

**Geography 3325: North American Geography**  
**Hybrid: 1/3 online and 2/3's face to face**  
**MW 11:15 to 12:10 am face to face**  
**Friday material will be online**

**CAS 104**  
**Spring 2024**

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor  
Office: CAS 142  
Office hours: MTW 9 to 10 am  
In Person, By Appointment, or Via Zoom  
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**Communications:** I encourage you to visit office hours in person or through zoom. You may also schedule an appointment. 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 3325.**

**Required Readings:** You may purchase the book at the UT Tyler bookstore or online from sites such as Amazon or Chegg.

1. Regional Geography of the United States and Canada by Daniel R Montello, Michael T. Applegarth, and Tom L. McKnight. 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2021.
2. Additional Readings will be posted to Canvas.

**Catalogue description:** Landscapes of the United States and Canada will be surveyed through a regional approach with emphasis on land use patterns, population dynamics, resources, and spatial interactions.

**Course objective:** The primary objective of this course is to introduce you to the urban, political, economic, physical, and cultural geographic issues of the United States and Canada. Although you will learn the locations of key places and landforms to become globally aware citizens, *this course's objective is not to promote or reward memorization*. Instead, you will be expected to be reflective, think critically, and write effectively on a variety of geographic topics. By the end of the course, you will be able to provide a geographical context for North American, to make spatial connections, and to understand the importance of geographical contexts in our everyday lives.

**Course format:** This is a hybrid class where 1/3 of the class will be online. Even though we will not meet in class on Friday's you will still be held accountable for material assigned for Friday's class. Class lectures and discussions will be supplemented by the required text, articles, current events, and videos. 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. A question you have other students might also have, and thoughtful remarks will make the course more interesting for everyone, including myself.

**Class Etiquette:** I expect everyone in the classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity – we have discussions about issues and topics that might challenge your worldview. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude.

**Content Warning:** Some of the readings and discussions in this class are emotional and controversial. I will do my best to provide a warning before we begin these discussions and readings. If you have any problems with the content, please see me to discuss.

**Exams and grading:** There will be three exams. Each exam is worth 20% each for a total of 60%. Instructions for the exams will be posted to Canvas and discussed in class. The first exam will cover material from the first part of the course, the second exam will cover material from the second part of the course, and the third exam will cover material from the third part of the of the course. Exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. Additionally, there will be a

Nimby Assignment, and a Picture Journal Assignment and Presentation, and Friday material that you will bring to class the following Monday (**see schedule below and Canvas for details and due dates**). At times during the semester, you will be accountable for material assigned for our Friday's online class. These assignments/materials are meant to aid discussion in class as well as to familiarize yourself with the topics. All the assignments will be posted and submitted through Canvas. The class will discuss the results of the assignments on the day it was submitted. Finally, you will compose and present a picture journal based on key geographic terms. The picture journal will be due toward the end of the semester with the last couple of class periods used to present your photographs informally and discuss the process (**see schedule below and Canvas for details and dues dates**).

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

Three exams 20% each	60%
Friday Online Activities (5)	12%
Picture Journal	25%
Participation (Discussion and Attendance)	3%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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*).

**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. **I will not be recording this class. 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](mailto: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>.

What we cover in the lecture on a day-to-day basis may differ from the attached schedule. I will inform the class if topics change. Instructions and Submissions for all assignments and readings will be on Canvas.

## Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Tentative Lectures and Activities	Readings Textbook, Websites, and Canvas
1	M	1/15	<b>MLK Day! No Class</b>	
1	W	1/17	Mapping the Course Lecture: Regions and Themes	Syllabus Chapter 1 of Textbook
1	F	1/19	Complete the assigned reading and podcast posted to Canvas. Come to class on Monday prepared to discuss	-Washington Post "Which of the 11 American Nations Do You Live In?" -NPR Podcast "Forget the 50 States; The U.S. Is Really 11 Nations Author Says"
2	M	1/22	Lecture: Cont. Regions and Themes <b>Discussion on Regions</b>	Chapter 5 of Textbook
2	W	1/24	Lecture: Physical Environment	Chapter 2 of Textbook
2	F	1/26	Watch PBS video and answer questions. Assignment posted to Canvas.	
3	M	1/29	Lecture: Physical Environment cont. <b>CENSUS DATE</b>	Chapter 2 of Textbook
3	W	1/31	Lecture: Historical and Cultural Landscapes	Chapter's 3 and 4 of Textbook
3	F	2/2	Explore website "Native Lands" link posted on Canvas and answer questions related to the map	
4	M	2/5	Lecture: Megalopolis	Chapter 8 of Textbook -"Downtown: A Short History of American Urban Exceptionalism"
4	W	2/7	Lecture: Cities	-"The Edge and the Center"
4	F	2/9	Watch film on cities posted to Canvas	
5	M	2/12	Discussion of Film Lecture: The Bypassed Northeast	Chapter 6 of Textbook
5	W	2/14	Lecture: The Canadian Corridor	Chapter 7 of Textbook
5	F	2/16	Posted to Canvas: Review for Exam 1	
6	M	2/19	<b>Exam 1</b>	
6	W	2/21	Lecture: Eastern Interior: Appalachia and Inland South (Ozarks)	Chapter 9 of Textbook -"The Razing of Appalachia: Mountaintop Removal Revisited"
6	F	2/23	Watch Harlan County USA posted to Canvas and answer the questions on Canvas	
7	M	2/26	Discuss Film Lecture Cont.: Eastern Interior: Appalachia and Inland South (Ozarks) Symbols and Symbolism	
7	W	2/28	Lecture: The New South	Chapter 10 of Textbook -"Rethinking the Boundaries of the

				South”
7	F	3/1	Review the assigned article on segregation in Tyler, Texas and be prepared to discuss on Monday	-“Race and Segregation” -“Hate Behind the Pine Curtain”
8	M	Mar 4	Discuss the assigned article Discuss Photo Journal	
8	W	3/6	Lecture: The Southern Coastlands	Chapter 11 of Textbook -“Louisiana’s Disappearing Coast”
8	F	3/8	NIMBY Assignment	
<b>SPRING BREAK NO CLASS Monday March 11 to Friday March 15</b>				
9	M	3/18	Nimby Assignment Due Lecture: The Heartland	Chapter 12 of Textbook -They’re Trying to Wipe US Off the Map.’ Small American Farmers Are Nearing Extinction”
9	W	3/20	Lecture: Plains and Prairies	Chapter 13 of Textbook
9	F	3/22	<b>Review for Exam 2</b>	
10	M	3/25	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10	W	3/27	Lecture: The Rocky Mountains	Chapter 14 of Textbook
10	F	3/29	Read Article on the Ogallala Aquifer and answer assigned questions	Read: Scientific America Article “The Ogallala Aquifer”
11	M	4/1	Ogallala Assignment Due Lecture: The Intermontane	Chapter 15 of Textbook
11	W	4/3	Lecture: California	Chapter 16 of Textbook -“LA Almanac”
11	F	4/5	Watch videos on Water Issues	Videos posted to Canvas
12	M	4/8	Lecture: Border Lands	
12	W	4/10	Lecture: The Pacific Northwest	Chapter 17 of Textbook
12	F	4/12	TBA	
13	M	4/15	Lecture: Hawaii	Chapter 18 of Textbook
13	W	4/17	Lecture: The Arctic <b>Exam 3 Review</b>	Chapter’s 19 and 20 of Textbook
13	F	4/19	<b>TBA</b>	
14	M	4/22	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
14	W	4/24	Picture Journal Due	
14	F	4/26	<b>TBA</b>	
15	M	4/29	<b>Finals Week No Class Study Day</b>	
15	W	5/1	No Class	
15	F	5/3	No Class	