 1. Demonstrate the effect of culture on human behavior.
- 2. Compare one's own worldview with another worldview.
- 4. Demonstrate how sameness and difference, as constituted through intersections of social categories (e.g. racial, ethnic, religious, regional, economic, and/or gendered backgrounds), shape the human experience.
- 5. Utilize information about human diversity from a variety of sources.

Course Objectives:

"Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder."

John F. Kennedy (1917–1963), Address, May 17, 1961, to Canadian Parliament, Ottawa.

This course is designed to help students learn more about the world around them. The study of geography is much more than simply traveling to places, describing those places, and memorizing the names and locations of what someone sees. In fact, the discipline of geography is like other social and natural sciences in that it strives to explain how the world really works.

This course introduces students to some of the basic concepts involved in the study of geography. It will be looking at the key concepts of place and space and how they can be employed to understand the special character and interactions of history, culture, economics, and the environment in the major regions of the world including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific Rim.

Throughout the course students will engage questions, such as what are the basic methods of regional geographic research, what are the major physical geographic characteristics, what is meant by spatial perspective, what is the relationship between humans and their environment, why does geography matter and what's the connection to national security.

Overall, this course is designed to help students develop the competencies stipulated by the Idaho State Board of Education for the Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing and Diversity components of the General Education Core. In addition to the learning outcomes listed above, students will

- develop a spatial perspective of the world by analyzing how social space and natural space are not randomly configured as well as how they mutually constitute and shape each other.
- learn to interpret maps and understand their underlying logic of representing temporal, cultural, and spatial patterns.

Introduction to Geography Required Course Material:

Only one book is required for the course. Additional readings will be made available. All the readings are **REQUIRED** and I retain the right to examine you on issues raised in any of the readings. Additional readings for future study or personal interest are listed at the end of the syllabus.

Required Book:

 Nijman, Jan, Shin, Michael, Muller, Peter O. (2020). Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts (18 ed.). Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley.

All other readings will be made available on Canvas.

One copy of the required course textbook will also be on hand for a 3-day loan period at the library's course reserve.

To stay abreast of recent events in the world and to apply your knowledge gained in class, the daily reading of major national & international news sources, such as *The New York Times*, USA *Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *BBC News*, *The Guardian*, *France24*, *Al-Jazeera*, *The Times of India*, *The Economist*, is HIGHLY recommended and encouraged.

A non-exhaustive list of some major news sources with internet links can be found at the end of the syllabus. In any case, make **ABSOLUTELY** sure to follow the news in one way or another (newspapers, TV or internet). Ignorance is not always bliss.

For one of your course assignments you will also need to acquire an 11" x 17" paper (white) and be able to photograph or scan this paper for uploading on Canvas.

Expectations & Requirements:

This is an on-line version of a 100-level course, which involves a mixture of lectures, brief discussions, videos and a *substantial* amount of reading. Since this is an on-line course and we do not meet face-to-face, you will *need to be even more self-motivated and organized than in an usual classroom setting*. Do not wait until the last minute to get started and do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions. However, avoid emailing the instructor with technical questions that can be answered with a careful reading of the syllabus and the assignment sheets.

Consequently, throughout the term I expect you to having read and thought about the assigned readings *in advance* of looking at the lecture notes and listening to the lectures, to demonstrate an understanding of the material, actively participate in any on-line discussions and make thoughtful contributions that benefit the class.

Students are expected to pay attention to ALL class material in order to receive full credit for taking this course and

- To be able to navigate the Internet
- To be able to watch a video on-line
- To be able to type and use a mouse
- To know how to save, edit, and open documents
- To be able to use your LCSC email account
- To know how to attach a file when submitting an assignment
- To be able to photograph/scan pictures, including a picture of a 11" x17" paper
- To learn how to navigate the Canvas course site. Canvas will have all of the important material for the course including the syllabus, lecture notes, additional readings, assignment instructions and examples, course grades, etc.

Unit Discussion Posts:

The discussion posts provide you with the opportunity to engage ideas and deepen your understanding of the material as well as to get to know each other better. You are required to post on 10 out of the 12 regular course units by commenting and posing questions on a unit's readings and videos. While each unit discussion forum will provide at least a question or two to get you started, you are free to **additionally** focus on other key aspects of the readings and videos and raise different issues related to the material. As the course progresses, you should also attempt to make linkages across the material of the different units.

Your initial posting on *each* unit needs to be at least 250 words long and not exceed 350 words. Moreover, you are required to **at least** take the time **to read and briefly respond to the threads created by two other students**. All unit postings need to be done before the start of a new unit.

You need to follow all directions carefully and adhere to high standards for grammar, spelling, etc. Furthermore, when referring to other people's ideas out of book and other source material, you need to cite them properly. **Only the first 10 submitted discussion posts will be graded**.

World Map Drawing:

This is an on-going course assignment. You will need a 11" x17" paper on which to draw a map of the world. Thus, as we progress throughout the course, add countries, cities, internal divisions, seas, mountain ranges, a compass rose, and/or anything else you consider important to your map. This exercise will help you to pay more attention to where countries, oceans, major rivers, etc., are located and their relative sizes. The assignment is due before the end of the course. Make sure that you are able to photograph or scan your map for uploading to Canvas. When drawing your map, take a moment to think about the orientation and projection of your map, e.g. how do you center it. Should you use any symbols, then, of course, you will need to include a key.

Book / Journal Articles Review:

This assignment requires that you summarize and criticize the main argument(s) of one book or two academic journal articles related to the study of geography. Detailed instructions, a list of some suggestions as well as assignment examples will be posted in the Course Resources & Assignment Instructions module on Canvas. While you are free to choose and present any book or set of journal articles as long as it is related to the discipline, you will need to seek the instructor's approval via email (lshoffmann@lcsc.edu) *before* February 26 (week 6). You will be sharing each other's reviews by uploading them on Canvas by March 19 the latest. Each review needs to be between two to three pages long and summarize the main arguments and shortcomings as well as suggest at least two questions for further discussion and/or research.

Commenting on reviews:

You are required to comment on *at least* two reviews posted by your colleagues on Canvas within the week following their on-line submission (March 26 the latest). This not only gives you an opportunity to build an epistemic community among yourselves, but will also help you to learn a lot about the shortcomings and strengths of your own review and broaden your knowledge about the field of geography. *Please make sure when making suggestions for improvements for future assignments that your comments are constructive and realistic. You will notice that commenting on other students' work, especially the paper's strengths and weaknesses as well as unclear phrasing and grammatical errors, will help you as much as them. Each of your two comments should be AT LEAST 200 words long.*

Presentation Paper:

This assignment requires that you pick a geographical region in the world for a two to three-page hand-out presentation, which needs to include, among other things, the main points of your

research, a full bibliography and at least two questions for further discussions and/or research. The presentation paper needs to be posted by April 30 the latest. **Do NOT start this assignment at the last moment!**

The use of Wikipedia is <u>strongly discouraged</u> beyond employing it as a starting point similar to an encyclopedia. It does not count as an academic source. It is a bad idea to cite Wikipedia or other encyclopedias in any of your courses. Additionally, do not cite lecture notes as sources.

<u>Make sure to proofread!</u> Spell checks can and do fail. <u>If there are significant spelling and</u> grammatical mistakes throughout an assignment, you will be graded down. A good paper is a well-written paper, which avoids grammatical errors and spelling mistakes.

Naming of Files:

Be very clear and specific when saving and posting a file, especially when communicating with others via email, such as sending drafts for comments. Many students tend to name their files only "BookReview.doc" or "Saheldesert.doc". Of course, this is very confusing for the recipient of your document (be it a fellow student, an instructor or future employer). Try to develop a consistent and clear system over time. This will help you to remember what the file is about months and years down the road and make communication with others easier. Make certain that your file name includes your last name, year, title of your document and course number/name and the type of assignment:

Smith(2023)-GEOG102-ThegeographyoftheJutlandPeninsula-Finished[1]

Again, detailed instructions and assignment examples will be available in the Course Resources & Assignment Instructions module on Canvas.

Three Exams:

These exams are meant to test your knowledge of the material presented during this course. They are comprehensive and cumulative, i.e. the exams will draw on the entirety of the lectures, readings and other materials presented in the class. Please keep in mind that any information from the readings is fair game for exams, whether or not it is explicitly covered in class. Also note that the lectures will sometimes introduce material not covered in the textbook, so good note-taking is key to your success in the class.

Exams will be available on Canvas over a multiple-day period. Once you start an exam, you will need to finish up within the allotted time. Make sure to set aside your time accordingly.

One week in advance of each exam period, you will receive a comprehensive study guide.

General advice:

Usually, the standard rules are as follows: Give 24 hours' advance notice or formal doctor's letter for excused absence or assignment extension. No other extensions or absences will be excused. Late assignments lose a half letter grade each day. First half-grade is deducted on day of deadline for assignments turned in after class. NO LATE UNIT DISCUSSION POSTS OR COMMENTS ON BOOK REVIEWS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Consequently, do not wait until the last minute.

The key part here is for you to communicate with your instructor when any special needs or circumstances arise.

Check your email and Canvas every day. This is not optional at a modern university. I will often send you information on scheduling, corrections to lectures, and other messages that you need to see. It is your responsibility to check your LCMail account and Canvas. Further, by

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college policy, I will only respond to email that you send to me from your LCMail account. Once I have sent you a message, I assume that you have that information.

Do not hesitate to contact me for assistance with assignments or for other questions. I am there to help you to succeed and make the best out of your learning experience. In short, come see and talk to me during office hours, should you be on campus, or send me an email. I will respond to email messages as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays.

Be active in class, ask questions, and share your concerns. Chances are if you are confused about an issue, there are other students in the class that share your confusion. Last but not least, **find a study partner**. This will pay off in the long run. You can study together, share notes, and help each other with the assignments, e.g. help each other proofread or constructively critique the structure and information provided in your assignments.

To stay informed about LCSC Social Sciences activities beyond the regular classroom consider to "like" us on Facebook at <u>https://www.facebook.com/LCSCSocScienceDiv</u>

Disability accommodations / accessibility services:

Students with learning disabilities will be accommodated in accordance with university guidelines. Please contact me during the first two weeks of class and consult the LCSC Accessibility Services immediately (Library, Room 161; phone: 208-792-2677).

Moreover, if you are having difficulty writing or just want to improve your paper, you might want to take advantage of the services offered by the LCSC Writing Center, Library, Room 172 (http://www.lcsc.edu/writing-center).

Course Netiquette:

Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally as adults. The central premise regarding classroom etiquette is to respect others by practicing simple manners.

Thus, please treat the other students in the course with the utmost respect. If you are participating in a debate, please criticize your opponent's arguments rather than the opponent's identity.



Grading Procedures:

Every effort will be made to grade assignments within one week of the due date (Note that this might be different from the date that you personally submitted your assignment.).

Please **be aware that minimum requirements are as the term indicates MINIMUM requirements** to not fail an assignment. In short, do NOT expect to receive an outstanding grade for simply having done the minimum. There is no curve in this course. All assignment and exam grades throughout the term and the overall course grade will be calculated on a 100-point scale and calibrated as follows:

Letter	Letter Grade A		100 - 92.50		А-		92.49 - 89.50	
B +	89.49	- 87.50	В	87.49 - 82.50		В-		82.49 - 79.50
C+	79.49	- 77.50	С	77.	77.49 - 72.50 C -			72.49 - 69.50
D +	69.49	- 67.50	D	67.49 - 59.50 F		F		Below 59.49
Activity	•	When Due			% of Course Grade			GELOs
Participation	on	Post on	Post on ten out of the twelve		20% (2% for each		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1;2;3;4;5
Discussion Bo	ard	units during the specific		с	posting)		Div	ersity: 1;2;4;5
		week(s) an unit is cover	ed	_	-		
World Map		By Ma	May 7 at 11:59pm the		5%		Social: 1; 3	
_		-	latest				I	Diversity: 2
Presentation P	aper	By April 30 at 11:59pm the		the	15%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1;2;3;4;5
	-		latest				Div	ersity: 1;2;4;5
Book or Jo	ournal	By March 19 at 11:59pm		m	15%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1; 2; 4; 5
Review		the latest				D	iversity: 2;5	
Comments	on	By March 26 at 11:59pm		5%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1; 2; 4; 5	
Reviews		the latest				Diversity: 2;5		
Exam 1		Availab	Available from February 23		10%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1; 2; 4; 5
		_	– February 26				Div	ersity: 1;2;4;5
Exam 2		Availa	vailable from April 6 –		12%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1; 2; 4; 5
			April 9				Div	ersity: 1;2;4;5
Final		Availa	ilable from May 8 –		18%		Soc	<i>cial:</i> 1; 2; 4; 5
			May 10				Div	ersity: 1;2;4;5

To avoid any confusion, please note once more that the overall course grade is weighted. Thus, as shown above, each assignment contributes differently to your course grade. You can also calculate your own grade by using the following formula: Course Grade = .20 (x) + .05 (x) + .15 (x) + .15 (x) + .05 (x) + .10 (x) + .12 (x) + .18 (x).

Regrading of assignments:

You may request the regrading of materials that have been graded by the instructor. Any request has to be made in writing by providing a brief explanation of why you wish to have the assignment regraded.

Incompletes:

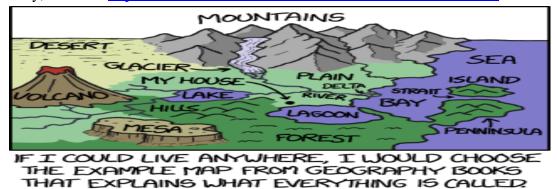
Incompletes will only be granted in exceptional emergency situations (such as death in the immediate family or serious illness – family visits, weddings, etc., do not count), when the relevant assignment(s) cannot be completed in time. In all other cases the grade will be based upon the work completed by the end of the semester, which may result in a failing grade. The grade "I" for an incomplete may be assigned only after instructor and student have completed and signed a Contract for Grade of Incomplete which makes arrangements for the unfinished work to be completed.

College Grading Scale:

The college grading scale can be found, among other places, on the LCSC Registrar's website: <u>https://www.lcsc.edu/registrar/grades-honors/</u>

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, Fabrication, Cheating, and Misconduct:

Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. When you hand in an assignment, make sure that everything in it is your own work and that you have made the appropriate references where necessary. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Neither ignorance nor the lack of an intention to cheat or plagiarize will be considered a legitimate defense. Violations will be punished to the full extent possible, including flunking of the course and a referral to the Dean of Student Services. Raise any questions and concerns you have with the instructor before problems arise. To learn more about LCSC's Policy on Academic Dishonesty, read it at http://www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/.



Course Schedule:

Date	Class	Assignment for Class
Unit 1 (Weeks 1 & 2)		
	Introduction to class: Basic Concepts & Classifications of Realms	 Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 1, pp. 2 – 33 <u>Required Reading:</u> De Blij, Harm J. (2012). Why geography matters: More Than Ever (2 ed.). Chapter 1 & 2, pp. 3 – 70 Dropp, Kertzer & Zeitzoff (2014). The less Americans know about Ukraine's location, the more they want U.S. to intervene Hanson (2013). Don't Know Much About Geography Quealy (2017). If Americans Can Find North Korea on a Map, They're More Likely to Prefer Diplomacy STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Babcock (2017). Pullman chief samples Samoan culture Baltazar (2014). Lost in translation Kaplan (2016). How to track poverty from space Lipman (2018). Trump's diplomatic learning curve Recommended documentaries:
		Humanity from Space (2015)
		The Overview Effect (2012)

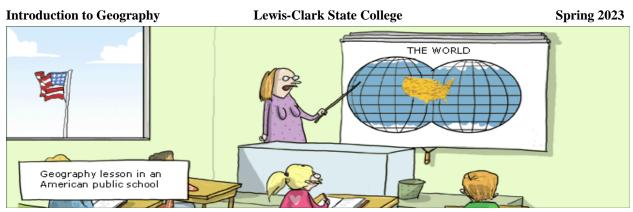
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Date	Class	Assignment for Class
Unit 2 (Week 3)		
January 30 – February 5	The Geography of Europe	 Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 5, pp. 144 195 Required Reading: Edgington & Morris (2021). Brexit Stratfor (2015). Europe is conflicted over immigration The Economist (2014). Scottish nationalism: how did it come to this STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Brilliant Maps (2015). 2nd largest nationality living in each European country Cross (2014). Hollande redraws France's regions Documentary: Rick Steve's Europe: Little Europe – Five Micro-Countries (2008)
Unit 3 (Week 4)		
February 6 – February 12 Unit 4 (Weeks 5 & 6)	The Geography of Russia/Central Asia	 Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 6, pp. 196 233 Required Reading: Booth & Rotman (2018). Russia's Suez Canal? Borenstein (2015). Study: Warmer it gets, the more economies suffer Lewis (2015). Russia might own the North Pole Marshall (2015). Russia and the Curse of Geography STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Lustgarten & Ponormarev (2020). How Russia wins the climate crisis Marshall (2022). Why Russia is a prisoner of geography
February 13 – February 26	The Geography	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 2, pp. 34
	of North America	 Anyman et al. (2020) Regions: Onlaped 2, pp. 91 - 69 <u>Required Reading:</u> Drakulic (1996). On Bad Teeth Malone (2014). Angry with Washington, 1 in 4 Americans open to secession Miner (1956). Body Ritual among the Nacirema Monroe Doctrine (1823) The Economist (2015). German-Americans: The silent minority Sanchez (2015). What Trump doesn't get about Hispanic heritage STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Elliott & Badger (2015). Fascinating maps show where people move in the U.S. when they come from overseas Stromberg (2015). The real reason American public transportation is such a disaster Documentary: How the States Got Their Shapes (2010)
	EXAM 1	

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Date	Class	Assignment for Class
Unit 5 (Week 7)		
February 27 – March 5	The Geography of Middle America	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 3, pp. 70- 105
Unit 6 (Week 8)		
March 6 – March 12	The Geography of South America	 Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 4, pp. 106 – 143 <u>Required Reading:</u> Briney (2019). Latin American City Structure Model Wade (2016). Olympics will show Brazil's diversity and tensions <u>Documentary:</u> Black in Latin America – Brazil: a racial
		paradise? (2011)
Unit 7 (Weeks 9 & 10)		
March 13 – March 26	The Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa	 Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 8, pp. 280 327 Required Reading: Kelto (2014). You won't catch Ebola from a giraffe in Tanzania Innes (2013). Chinua Achebe Obituary McLellan (2007). Ousmane Sembene Obituary Pham et al. (2018). Chinese Aid and Investment Reuter(2013). There is no second scramble for Africa Documentary: The scramble for Africa (2010)
Spring Break (Week 11)		
March	n 27 – April 2 SPRI	NG BREAK - NO CLASS
Unit 8 (Week 12)		
April 3 – April 9	The Geography of North Africa/SW Asia	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 7, pp. 234 – 279 <u>Required Reading:</u> The Economist (2017). Abraham's story shows the similarities and the differences between faiths <u>Documentary:</u> Islam – Empire of Faith (2000/2001)
	EXAM 2	
Unit 9 (Week 13)		
April 10 – April 16	The Geography of South Asia	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 9, pp. 328 – 373 STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Glennon (2017). The Unfolding Tragedy of Climate Change in Bangladesh Documentary: The Story of India: Freedom (2007)

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Date	Class	Assignment for Class	
Unit 10 (Week 14) April 17 – April 23	The Geography of East Asia	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 10, pp. 374 - 423 Documentary: The Yangtze (2012)	
Unit 11 (Week 15)			
April 24 – April 30	The Geography of Southeast Asia	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapter 11, pp. 424 - 463 <u>Required Reading:</u> Mann & Barnes (2015). <i>Why we (Still) can't live</i> <i>without rubber</i>	
Unit 12 (Week 16)			
May 1 – May 7	The Geography of the Austral & Pacific Realms	Nijman et al. (2020) Regions: Chapters 12 & 13, pp. 464 – 501 STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kapetas (2021). Australia's geography could be our greatest strategic asset Documentary: Kiribati a drowning paradise in the South Pacific (2017)	
Unit 13 (Week 17)			
May 8 - 10	FINAL EXAM		

Additional Recommended Readings:

- Agnew, John, Muscarà, Luca. (2012). *Making political geography* (2 ed.). Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Brotton, Jerry. (2013). A history of the world in twelve maps. New York, N.Y.: Viking.
- Diamond, Jared. (1999). *Guns, germs, and steel: the fates of human societies*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Garfield, Simon. (2013). *On the map: a mind-expanding exploration of the way the world looks*. New York, N.Y.: Gotham Books.
- Kagan, Robert D. (2002). Power and Weakness: Why the United States and Europe see the world differently. *Policy Review* (113), 3 28.
- Kaplan, Robert D. (2012). *The revenge of geography: what the map tells us about coming conflicts and the battle against fate.* New York: Random House.
- Livingstone, David N. (1993). *The geographical tradition: episodes in the history of a contested enterprise*. Cambridge, USA: Blackwell.
- Sobel, Dava. (1995). Longitude: the true story of a lone genius who solved the greatest scientific problem of his time. New York: Walker.



Useful Websites:

Websites listing hundreds of newspaper from around the world:

- https://inkdrop.net/news/
- http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/
- https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/ne ws.html
- ✤ <u>http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html</u>

Front pages of hundreds of newspapers from around the world daily at the Newseum:

https://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/

University of Michigan's GlobalEDGE website:

https://globaledge.msu.edu/

Indicators of Idaho's Changing Climate:

- The New York Times:
 - ✤ <u>http://www.nytimes.com/</u>

The Washington Post:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/

Association of American Geographers

- http://www.aag.org/
- The American Geographical Society
 - https://www.amergeog.org/

International Geographical Union

http://igu-online.org/

Eurostat – European Statistical Office

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/ portal/eurostat/home/

Freedom House:

http://www.freedomhouse.org

Transparency International:

- ✤ <u>http://www.transparency.org/</u>

World Values Survey:

http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/

Additional websites will be introduced throughout the term.

