

**Geography 1313.060: World Regional Geography  
Online Course**

**Spring 2021**

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: MW 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Via Zoom link:

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/92671224054?pwd=dUpjV2VGMk1YUDUvd2JuZG9UN2R6QT09>

Passcode: **56789**

Or by appointment

E-mail: [esills@uttyler.edu](mailto:esills@uttyler.edu) ph:903-566-7442

**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 that you are enrolled in Geography 1313.**

**Required texts:**

1. The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Binder Version. Jan Nijman, Peter O. Muller, and Harm de Blij. Willey, 2016, 2013.

**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 full-online course administered through Canvas. You must have reliable internet or visit the campus computer lab in RBN 3022 to complete all assignments. All assignments, quizzes, activities, and exams will be administered online. If you have any technical difficulties accessing the site, contact **Campus Computing** at [itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu](mailto:itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu) or **Canvas Help** (contact through Canvas).

The course consists of six Modules that will cover the online course material. The modules are organized much like chapters organized in a book. I will open and close each module as we progress during the semester. The majority of the modules are open for about 2.5 weeks but please pay close attention to each module's individual set of opening and closing dates (**see the schedule attached to the end of this syllabus for exact dates**). If you miss a module's deadline, you will automatically earn a zero (0) for that module.

The video lecture lessons content slides will be supplemented by the required text readings, videos, and assignments. The lecture lessons 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 fully complete all module activities by the assigned due date. I encourage you to email me if you have relevant questions and comments. 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 physical environment emphasized in this course.

**Course Requirements:** For Modules 1-6, there will be six exams, one quiz, and six assignments. The Modules will contain the following information:

- Module learning objectives, key words, and a reading list.
- Video Lecture Lessons with a Map Activity.
- An assignment that further examines core concepts from the module material.

- An exam consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions (you may drop your lowest exam grade).
- The exception is Module 1 that has a quiz to get you familiar with the testing style. This quiz is extra credit.

**Exams:** There are six exams each worth 12%. The exam should be the last item you complete in each module. The exams may cover all the material including the lecture lessons, videos, textbook, and the assignments. The exams are not cumulative and will only cover material from each individual module. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions for a total of 100%. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam. You cannot pause the time on the exam. Once you begin, you must complete the exam in one sitting. **You may take an exam only once.** You may drop the lowest exam grade.

**Assignments:** There are six assignments, the six homework assignments are worth approximately 6.7% each. Instructions will be posted on **Canvas**. 5 points will be deducted each day for late assignments.

**Quiz:** There is one quiz on Module 1 that consists of multiple choice and true/false questions worth 2 points of extra credit to your overall grade. The quiz is designed to help prepare you for the format of the exams. You may take the quiz as many times as needed. However, once you begin a quiz you must complete that quiz in one sitting.

**Grades:**

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

Six Exams worth 12% each    60%

Six Homework Assignments worth approx.  
6.7% each    40%

**Total:**    **100%**

One Quiz in Module 1 worth    2 points extra credit

**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*). Five points will deducted each day for late assignments.

**Cell Phones/Lap tops:** 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. Lap tops 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. **I will not be recording this class. Any video, photographic or audio recordings of the class must be approved by me.**

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

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

### **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 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, quitlines, 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

### **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.

The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Like so many things this Fall, the need for accommodations and the process for arranging them may be altered by the COVID-19 changes we are experiencing and the safety protocols currently in place. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible, to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. During the Fall 2020 semester, SAR will be conducting all appointments via ZOOM. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> 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. “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.

#### **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)

**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!**

## Course Schedule and Assignments

All modules must be completed in the order listed below. I will not open modules early or close modules past their deadline based on your personal schedule.

Module	Lectures (Book Chapters)	Exam	Quiz	Assignment	Module Open Date	Module Closing Date
1	<b>Getting Started</b> <b>Introduction Lecture Lesson (Introduction)</b> -What is Geography? -Maps -Regions <b>North America Lecture Lesson (Chapter 1)</b> -Physical Environment -Population -Cities	1	1	Homework Assignment 1	Jan. 11, 2021 (Monday) 9 am	Jan. 27, 2021 (Wednesday) midnight
2	<b>Middle America Lecture Lesson (Chapter 2)</b> -Physical Environment -Population and Economy -Film <b>South America Lecture Lesson (Chapter 3)</b> -Physical Environment -Cities -Geopolitics	2		Homework Assignment 2	Jan. 28, 2021 (Thursday) 9 am	Feb. 15, 2021 (Monday) midnight
3	<b>Europe Lecture Lesson (Chapter 4)</b> -Physical Environment -The People -Political and Economic Geography <b>Russia Lecture Lesson (Chapter 5)</b> -Physical Environment -The People -Russia Today	3		Homework Assignment 3	Feb. 16, 2021 (Tuesday) 9 am	Mar. 3, 2021 (Wednesday) midnight
4	<b>North Africa/SW Asia Lecture Lesson (Chapter 6)</b> -Physical Environment and Population -Geography of the Veil -Israel and Settlement <b>SubSaharan Africa Lecture Lesson (Chapter 7)</b> -Physical Environment -South Africa -Film	4		Homework Assignment 4	Mar. 4, 2021 (Thursday) 9 am	Mar. 29, 2021 (Monday) midnight
5	<b>South Asia Lecture Lesson (Chapter 8)</b> -Physical Environment and Population -Food and Spices <b>East Asia Lecture Lesson (Chapter 9)</b> -Physical Environment and Population -Language and Family -Film	5		Homework Assignment 5	Mar. 30, 2021 (Tuesday) 9 am	Apr. 14, 2021 (Wednesday) midnight
6	<b>Southeast Asia Lecture Lesson (Chapter 10)</b> -Physical Environment and Population -Tourism and Human Sex Trafficking <b>Austral Lecture Lesson (Chapter 11)</b> -Physical Environment and Aboriginals	6		Homework Assignment 6	Apr. 15, 2021 (Thursday) 9 am	April 30, 2021 (Friday) midnight

