

## Geography 1313.060 Online: World Regional Geography

Spring 2024

Professor: Jeff Isom  
Office: Classroom - CAS 104  
Office hours: MWF 8-9am or 10-11am  
Before or After my Class in CAS 104 or by appointment

E-mail: jisom@uttyler.edu

*This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.*

**Communications:** Email me or you may come see me on-campus during office hours directly before/after my class in CAS 104. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your assignments, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you cannot attend my office hours and prefer not to correspond via email, you may set-up an alternative meet online. One-on-One meetings such as Zoom, Telephone, can be arranged with a scheduled date/time.

I will try to respond promptly to your emails. **In your email, include your first and last name and that you are enrolled in Geography 1313 – World Geography - Online.**

### Required Instructional Materials:

- Course Textbook (**FREE**): Available in Canvas Modules (students may download chapters, then review, study, highlight, or use “find” function to search text)
- Textbook references:
  - Finlayson, Caitlin. (2021, November 18). World Regional Geography. Open Educational Resources (OER). Retrieved August 25, 2023 from: <https://pressbooks.pub/worldgeo/>
  - Turner, Peter. (2021, May 19). World Regional Geography. Open Educational Resources (OER). Retrieved August 25, 2023 from: <https://library.achievingthedream.org/herkimerworldgeography/>
- The instructor may post news articles, websites, supplemental documents, and required readings and/or videos within the Canvas Learning System to broaden students’ perspective of the world’s geography.
- Canvas is used for UT-Tyler online classes, and all students are expected to check Canvas regularly for announcements and/or messages.

**Recommended Reading(s): Instructor materials** - Posted on Canvas - Instructor Handouts/Downloads and Websites (URL), Also, each student is expected to conduct a Weekly Review of **World News-** (Online: BBC, Al Jazeera, Fox, CNN. Etc.) Other assignments: TBD.

**World Regional Geography Catalogue description:** Analyzes cultural patterns in terms of physical, locational, social, and economic processes. World regions are described and compared.

**Course objective:** The primary objective is for you to describe how the physical and human geography of a region can be unique yet also share many qualities with other regions. Although you will learn the locations of key places and landforms in order to become globally aware citizens, *this course’s objective is not to promote or reward memorization.* The objective is to provide a geographical context for world events, to make spatial connections, and to understand the importance of geographical contexts in our everyday lives. By the end of this course, you should be able to read and synthesize world events and maps.

## Course format:

Weekly Modules are used within Canvas whereas students will complete the various assignments for each assigned chapter (**module**). Students will **READ TEXTBOOK** chapters and answer questions on the **READINGS** and watch online **VIDEOS** then complete multiple-choice/essay assignments. In addition, each module contains a map **QUIZ** and **EXAM**. Students will participate in **Discussion** threads and complete **Country Reports** assignments on Canvas by **DUE DATES**.

Grades are based on completion of each module by **DUE DATE**. Late assignments are penalized 10%.

## Faculty-student interaction and student-student interaction –

Online Class Discussion – Periodic Class discussion, ranging from informal discussions to organized discussion topics will be an important part of the class. It is vital that the students **participate** in the discussions to receive the maximum benefit from the course. Students will be expected to participate in discussions based on instructor-initiated questions, using the Discussion Board function of Canvas. Critical comments from the instructor on student responses to discussion questions will be delivered as private emails and not posted to the Discussion Board. The instructor will periodically ‘intervene’ in the Discussion Board to re-direct, correct, or elaborate on the interactive class discussions. Discussion scores are posted on the Canvas site according to an appropriately time schedule to give students clear indication of their progress. Discussion Topics will be on relevant Current Events of the Topics we are studying.

**Expectations and Feedback** – Occasional Instructor Announcements are posted on the Canvas course site to remind students of certain due dates, changes, discussions topics, and any new course material provided via the course Canvas site. The instructor will provide email feedback as needed to students concerning the completion and assessed quality of written assignments, and quizzes. Assignments, Quizzes, Discussions, and Exam scores are posted on the Canvas site according to an appropriately time schedule to give students clear indication of their progress. Additional student-instructor interaction will be available via email or through appointment only.

**Communication:** Direct email is the best way to communicate with Professor. In your email, include your first and last name and the geography course you are enrolled in. (GEOG 1313 – World Geography). **Contact Professor via UT-Tyler Email with any questions/concerns. One-on-One meetings such as Zoom, Telephone, can be arranged with a scheduled time/date.**

**Participation** (logging in regularly and taking part in discussions) and other proactive course activities. **NOTE:** The Department of Education requires institutions of higher education to report non-attendance/non-participation of all students (even students who do not utilize federal aid). For this class, your initial attendance is based upon participation in Module 1 - assignments. You will be dropped non-participation per UT-Tyler’s interpretation of federal regulations. Course reinstatement fees may be applied.

## Evaluation and Grading System

Grades will be based on the following scale:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

59% and below = F

Incomplete grades will only be given under special conditions upon consultation with the instructor prior to final exams. If an incomplete grade is given, the remaining coursework must be completed within a specified period of time, usually six weeks from the end of the semester. If the work is not completed within the given time the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

## **UT-TYLER REQUIRED - INFORMATION**

**UT Tyler Honor Code:** Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

**Students Rights and Responsibilities:** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

**UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:** All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quit-lines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit. Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)  
Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment  
Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

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- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
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**State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:** Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability/Accessibility Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application

has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:** It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:** Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct:** Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i.e. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to: copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test; possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test; using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority; discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student; substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment; paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program; falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially. ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories**

*It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.*

## **Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

## **UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)

UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)

The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses. UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*