

## **F25.29: Open Education Resource Development: World Regional Geography Online Textbook**

### **Overview**

A team of faculty members in the department of Geography, Planning and Recreation is developing an open education resource (OER) to be used as a textbook in world regional geography courses. Dr. Jessica R. Barnes and Dr. Josh Merced teach large enrollment general studies courses on world geography. They want to bring an updated, critical and interactive online textbook to their students to make college more affordable and provide material that is more relevant and engaging to the students they teach. Starting in summer 2024 and continuing through spring 2025, Barnes and Merced will write content, edit, procure images, create instructor resources, and develop an interface for the text using the ArcGIS StoryMaps platform, a web-based application that allows you to share maps in the context of narrative text and other multimedia content. The text will require a number of static and interactive maps. Typical world geography textbooks would include an introduction chapter on global issues and chapters on ten world regions. Each would include maps such as political, physical geography, climate, population, language, religion, economic indicators, etc. We estimate at least 100 maps would be required. We are seeking an intern to assist with developing maps for this world regional geography open education resource. Tasks may include digital cartography, GIS, web design, writing and editing, and layout using ArcGIS StoryMaps.

### **What the student will DO and LEARN**

A student intern will work as a digital cartographer, writer, and layout assistant. Tasks may include digital map making using ArcGIS Online or Pro, writing and editing copy, web and layout design using ArcGIS StoryMaps, developing interactive map exercises and assessments, and researching spatial communication and education best practices. The student will be credited as a cartographer on this OER which will be used by hundreds of students each year at NAU and will be shared broadly with institutions around the world.

### **Additional benefits**

Students will benefit from participating in this project by building their geospatial analysis, professional writing and visual communication skills as they collaborate on creating the OER. Through working with the team to create, test, and launch the resource students will show the development of their critical thinking and problem solving skills. They will also build their project and time management skills as they work with a team on this complex, year-long project. Students will gain pedagogical insights through helping establish and meet learning outcomes for the text, instructional resources, and assessment. Students will demonstrate their ability to connect to a professional social network in geography, GIS, and education that may help them with future employment in these fields. The OER will be openly accessible to be shared as part of students' professional portfolios to demonstrate their skills to future employers.

### **Additional qualifications**

We are happy to work with students to build their skills through the internship, but some background or

skills in these aspects would be a great starting point:

- Digital mapping (particularly with ArcGIS)
- Writing
- Graphic design (design, layout)
- Web design
- Geography background
- Education background

**Time commitment**

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks