

Geography 1313.001: World Regional Geography

Spring 2024
MWF 10:10 to 11:05
CAS 104

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor
Office: CAS 142
Office hours: MWF 9 am to 10 am
In Person, By Appointment or By Zoom
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Communications: I encourage you to visit office hours or directly after class via zoom. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your exams, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you cannot attend my office hours, you may set-up an alternative time. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. **In your email, include your first and last name and the course title Geography 1313.001, World Regional Geography, or Geog 1313.**

Required texts:

1. World Regional Geography 7th edition by Joseph J. Hobbs. Digital or Paperback version. These books can be purchased on Amazon, Chegg, or through the UT Tyler bookstore.
2. Additional readings will be posted to Canvas and may include newspaper articles, academic articles, podcasts, website, and blogs.
3. Subscribe to the Daily Geo to keep up with geographic news <https://us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=023a4ebf81fd06583f67b9f62&id=14c41df158> from the American Geographic Society <https://ubique.americangeo.org/search-dailygeo/>.

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.

Course format: This is a face to face, in person class, with materials posted to the online learning management platform Canvas. The class lectures will be supplemented by the required text, current events, videos, demonstrations, discussions, guest lectures, and maps. Lectures and readings will not necessarily cover the same ground. Indeed, they are intended to supplement each other rather than to completely overlap. I strongly recommend that you attend every lecture and carefully study the assigned readings. I encourage relevant questions and comments during the lecture and through email. A question you have other students might also have, and thoughtful remarks will make the course more interesting for everyone, including myself. One of the goals for the course is to convey how important and useful the field of geography is in the modern world. Hopefully, some of you might pursue geography as a profession. If not, at least you will gain insight and appreciation into evaluating the regions emphasized in this course, as well as world events in the news, movies, and in documentaries.

Class Etiquette: I expect everyone in the classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity – we have discussions about cultures from around the world that will be different from your own. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude.

Grading and Course Requirements: The course grade will be based on four exams (including the final), four map exercises, a CIA World Factbook Assignment, and attendance and participation.

Exams: There will be four exams each worth 20% your grade for a total of 80%. The exams will cover all the

material from the lectures including slides, materials, videos, guest lectures, and the material from the textbook. The first test will cover material from the first part of the course; the second test will cover material from the second part of the course, the third test will cover material from the third part, and the fourth test will cover material from the last part of the course. Exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and have map questions. Exams are closed book and closed notes. **Any communication via an electronic device during an exam will be considered potential cheating.**

Map Exercises: There will be four map exercises to complete throughout the semester. You will use maps to answer questions about a particular area. Directions are posted on Canvas and the due dates are on the syllabus.

CIA World Factbook Assignment: You will use your textbook, the internet, and the CIA world fact book (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>) to complete the assignment. This assignment is worth 10% of your overall grade. Instructions will be posted to Canvas and discussed in class. This assignment is due Friday April 19, 2024 at the beginning of class.

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to come prepared to class by reading beforehand and participating in class activities and discussions.

Make-up policy: Make-up tests will be given with a legitimate reason and in rare circumstances. Students should contact the instructor **prior** to the exam and not after if they will miss the exam. Make-up exams will not be given except when there are exceptional circumstances (be prepared to provide documentation of your circumstance, such as a doctor's note, police report, University-excused absence, *et cetera*).

All assignments will be graded within a timely manner usually within one week after the due date. However, this will vary slightly depending on the assignment. I will announce in class any delays on receiving feedback or earned grades.

Course weights:

Four exams: 20% each for a total of 80%

Map Exercises (4): 8%

CIA World Factbook Assignment 10%

Attendance and Participation: 2%

Total: 100%

• Grading scale:	A	90-100%	B	80-89.99%	C	70-79.99%
	D	60-69.99%	F	0-59.99%		

Cell Phones/Laptops: Turn off your ringer and do not use your cell phone during class – this includes text messaging. If you are expecting an important call, please put your phone on vibrate and sit close to the door. This action will help minimize any disturbance to the class. Laptops are allowed for note-taking, but I reserve the right to ask you to shut your computer down (or to change my class policy) if you are using your computer for uses other than note-taking and disrupting those around you. **Any video, photographic or audio recordings of the class must be approved by me.**

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class: Students are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from a course through the University's [Withdrawal Portal](#). Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. The number includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from any course has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean students receive a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete course requirements by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete the work for the course within the time limit, the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F or to NC, if the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

Grade Appeal Policy: UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of the course. If a student does not agree with the decision of the instructor, the student may then move the appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If the student is still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, the appeal moves to the Dean of the College offering that course, who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

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 a student has a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, the student is encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact the student when the application has been submitted and schedule an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/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."

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military-affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

Recording of Class Sessions: Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in the course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in the 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.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: All courses follow the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).

Absence for Religious Holidays: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in all courses. 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>.

Incidence of Scholastic Dishonesty: You will receive an automatic zero on the assignment. All cases of plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic zero for the assignment!

What we cover in the lecture on a day-to-day basis may differ from the attached schedule. I will inform the class via email if topics change.

Introduction	Week 1 Jan. 15 to Jan. 19	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Jan. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLK Day! No Class. 	
Wednesday Jan. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Mapping the Course and What is Geography? 	Syllabus/ Chapter 1.1, 1.3-1.5
Friday Jan. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Regions and Realms 	Chapter 1.1
Europe	Week 2 Jan. 22 to Jan. 26	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Jan. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Maps 	Chapter 1.2 to 1.5
Wednesday Jan. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space and Place 	
Friday Jan. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Europe 	
Russia	Week 3 Jan. 29 to Feb. 2	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Jan. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Europe • Census Day 	Chapter 4.3 to 4.6
Wednesday Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Europe 	Chapter 3.1, 3.3, and Chapter 4.1
Friday Feb. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Russia • Map Exercise 1 Due 	Chapter 5.2
Russia	Week 4 Feb. 5 to Feb. 9	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Feb. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Russia 	Chapter 5.3 and 5.4
Wednesday Feb. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Russia • Review for Exam 1 	Chapter 5.1, 5.5, 5.6
Friday Feb. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 1 	
North America	Week 5 Feb. 12 to Feb. 16	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Feb. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: North America 	Chapter 2.1, Chapter 11.2
Wednesday Feb. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: North America 	Chapter 11.3
Friday Feb. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: North America 	Chapter 11.1, 11.4 to 11.6
Middle America	Week 6 Feb. 19 to Feb. 23	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Feb. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Middle America 	Chapter 10
Wednesday Feb. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Middle America 	Chapter 10
Friday Feb. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Middle America 	Chapter 10

South America	Week 7 Feb. 26 to Mar. 1	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Feb. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South America Map Exercise 2 Due 	Chapter 10
Wednesday Feb. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South America 	Chapter 10
Friday Mar. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South America Review for Exam 2 	Chapter 10
SubSaharan Africa	Week 8 Mar. 4 to Mar. 8	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Mar. 4	EXAM 2	
Wednesday Mar. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Sub-Saharan Africa 	Chapter 9
Friday Mar. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Sub-Saharan Africa 	Chapter 9
	Spring Break Mar. 11 to Mar. 15 No Class	
SubSaharan Africa And North Africa and SW Asia	Week 9 Mar. 18 to Mar. 22	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Mar. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Sub-Saharan Africa 	Chapter 9
Wednesday Mar. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: North Africa and Southwest Asia 	Chapter 6
Friday Mar. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: North Africa and Southwest Asia 	Chapter 6
North Africa and Southwest Asia and South Asia	Week 10 Mar. 25 to Mar. 29	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Mar. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: North Africa and Southwest Asia Map Exercise 3 Due Last Day to Withdrawal 	Chapter 6
Wednesday Mar. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South Asia 	Chapter 7
Friday Mar. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South Asia 	Chapter 7
South Asia	Week 11 Apr. 1 to Apr. 5	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Apr. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: South Asia 	Chapter 7
Wednesday Apr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: East Asia Review for Exam 3 	Chapter 7
Friday Apr. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EXAM 3 	
East Asia	Week 12 Apr. 8 to Apr. 12	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Apr. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: East Asia 	Chapter 7

Wednesday Apr. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: East Asia 	Chapter 7
Friday Apr. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Southeast Asia 	Chapter 7.6
Southeast Asia	Week 13 Apr. 15 to Apr. 19	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Apr. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Southeast Asia Map Exercise 4 Due 	Chapter 7
Wednesday Apr. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Southeast Asia 	Chapter 7
Friday Apr. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: The Austral and Pacific Realms CIA World Factbook Assignment Due 	Chapter 8
Austral and Pacific Realm	Week 14 Apr. 22 to Apr. 26	Readings Should Be Completed Before the Start of Class
Monday Apr. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography Bee Team Event 	Chapter 8
Wednesday Apr. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 4 	
Friday Apr. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA 	
Finals Week	Week 15 Apr. 29 to May 3	
Monday Apr. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Day! No Class! 	
Wednesday May 1 or Friday May 3	No Class!	