

GEOG 428
Geography of Oceania
Spring 2022

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 428 Geography of Oceania. (3 credits) This course examines both the physical and cultural geography of Oceania including, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. This course explores the region's physical geography as a foundation for understanding spatial patterns and processes related to migration, cultural identity, demographics, religions and belief systems, mythology, economics, politics, sustainability, and human-environment interactions. F, S, Su

Course Objectives:

- Identify the spatial extent of Oceania, regional divisions, and important islands, mountains, and cities.
- Investigate the geological, climatic, and biogeographical processes that have interacted to form the physical geography of Oceania.
- Investigate natural resource limitations in Oceania and the importance of sustainable practices in the region.
- Examine the impacts of human activity on the natural environment in Oceania.
- Examine how the physical geography of Oceania influences the culture, economics, and politics of the region.
- Identify historical and current patterns of migration and demographic shifts as they relate to cultural identity today.
- Examine mythology and historical belief systems practiced and current influences of organized religions in the region.
- Examine the role of Oceania in the global economy.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate the ability to locate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information on a map for the Oceania region.
- Assess connections between the physical geography of the region and its culture, economics, politics, natural resource limitations, and role in the global economy.

- Demonstrate the ability to use library, web, and other scholarly sources for research related to contemporary cultural and human-environment issues in the Oceania region.

Required Text

Strathern, A, Steward, P, Carucci, L, Pyer, L, Feinberg, R, and Macpherson, C. 2017. Oceania: An Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders. Second Edition. Carolina Academic Press.

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
5 Journal Article write-ups and class room discussions	500	25%
Map Test	200	10%
5 Class Activities	500	25%
Midterm Exam	200	10%
Individual Final Research Paper (including paper topic approval)	600	30%
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.

Requirements and Guidelines for JA's (Journal Article Submissions)

Throughout the semester you will be responsible for finding current news articles in newspapers, magazines, or the internet that are relevant to each of the four sections of our Geography of Oceania Course. You will submit this assignment through the Turn It In Link (TII) within Moodle. Your upload should be as a pdf or doc file. The four articles you will be finding throughout the semester for Russia will include: Physical Geography; Historical/Political Geography; Cultural/Social Geography; and Economic Geography.

There is a rubric available attached to each JA assignment and one is available for you to view 24/7 within the TII link. For the rubric you will be graded/graded based upon categories as follows: formatting; organization; citation; student responses; grammar and composition; deadlines/times met; article selected within the last 6 months; three connections clearly made and explained to course material; and two geography themes clearly defined and explained.

Map Test

You will have a map test to complete after the physical geography module for our course. You'll be identifying regional divisions, important islands, mountains, and cities.

Class Activities

In class activities may include using Google Earth, government websites for the region, and watching documentaries for the region.

Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam will cover the Physical Geography and History of Oceania. Questions may be multiple choice, T/F, and/or short essay.

Individual Final Research Paper

During the semester you will be provided guidelines and a rubric for the final research paper. You will select one country to research which must be approved by the instructor. The paper will be 6-8 pages in length and must cover the physical, historical, cultural, and economic geographies of your approved country. Your research must include scholarly journals and books for the region and may include current news sources when applicable.

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.

Tentative Weekly Topic Schedule

Week 1 and 2	Introductions and Divisions of Oceania
Week 3, 4, and 5	Physical Geography of Oceania: Hazards, Island Biogeography, Sustainability, Environmental Issues and Natural Resources
Week 6, 7, and 8	History of Oceania: Colonialism and Mythology
Week 9, 10, and 11	Cultures of Oceania: Island Identity, Migrations, Population Distribution, Languages, Belief Systems and Organized Religion Influences
Week 12, 13, and 14	Economic Sectors of Oceania (past and present) and Geopolitics: Trade and the Global Economy
Week 15 and 16	In-depth focus of specialty topic and/or current event. Topic may vary each semester depending upon interest and world events.