

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**World Geography for the Logic Stage**

Course Blackboard site: <http://wtma.blackboard.com>

Required Text(s):

- Rand McNally. *Goode's World Atlas (23rd Edition)*. Chicago: Prentice Hall, 2016. ISBN 9780133864649

Course Description:

This course focuses on physical geography (landforms, waterways, climates, and natural resources) as well as human geography (people and places, cultures, and current challenges) in each of the major world regions: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Oceania, and Antarctica. Students are asked to engage with material in online written discussions before attending lecture. The written assessments require organizing ideas and facts from across multiple lectures (PDFs provided) and online written discussions.

Written Assignments:

- *Weekly Discussion Questions*: Discussion questions will be drawn from news articles, the text, and live class sessions—which are the sources a student should use to answer the questions. Each student must write a meaningful reply to the question by midnight, EST, Monday, and meaningfully respond to two other students' responses by midnight, EST, on Wednesday. See the Assignment policies for more information about meaningful participation. 25% of final grade, total.

Quizzes and Tests:

- *Weekly Quizzes*: On weeks without Exams, quizzes will consist of map work, and item significance identification. Student's resources may be used. 25% of final grade, total.
- *Week 4 Exam*: A short essay, no longer than two pages of student writing. Students will select one of three topics on which to write; alternatively, students may answer a series of short-answer essay questions. 7.5% of final grade each.
- *Week 8 Exam*: There will be one mid-semester exam, no longer than four pages. Students will select two of five topics on which to write; alternatively, students may answer a series of short-answer essay questions. 15% of final grade.
- *Week 12 Exam*: A short essay, no longer than two pages of student writing. Students will select one of three topics on which to write; alternatively, students may answer a series of short-answer essay questions. 7.5% of final grade each.
- *Week 17 Final Exam*: There will be one final comprehensive exam, no longer than six pages of student writing. Students will select three of six topics on which to write; alternatively, students may answer a series of short-answer essay questions. 20% of final grade.

Grading breakdown:

<i>Course Work</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Weekly Quizzes (Friday)	25%
Discussion Questions (Monday and Wednesday)	25%
Week 4 & 12 Exam	7.5 each (total 15%)
Week 8 Exam	15%
Week 17 Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Example Schedule:

The schedule is subject to updates. Please see Blackboard/email announcements for changes.

- *Monday*—Discussion Question, Initial Answer due
- *Wednesday*—Discussion Question, Response to two other students due
- *Friday*—Weekly Quiz due; any Written Assignments (Mid-Terms, Term Final Exams, Comprehensive Finals) due

Week	Assignment	Topic
0	Introduction	Orientation
1	Quiz/DQ	Cartography, Physical, and Human Geography
2	Quiz/DQ	The United States
3	Quiz/DQ	Canada, Mexico
4	Exam	Central America, and the Caribbean Islands
5	Quiz/DQ	Northern South America
6	Quiz/DQ	Andes and Mid-latitude South America
7	Quiz/DQ	Western Europe
8	Exam	Eastern Europe and Western Russia
9	Quiz/DQ	Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Siberian Russia
10	Quiz/DQ	East and Southeast Asia
11	Quiz/DQ	South and Southwest Asia
12	Exam	North and East Africa
13	Quiz/DQ	Central and West Africa
14	Quiz/DQ	Southern Africa
15	Quiz/DQ	Australia and New Zealand
16	Quiz/DQ	Oceania and Antarctica
17	Final Exam	No lecture