Course Description

An investigation of societal events and trends using geographical concepts to cultivate a better understanding of the interdependence of places and cultures in a globalizing world. Key topics include globalization, cultural diversity, urbanization, population dynamics, economic disparity and development, geopolitics, sustainability, and the environment.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss key concepts in human geography including place, region, movement, and landscape.
2. Evaluate the role and impact globalization has on environmental, cultural, spatial, and geopolitical issues within the three tiers of the world system.
3. Evaluate sustainability as an approach to addressing global social problems.
4. Investigate past and current economic relationships, patterns, and issues within the three tiers of the world system.
5. Determine how place and space shape culture, and conversely how culture shapes place and space.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Study Guide**: Each unit contains a Study Guide that provides students with the learning outcomes, unit lesson, required reading assignments, and supplemental resources.
2. **Learning Outcomes**: Each unit contains Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
3. **Unit Lesson**: Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses lesson material.
4. **Reading Assignments**: Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook and/or outside resources.
5. **Suggested Reading**: Suggested Readings are listed in Unit I and Unit VI. Students are encouraged to read the resources listed if the opportunity arises, but they will not be tested on their knowledge of the Suggested Readings.
6. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded)**: These non-graded Learning Activities are provided to aid students in their course of study.
7. **Unit Assessments**: This course contains five Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I, III, IV, VI, and VIII. Assessments are composed of multiple-choice questions, matching questions, short answer questions, and written-response questions.
8. **Unit Assignments**: Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units II-VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with each assignment. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.
9. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**CSU Online Library**

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on “CSU Online Library.” You can also access the CSU Online Library from the "My Library" button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library’s chat reference service, Ask a Librarian, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

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**Unit Assignments**

**Unit II Scholarly Activity**

**Cultural Interview**

Pick a person to interview who has had a different cultural experience than you. Maybe the person or person’s family is from a different region or country. Other forms of diversity or difference are acceptable too. You may interview someone of any age, and it is OK if he or she is a co-worker, neighbor, friend, relative, spouse, or someone else you know. However, please keep in mind the spirit of the assignment. If you are interviewing someone you know well, please work hard in the interview to gain a deeper insight and appreciation for their experience.

Please conduct the interview face-to-face, through Skype/Face Time, or over the phone. The interview should be a minimum of 20 minutes long. Please take notes during the interview. If the interviewee gives you permission, you can record the interview to help you later when writing your assignment. It is not required to record or video tape the interview. You will not be turning in any recordings. You will be turning in a written assignment based on your interview.

Written Assignment Overview: Write a two-page essay about your interview experience. Your essay should include an introduction of your interviewee, summary of the interview answers in essay format, discussion of how the interview content relates to course concepts, and a final section with some concluding thoughts about the interview experience. You will be required to use the following headings: Introduction, Summary of Interview, Culture & Geography, and Conclusion.

Note: Click on the link below to view a document which contains an explanation of the requirements for the assignment sections, a list of questions that you can pick from, and pointers on conducting a successful interview.

**Interview Questions and Guidance**

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit III Article Critique**

**People and Nature**

For this assignment, you are going to critique an article you find on the web or in the CSU Online Library which relates to information in Unit III: Chapter 4 People and Nature. There is no length requirement for the article, but it should have enough information so that you can write a full one-page critique. The article should come from a reputable news or scholarly source. See the checklist below, which contains the specific requirements this assignment will be graded on.
It is required that the article you use for the critique directly relate to the material found in Chapter 4 of the textbook.

It is required that your critique contains the following headings: Introduction, Summary, How It Relates, and Conclusion.

For your critique, you are going use the headings listed above and answer the following questions under the headings:

1. Introduction: Provide an introduction/ description of the topic. The description should include the relationship between nature and people being addressed in the critique.

2. Summary: Provide a summary of main points/arguments of the author.

3. How It Relates: Discuss how the article relates to at least ONE concept found in the Chapter 4 reading.

4. Conclusion: Your own concluding thoughts on the article and the subject matter.

Your paper should be written in APA style and should be a minimum of one page in length (not including the title and reference pages).

At least one article source (the article you are critiquing) is required. You may use the textbook and other sources as needed. Note: Wiki is not a scholarly source and is not an acceptable source for this assignment or any following assignments.

Following is a list of topics that you may find interesting: Endangered animals/plants, biodiversity and extinction of plants/animals, nature programs, nature reserves, national park program, interaction between humans and nature, global warming, climate change, renewable energy, or oil drilling. These topics are not set in stone; you may choose a topic that is relevant to the concepts provided in Chapter 4 of the textbook.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Scholarly Activity

Travel Writing

Pretend you are a travel writer. Your assignment is to write about a landscape or place that you have visited that you think others might enjoy. It can be local, national, or international. It can be a city, town, country, state, island, region, or other location. It can be anywhere that you have lived or visited. As part of your travel article, you must include a general background of the area, map, pictures, and information on some of the specific places of interest worth visiting. Below are the specific requirements for this assignment. Be descriptive, and have fun with this one!
Travel Writer Assignment Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brief general description of the travel location.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include information such as the following: where the place is located, why you picked the location, ethnicity of the people, beliefs, language spoken, climate, or any important cultural, geographical, and/or historical information you think would be interesting to the reader.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>A map of the location (the type of map is up to you)</th>
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<tr>
<th>Provide a description of at least two specific places of interest at the travel location. Places of interest can include: a landmark, place, monument, or landscape that is insightful into the area’s history and/or culture.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is required that the description of the place of interest include the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Description and background of the place of interest (include information such as follows: name, man-made? Age? When built? Size? Why was it built? Who built it? Is it natural/not man made? Has it been altered by man?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The symbolism, meaning, or cultural significance that is attached to the place of interest? What does it mean to people? What does it symbolize?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. How does the place of interest impact the local community or local culture in a positive and or negative way (tourism? recreation? jobs? beauty? worship? community? environmentally?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Include an image of the place of interest in your travel essay. *Remember the images must include citations/reference.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Your paper should be written in APA style with a minimum of 2 pages (not including the title and reference pages).</th>
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<tr>
<th>At least one source, other than the textbook, is required to be used for this assignment. You can use travel websites, related magazines (e.g., National Geographic).</th>
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<tr>
<th>APA in-text citations for all images and written material taken from sources is required. If the image is your own picture, please indicate so in the citations/reference.</th>
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</table>

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit V Essay**

**Developing Nation Problem-Solution**

Within Unit VII, you are going to submit a Problem/Solution Research Paper that analyzes a social issue being faced by a particular periphery or semi-periphery nation. You will begin your research paper project in this unit. You will submit an essay which will act as a beginning draft for your Unit VII Research Paper. This Unit V essay assignment will not be submitted through SafeAssign since this is a draft assignment. You will be permitted to copy and paste material from this essay directly into your Unit VII paper.
Before starting the Unit V essay assignment:

1. Read the requirements for the Unit VII problem-solution paper, and review the grading rubric for the paper, as well. This information can be found below, within the Unit VII Research Paper instructions.

2. Pick a country for your essay assignment which will also be the same country used for the Unit VII paper (the country must be from a periphery nation or semi-periphery nation). Note: The Unit II reading explains the concept of periphery and semi-periphery which will help you in choosing your country.

3. Begin brainstorming and researching about the issues and solutions you want to cover in this essay assignment and subsequently in your research paper. You can choose one of the topics listed in the link below, or you may pick your own topic:

Sample List of Social Issues

Unit V Essay Assignment Instructions: Submit a two page essay with draft material you can use in your final paper (remember, the final research paper is due in Unit VII). This two page essay is meant to get you started in your researching and writing for the final paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing Nation Problem Solution Essay Assignment Instructions &amp; Requirements</th>
<th>Check List</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The two page essay must use the following headings: Introduction of Problem, Solution, and Conclusion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is required that each section include the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction of Problem: Briefly introduce the country you are presenting and the major social issue (economic, political, environmental, political, war, poverty, etc.) Include a description of the nation’s background, geography, demographics, and other important details about the nation that are important for your presentation of the problem. Present details about the social issue being faced in the nation. You can present more than one issue. This section should contain research you found on the issue and your own analysis. Make sure to include who the problem impacts and seriousness of the issue. You want to convey to the reader why it is a problem. Present your thesis or main argument in the introduction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Solution: Present at least one solution to the issue. This section should contain research you found on the solution(s) and your own analysis. Discuss things like why it is the best solution, who is involved in implementing the solution, and potential positive and negative impact of implementing the proposed solution(s). *In the final draft in Unit VII you will provide a more in-depth explanation and analysis of the solutions and include at least one sustainable solution to the problem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Conclusion: Include: (1) Summary of what was discussed and any final thoughts. You can talk about how it impacts the future, need for future research, or call to action.</td>
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It is required that you apply the term globalization in your essay in some capacity. Discuss how globalization or inter-connectedness relates to the issue or solution. This discussion could involve concepts discussed in the textbook like the impact of colonization, imperialism, technology, environment, immigration/migration, Westernization, terrorism, geopolitics, trade, military, etc.

Your paper should be written in APA style with a minimum of 2 pages (not including the title and reference pages).
Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VI Scholarly Activity

My Ecological Footprint

Review the section called Resources and Sustainability on pp. 266-267 of the textbook where Knox & Marston (2016) discuss the concept of ecological footprint. On p. 267, students are asked to apply their knowledge by calculating how sustainable their lifestyle is compared to others. Visit the web link provided in the textbook on p. 267 and take the personal ecological footprint quiz, which calculates your ecological footprint. You can access the footprint calculator by clicking the following link: [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/personal_footprint/](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/personal_footprint/)

Assignment Instructions: After taking the ecological footprint quiz, answer the following questions:

1. Summarize your quiz results. Which areas did you have the least and which the biggest impact on the earth (food, shelter, mobility, resources, or goods)? If everyone lived like you, how many planets would we need? How many global acres does it take to support your lifestyle?

2. What surprised you about your results? How did your results make you feel?

3. What steps can you take to reduce your ecological footprint? Name at least two.

4. What is your responsibility as a global citizen to protect the earth’s resources?

5. Provide one recommendation to a national governing body or a multi-national governing body to help reduce the ecological footprint made by citizens.

Assignment Requirements: It is required that you re-write each question and then provide your response to all of the questions asked. Your questions and responses should be a minimum of 1 page in length (not including the title page and reference page). Note: Remember to create a citation for the ecological footprint calculator and any other sources used to answer the questions.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII Research Paper

Problem-Solution

In Unit V, you picked a periphery or semi-periphery nation and began researching a social problem(s) being faced in the nation along with solutions to that problem.

In Unit VII, you are going to write a Problem-Solution Research Paper (at least four pages long) analyzing some of the social issues and struggles being faced by the nation in the periphery or semi-periphery region and present solutions to these issues. You will be incorporating important course concepts into your research paper as well, such as globalization, importance of geography, and sustainability. The material from the Unit V essay can be used in your Unit VII Problem-Solution Paper. You can, but are not required to, use section headings in the final paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem-Solution Research Paper Instructions &amp; Requirements</th>
<th>Check List</th>
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<tr>
<td>Your paper is required to address the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction of Problem: Introduce the country you are presenting and the major social issue (economic, political, environmental, political, war, poverty, etc.). Include a description of the nation’s background, geography, demographics, and other important details about the nation that are important for your presentation of</td>
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the problem. Present details about the social issue being faced in the nation. You can present more than one issue. This section should contain research you found on the issue and your own analysis. Make sure to include who the problem impacts and the seriousness of the issue. You want to convey to the reader why it is a problem. Present your thesis or main argument in the introduction.

2. Solutions: Research and present solutions to help the nation you have chosen to research. You are required to discuss in depth at least 3 possible solutions/suggestions to help the nation address the issue. This section should contain research you found on the solutions and your own analysis. Discuss the following: why it is the best solution, who is involved in implementing the solution, and the potential positive and negative impact of implementing the proposed solution(s). At least one solution is required to contain the concept of sustainability in some capacity. (Note: You can look up sustainability in the textbook glossary which shows where in the textbook sustainability has been discussed. This will provide ideas on how sustainability fits into your suggested solutions).

3. Conclusion: Make certain to include the following: Summary of what was discussed and any final thoughts. You can talk about how the issue impacts the future, why there is a need for future research, or propose a call to action.

It is required that you apply the term globalization in your paper in some capacity. Discuss how globalization or inter-connectedness relates to the country’s background, the issue, or the solution. This discussion could involve concepts discussed in the textbook like the impact of colonialization, imperialism, technology, environment, immigration/migration, Westernization, terrorism, geopolitics, trade, military, etc. In other words, you must incorporate globalization into your project in some capacity. You can view pp. 51,175, 238, and/or 279 for examples of how globalization impacts nations.

It is required that you incorporate the importance of geography in some capacity in your paper. It can be part of the country background, problem, or solution.

Your paper should be written in APA style with a minimum of four pages (not including the title and reference pages). You may include images, graphs, and/or maps in an appendix if you wish, but they do not count towards the four pages of written content that is required.

Source Requirement: Your paper must contain research you have gathered from a minimum of three scholarly sources (not including the textbook). Sources can be from reputable news or magazine sources, organizational or governmental websites, or peer reviewed journal sources.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VIII Scholarly Activity**

**Food & Agriculture Field Study: GMOs**

For this assignment, you should perform some research into genetically modified foods. Search the internet for news stories and other information for and against GMO food. Visit your local supermarket or local health food store, and find foods that are genetically modified.
Assignment Requirements: It is required that you re-write each question and then provide your response to all of the questions asked. Your paper should be written in APA style, and your questions and responses should be a minimum of one page in length (not including the title page and reference page). It is required that you use at least one source for this assignment. The textbook or other reputable news articles, organization websites, or scholarly articles can be used.

GMO Assignment Questions:

1. Were you able to find foods that were genetically modified at the store?

2. How do you know, as a consumer, if you are eating engineered foods? Is it clearly marked which items contain GMOs?

3. Does it matter? Should GMOs be labeled?

4. Why is there a debate over genetically modified foods?

5. What is your position on GMOs? Do you feel GMOs are safe or not safe to eat? Should they be banned?

6. Should there be laws governing the production or labeling of GMOs?

7. Do you feel we need GMOs to “feed the world?”

Note: If you are unable to visit a store, you may browse online food shopping sites for the shopping field study part of the assignment.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

APA Guidelines

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU’s Citation Guide by clicking here. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

Blackboard Grading Rubrics

One or more assignments in this course utilizes a Blackboard Grading Rubric. A rubric is a tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment. Your professor will use the Blackboard Grading Rubric to assign points and provide feedback for the assignment.

You are encouraged to view the assignment rubric before submitting your work. This will allow you to review the evaluation criteria as you prepare your assignments. You may access the rubric in “My Grades” through the “Tools” button in your course menu. Click the “View Rubric” link to see the evaluation criteria for the assignment. Upon receiving your assignment grade, you may view your grade breakdown and feedback in the rubric.

CSU Grading Rubrics for Papers/Projects and Assessments

The Learning Resource area of the myCSU Student Portal provides the rubrics, and information on how to use them, for written response questions in Unit Assessments, and Research Papers/Projects.

The course writing assignments will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of writing assignments, unless otherwise specified within assignment instructions. In addition, all papers will be submitted for electronic evaluation to rule out plagiarism. Course projects will contain project-specific grading criteria defined in the project directions.
To view the rubrics, click the Student Resources link in the Course Menu or access them through the CSU Grading Rubric link found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal.

**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

**Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.**

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

**Grading**

- Assessments (5 @ 8%) = 40%
- Scholarly Activities (4 @ 6%) = 24%
- Unit III Article Critique = 6%
- Unit V Essay = 10%
- Unit VII Research Paper = 20%
- **Total** = 100%

**Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)**

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
## Unit I

### Why Geography Matters & Changing Global Context

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 1: Geography Matters
- Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit II

### Population & Culture

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Note:** The reading materials for Unit II are to be used to answer the Unit III Assessment questions.
- Chapter 3: Geographies of Population and Migration, pp. 65-71, 78-81, and 86-103
- Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies
- **Additional Reading Assignment(s):** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Scholarly Activity

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit III

### People & Nature

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Note:** Reading material from Units II and III are to be used to answer the Unit III Assessment questions.
- Chapter 4: People and Nature, pp.107-151

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- Article Critique

**Notes/Goals:**
# Course Schedule

## Unit IV: Interpreting Places & Landscapes

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Note:** Please read Chapter 7 before reading Chapter 6.
- Chapter 7: Interpreting Places and Landscapes
- Chapter 6: Language, Communication and Belief, pp. 219-225

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- Scholarly Activity

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit V: Political Geographies

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 10: Political Geographies

**Submit:**
- Essay

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit VI: Geographies of Economic Development

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 8: Geographies of Economic Development
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- Scholarly Activity

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit VII: Urban Geography

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities:** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 11: Urbanization and the Global Urban System
- Chapter 12: City Spaces: Urban Structure

**Submit:**
- Research Paper

**Notes/Goals:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Food &amp; Agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>□ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Learning Activities</strong>: See Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>□ Chapter 9: Geographies of Food and Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>□ Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Scholarly Activity</td>
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Notes/Goals: