

**Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania**

**Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, Geography, Criminal
Justice, and Paralegal Studies**

Contemporary Issues in Geography

I. Introductory Information

- (A) **Department Name:**
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work,
Geography, Geography, Criminal Justice, and Paralegal
Studies
- (B) **Department Catalog Number:** GEOG 328
- (C) **Course Title:** Social Science Seminar: Contemporary
Issues in Geography
- (D) **Semester Hours of Credit:** 3 Semester Hours of Credit
- (E) **Clock Hours Per Week:** 3.0 Clock Hours per week in a 15
week semester
- (F) **Overlays:** None
- (G) **Restrictions Upon Student Registration:** Students with a
minimum of 45 credits

II. Description of the Course

A. Catalog description:

Uses a thematic and topical approach to examine issues in geography such as ethnic conflict, regional integration and separatism, regional development, sustainable development, poverty and uneven development, environmental degradation, and overpopulation (to be determined by the professor). Particular emphasis is placed on historical, political, and economic forces as they relate to contemporary issues associated with globalization.

B. Comprehensive description: (Optional: None Included)

III: Exposition

A. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- 1) Critically analyze the historical and geographical development of select contemporary global issues.
- 2) Identify, understand, and apply issues, concepts, approaches, theories, and perspectives of geographers.
- 3) Critically analyze historical, political, and economic forces in relation to contemporary issues associated with regional transformation.

B. Activities and Requirements:

Students must attend class and actively participate in class discussions, complete written assignments and papers, and pass tests which allow them to demonstrate specific competencies outlined in the course objectives. Further activities and requirements may be specified by the professor depending upon major topic(s) in question. Students must have completed 45 credit hours to enroll in the course.

C. Major Units and Time Allotted:

Major units will vary depending on the contemporary issues in question. Generally, however, the following themes will be incorporated into major units to ensure that a geographic approach is maintained.

- I. Regional Analysis
- II. Critical use and analysis of geographic space and scale in relation to contemporary geographic issues
- III. A thematic approach to regions that involves an assessment of both human and physical systems

D. Materials and Bibliography

1. Suggested textbooks

Determined by the professor depending upon major topic(s) in question.

2. Other materials:

Determined by the professor depending upon major topic(s) in question.

3. Bibliographic support:

Hubbard, P. et al (2002) *Thinking Geographically: Space, Theory and Contemporary Human Geography*. Continuum Press.

Johnston, R.J. et al, 4th Ed. (2000) *Dictionary of Human Geography*. Polity Press.

Livingstone, D. (1993) *The Geographical Tradition: Episodes in the History of a Contested Enterprise*. Blackwell Publishers.

Peet, R. (1998) *Modern Geographic Thought*. Blackwell Publishers.

Rogers, A and H. Viles, Eds. (2002) *The Student's Companion to Geography*. Blackwell Publishers.

IV. Standards

V. Rationale and Impact:

This course is necessary to offer students geography credit for the newly developed Northern Ireland Study Abroad Program. In addition, the development of a geography seminar course allows for the exploration of a multitude of contemporary geographical issues that are not limited to Northern Ireland and not currently accounted for in the geography course offerings.

VI. Cost and Staff Analysis:

No additional faculty will be required to teach this course as existing faculty are prepared to teach it.

VII. Date approved by University president:

Signature of the President

Date