

Work programme of the discipline:

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|--|---|
| Course title | COUNTRY STUDIES |
| Level of higher education (degree) | FIRST (BACHELOR) |
| Field of study | 07 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION |
| Major | 073 MANAGEMENT |
| Program subject area | MANAGEMENT (ENGLISH) |
| Status of the discipline | Compulsory |
| Mode of studies | FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, E-LEARNING |
| Total number of hours/ ECTS credits | 150 HOURS /5 ECTS CREDITS |
| Language of instruction | ENGLISH |
| Lecturer | RASTVOROVA MARIIA OLEKSANDRIVNA PH.D. |
| Lecturer's profile | https://www.krok.edu.ua/ua/pro-krok/spivrobotniki/rastvorova-mariya-oleksandrivna |
| Tel. number | +380933742196 |
| E-mail | RastvorovaMO@krok.edu.ua |
| Consultations | CONSULTATIONS IN MS TEAMS: FRIDAY, 16.20 P.M.-17.40 P.M. http://surl.li/jrnewa |

1. Brief summary of the course

The course is designed to equip future managers with the essential skills and knowledge needed to effectively launch and manage their businesses on the global arena.

This course provides comprehensive coverage of fundamental concepts and critical issues associated with regional geographies and country studies. It equips students with knowledge about socio-economic characteristics and cultural peculiarities of various macroregions and countries of the world to provide them an educational basis successfully to build their career worldwide.

The course focuses on the spatial differences and geographical patterns of the globe, highlighting the importance of critical and creative thinking in defining a suitable business location and approaches to business.

Additionally, it addresses crucial aspects of socio-economic typology of the countries, variety of political systems, political regimes and economic systems.

2. Learning outcomes

General Competencies (GS):

GC 11. Ability to adapt and act in a new situation.

GC 13. Appreciation and respect for diversity and multiculturalism.

Professional Competencies (PC):

PC 6. Ability to act socially responsible and consciously.

Program learning outcomes (PLO):

PLO 15. Demonstrate the ability to act socially responsible and socially conscious based on ethical considerations (motives), show the respect for diversity and interculturalism.

3. Course scope

| Type of class | Total number of hours/ ECTS credits - 150 HOURS /5 ECTS CREDITS | | |
|---|---|-----------|------------|
| | full-time | part-time | e-learning |
| Total number of hours / mode of studies | | | |
| lectures | 28 | 12 | 12 |
| seminars / practical / laboratory classes | 22 | 12 | 12 |
| Individual work | 100 | 126 | 126 |
| Credit | | | |

4. Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites required for this course.

5. Hardware and software

PC / laptop, Internet access, camera, microphone

6. Course policies – students must adhere to a code of academic integrity:

<https://int.krok.edu.ua/images/download/code-of-academic-integrity-2025.pdf>

Academic integrity is the presentation of one's own work and the proper recognition of the contribution of others.

Any violation of this principle constitutes academic dishonesty and may result in poor evaluation and disciplinary action.

Forms of academic dishonesty include:

- Plagiarism - presenting all or part of someone else's work as one's own in an academic exercise, such as an exam, a computer program, or a written assignment.
- Fraud - Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials during an exam or assignment, such as using unauthorized texts or notes or improperly obtaining (or attempting to obtain) a copy of an examination or exam answers.
- Promoting academic dishonesty - helping others commit an act of dishonesty, such as replacing an exam or completing a task for someone else.
- Fabrication - modification or transfer, without permission, academic information, or records.

7. Programme of the course

Module #1

Topic 1: Introduction to Regional Geography and Country Studies

Country Studies and Regional Geography as a scientific discipline and study course. Object and subject of regional studies. Spatial approach as a key one in Regional Geography and Country Studies. Definition of “region” and “macro region”. Division of the world on macro regions of the United Nations. Basics of methodological framework of Regional Geography and Country Studies. Contemporary world political map and the stages of its formation. Globalization as a key trend of contemporary world. Concept of “civilization” and a historical retrospective of ancient civilizations on the Earth, impact of the achievements of ancient civilizations on a contemporary world.

Topic 2: Typology of countries of the world according to level of socio-economic development. Types of political regimes

Typology of countries of the world according to the level of socio-economic development. Types of political regimes and political systems. Types of economic systems and classification of sectors of the economy. Religious variety of the world. Impact of the existing political system, regime, and economic system on the socio-economic development of the countries.

Topic 3: European macro-region. EU as an integrational body of Europe

Characteristics of European macro-region: physical geographical (location, terrain, water resources, mineral resources, climate conditions), demographical (number and distribution of population, ethnic composition, age-gender structure, migration, urbanization), economic (main economic sectors). European sub-regions. European Union (EU) as an integrational body of Europe (historical background of the EU, government system, integration process within the EU).

Topic 4: Characteristics of top European countries

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, ethnic and religious composition of the population, urbanization), economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of Germany, France, Great Britain, and Italy, Poland.

Topic 5: Characteristics of Ukraine as a European country

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, ethnic and religious composition of the population, urbanization), economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of Ukraine. Ukrainian cities. History of Ukraine from ancient times and the formation of Ukrainian statehood. Geopolitical challenges for Ukraine and Russian military aggression. EU integration of Ukraine.

Topic 6: Asia-Pacific macro-region and its subregions

Geographical location and natural conditions of Asia-Pacific macro-region (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources). Demography, ethnic and religious composition of the population of Asia-Pacific microregion. Main economy sectors of the macro-region. Subregions of Asia-Pacific microregion. Cultural uniqueness of Asia-Pacific microregion and its cultural differences with the European microregion.

Topic 7: Top Asia-Pacific countries and “Asian Tigers”

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, ethnic and religious composition of the population,

urbanization), economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of top Asia-Pacific countries (China, Japan and India) and “Asian Tigers” (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan).

Module #2

Topic 8: African macro-region

General characteristics of African macro-region: geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources). Ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of African macro-region. African sub-regions. Colonization of Africa and its impact on the continent. Economic, environmental, and social problems of the African macro-region and the ways of their solution from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Characteristics of African countries.

Topic 9: American macro-region

General characteristics of American macro-region: geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources). American sub-regions. Indigenous people of the American macro-region. Colonization of American macro-region and its impact on the microregion. American macro-region as a “melting pot”: ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the macro-region. Famous personalities of the American macro-region and their contribution to the macro-region’s and global development.

Topic 10: Characteristics of North America

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, ethnic and religious composition of the population, urbanization), historical overview, economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of top countries of North America – the USA and Canada. The USA and Canada as global players.

Topic 11: Characteristics of Latin America

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, ethnic and religious composition of the population, urbanization), historical overview, economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of Latin America. Brazil as the largest Latin American country and its characteristics. Economic, environmental, and social problems of Latin America and the ways of their solution from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Topic 12: Macro-region of Australia and Oceania

Geographical location, natural conditions (terrain, climate, water, and mineral resources), demography (number of population, age-gender structure, migration, the ethnic and religious composition of the population, urbanization), historical overview, economy (GDP, main industries, export and import commodities and partners), socio-cultural characteristics of Australia and Oceania macro-region. Australia as the largest country of the macro-region. Global climate change and its impact on Australia and Oceania and the ways of the solution of this and other problems from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

8. Course scheme

| Topic | Number of hours | Control form |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|
|-------|-----------------|--------------|

| | Full-time | | | Part-time | | | E-learning | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Lectures | Seminars /practical | Individual work | Lectures | Seminars /practical | Individual work | Lectures | Seminars /practical | Individual work | |
| Module # 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Topic 1. Introduction to Regional Geography and Country Studies | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 12 | S, D, T, CS, P, E |
| Topic 2. Typology of countries of the world according to level of socio-economic development. Types of political regimes | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 12 | S, T, M, P, E |
| Topic 3. European macro-region. EU as an integrational body of Europe | 3 | 1,5 | 6 | | 1 | 11 | | 1 | 11 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 4. Characteristics of top European countries | 2 | 1,5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 10 | S, T, CS, P, E |
| Topic 5. Characteristics of Ukraine as a European country | 2 | 2 | 6 | | 1 | 10 | | 1 | 10 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 6. Asia-Pacific macro-region and its subregions | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 11 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 7. Top Asia-Pacific countries and “Asian Tigers” | 2 | 1,5 | 6 | | | 10 | | | 10 | S, T, CS, P, E |
| Module #2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Topic 8. African macro-region | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 10 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 9. American macro-region | 2 | 2 | 7 | | 1 | 10 | | 1 | 10 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 10. Characteristics of North America | 2 | 1,5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 10 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 11. Characteristics of Latin America | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 10 | S, T, P, E |
| Topic 12. Macro-region of Australia and Oceania | 2 | 2 | 7 | | | 10 | | | 10 | S, T, CS, E |
| Total hours | 28 | 22 | 100 | 12 | 12 | 126 | 12 | 12 | 126 | - |
| TOTAL | 150 | | | 150 | | | 150 | | | - |

Control form

S – survey

T – test, mid-term tests

CS – case studies analyses assignments based on data

D – participation in the discussion presenting own view on the problem

M – work with a world map
 P – oral presentation
 E – exam

9. Teaching methods

In the process of studying the discipline “Country Studies”, various types of educational activities, teaching methods and technologies are used.

Types of educational activities:

1. Lectures: classes where the teacher presents theoretical and practical guidance material, analyzing the main geographical, economic and socio-cultural features of various macro-regions and countries of the world from the perspective of spatial and geographic objective laws.
2. Seminars: interactive sessions in which students discuss topics, analyze case studies, and participate in group discussions that contribute to a deeper understanding of the material.
3. Practical classes: focus on analyzing economic data and socio-cultural characteristics of countries worldwide.

Teaching methods and technologies:

1. Presentations and multimedia materials: the use of slides, videos and graphs, which facilitate the perception of information and make the educational process more visual.
2. Active learning methods: include group projects, discussions, role-playing games, and brainstorming sessions that promote active student involvement in the process.
3. Case method: analysis of political, environmental, economic and social problems of various countries, which allows students to practically apply theoretical knowledge, develop critical thinking and decision-making skills.

Use of information technologies: interactive platforms for learning.

10. Control methods

Control measures are used to determine the success of training. Control measures include (2) mid-term tests and final control.

Mid-term tests are carried out during practical (seminar) classes and is aimed at checking the level of preparedness of the student to perform a specific task.

The final control is carried out to evaluate the learning results after the end of the study of the discipline (semester control) or modules separated according to the working curriculum.

During the study of this course, the following forms of current control are used: a mid-term tests.

When studying this course, the following form of semester control is used: credit.

11. Distribution of points received by students

Evaluation of student learning results is carried out according to the University scale (0-100, taking into account optional tasks – 120 points) and the national scale.

General course evaluation system: Participation in the work during the semester/exam – 70%/30%

All tasks must be written independently, plagiarism is prohibited, references or citations are optionally required if the material is taken from some source (book, website, etc.). The quality and originality of your arguments are evaluated. The assignments should be presented in Moodle.

12.1. Scoring scheme for the course

| Type of educational activity | Max score | Max total score |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Modules #1 & #2 | | |
| Slide and oral presentations (8 x 5 points) | 40 | |
| Case studies analyses assignments based on data (3 x 3 points) | 9 | |
| Work with a world map (1 x 3 points) | 3 | |
| Participation in the discussion (1 x 3 points) | 3 | |
| Mid-term test (2 x 7,5 points) | 15 | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Total for modules #1 & #2 | 70 | |
| Semester-module control work | | 30 |
| Total for the course | | 100 |

12.2. Conditions for awarding points

1. Slides and oral presentation (Maximum Score – 5 Points)
 - Substance (2 Points): Completeness and depth of topic coverage, inclusion of relevant data and examples.
 - Visual Presentation (2 Points): Quality of slides, use of graphics, clarity, and aesthetics.
 - Communication Skills (1 Point): Ability to convey information to the audience, respond to questions, and engage listeners.
2. Case studies analyses assignments based on data (Maximum Score – 3 Points)
 - Accuracy of Answers (1 Points): All numerical data from the informational source and calculation results must be accurate.
 - Clarity of Presentation (2 Point): Logical structure of the work, clear definition of trends, and correct terminology.
3. Work with world map (Maximum Score – 3 Points)
 - Accuracy of Map Image (2 Points): drawing on the map (manual or digital) must be accurate.
 - Clarity and correctness of the map legend (2 Point): the map legend should present correct geographical information.
4. Participation in the group discussion (Maximum Score – 3 Points)
 - Accuracy of statement and clarity of arguments to support the statement, logical structure answer, clear definition of trends, and correct terminology (3 Points): arguments should be clear and correct and support the opinion
5. Survey (Maximum Score – 5 Points), additi
 - Correctness of Answers (3 Points): Answers to questions must be accurate and correct.
 - Coverage of the Topic (2 Points): Answers should demonstrate knowledge of all key aspects of the topic.
6. Mid-term tests (Maximum Score – 9 Points)
 - Number of Correct Answers (9 Points): Students receive 1,5 points for each correct answer (total number of tests per session is 9).

12.3. Final assessment criteria

| University scale | Ukrainian Grade |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 90 and higher | excellent |
| 70–89 | good |
| 50–69 | satisfactory |
| 1–49 | unsatisfactory |

13. Methodological provision

Attention students: all educational and methodological materials (lecture plans and videos, presentations/seminar assignments/presentation assignments) are submitted in Moodle Course: Country Studies (Mariia Oleksandrivna Rastvorova): <https://dist.krok.edu.ua/course/view.php?id=799>

14. Recommended literature

Basic

1. Berglee, R. (2017). *World Regional Geography: People, Places, and Globalization*. Second edition. Boston: Flatworld, 584 p.

Additional

1. Finlayson, C. (2019). *World Regional Geography*. First edition. Fredericksburg: Independent, 226 p.

2. Clawson, D. L., & Airriess, C. A. (2007). *World regional geography: A development approach*. Pearson Prentice Hall.
3. Central Intelligence Agency. (n.d.). Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>

15. Additional information on the discipline (educational component)

Certificates of completion for distance or online courses on the relevant topics may be credited provided that the requirements outlined in the corresponding regulation are met.

Work programme of the discipline:

Complied by: Associate Professor of the Department of Tourism, PhD in Human Geography, Mariia Rastvorova.

Approved: at the meeting of the Department of International Business (Protocol No. 2 dated September 17, 2024).