

GEOG 427
Geography of Russia
Spring 2020

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
2-2:50 pm

Edwards Humanities and Fine Arts, Room 165

Instructor Contact

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Todd

Office: 221 Kimbel Library

Office Hours: MW 3-4 pm or by appointment

Email: atodd2@coastal.edu

Course Description

GEOG 427 Geography of Russia. (3 credits) This course examines both the physical and cultural geography of Russia. This course explores the history of the region as a foundation for understanding Russia in terms of spatial patterns and processes related to demographics, economic sectors, ethnic diversity, human-environmental interactions, and geopolitical tensions.
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Course Objectives:

- Describe and give examples of how the physical geography of Russia influences the culture, economics, and politics of the region.
- Locate on a map important cities, water bodies, mountains, and physiographic regions within Russia.
- Evaluate advantages and disadvantages in regards to Russia's size, population distribution, and geographical position in the world.
- Identify centripetal and centrifugal forces within Russia and between Russia and its neighbors.
- Discuss geopolitical tensions and human-environmental issues in Russia.
- Critique and assess articles selected for various topics related to Russia through writing exercises.
- Integrate knowledge learned into a research paper and design a presentation to effectively convey the information.

Student Learning Outcome Goals:

- Explain how the physical geography of Russia influences the culture, economics, and politics of the region.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information on a map for the Russian region.

- Assess advantages and disadvantages associated with the geographical location and size of Russia as well as the population patterns found.
- Analyze and provide examples of centripetal and centrifugal forces between Russia and its neighbors.
- Demonstrate the ability to use library, web, and other scholarly sources for research related to geopolitical tensions and human-environmental issues in the Russian region.
- Demonstrate effective critical and communication skills through writing exercises related to topics and research paper focused on Russia.

Required Text

Blinnikov, Mikhail. 2011. A Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors. Guilford Press.

Any additional reading material will be provided through Moodle.

Course Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer with Internet connection (high speed cable connection desirable), for use in classroom and in between class meetings.
- Access to Moodle Learning Management System (LMS).
- Skills
 - Ability to send email with file attachments
 - Ability to upload files to Moodle and use Turn It In (TII)
 - Ability to view browser based multimedia
 - Ability to use Google Earth

Communication Policy:

For specific questions related to your course work, email me at atodd2@coastal.edu, I will respond within 24 hours in most instances during the week. On the weekends, I will try to respond within 24-48 hours as scheduling/travel permits.

Attendance Policy

Each student is expected to attend class regularly. The University policy stipulates that “an instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including assigning the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings.” Attendance will be taken, and absences in excess of 25% of our class meetings will result in a failing grade, no matter what your actual performance in the course happens to be. The Catalog also states that “Absences will be excused for documented cases of:

- a) Incapacitating illness,
- b) Official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity),
- c) Death of a close relative, and
- d) Religious holidays.”

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no makeup assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason as mentioned above and instructor approval. There is no extra credit within the course unless an approved university guest lecture or event is approved by the instructor.

Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Points
A	90 – 100 points
B+	87 – 89.9 points
B	80 – 86.9 points
C+	77 – 79.9 points
C	70 – 76.9 points
D+	67 – 69.9 points
D	60 – 66.9 points
F	59.9 and below

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Journal Article write-ups and class room discussions	500	25%
Map Test	200	10%
Class Activities	500	25%
Midterm Exam	200	10%
Individual Research Paper (including paper topic approval)	200	10%
Group Presentation (including group evaluations)	200	10%
Final Exam	200	10%
Total Possible to Earn	2000	100%

All written assignments must be typed in double-spaced format with 12 point font size, and written using college-level grammar and organization. Written assignments will be submitted via Moodle in a current version of MS Word or Adobe PDF format. All written assignments will be submitted through Turn It In (TII), a plagiarism checker. A general rubric will be available for the journal article submissions (the topic/focus will change for each). A rubric will also be available for the research paper and group presentation.

Class Activities will be graded by the check and point system below:

Class Activities	Points	Quality
Check plus	50	Outstanding work, with all or virtually all aspects completed and correct; neatness and accuracy also influence this
Check	37.5	Good work; most aspects completed and correct
Check minus	25	Fair work, with less effort or understanding evident or several aspects missing
Check double minus	12.5	Poor work
Zero	0	Not enough completed or correct to justify awarding any points, or activity not turned in at all

Statement of Community Standards

Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Any class members who the instructor deems disruptive to the learning environment may be asked to leave class for the day.

Disability Statement

Office of Accessibility and Disability Services b. Coastal Carolina University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services. This office is located in Indigo House and the phone number is 843-349-2341. Please make an appointment with a staff member in Accessibility and Disability Services so that such accommodations can be considered. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper forms and meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. It is recommended that this must be completed within the first two weeks of class. Website: <http://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices> ii. Phone number: 843.349.2341

A syllabus is a general guide to the course. It is not a contract or agreement. The instructor reserves the right to unilaterally change anything contained in the syllabus, including but not limited to, assignments, tests, or grading.