

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 2026**

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: MWF 10:05 to 11:05 am

In Person, By Appointment, or Via Zoom

E-mail: esills@uttyler.edu ph:903-566-7442

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:

1. See **Canvas for textbook access:** Regional Geography of the United States and Canada by Daniel R Montello, Michael T. Applegarth, and Tom L. McKnight. 5th 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 America, 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% 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 course. Exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. Additionally, there will be 5

Friday material assignments 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 as well as the videos and readings that we will discuss but not be graded. 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 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**).

Grading scale:	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 (4)	12%
Picture Journal	25%
Participation (Discussion and Attendance)	3%
Total:	100%

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.**

Class AI Statement: In this course, we may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT and Copilot) to examine how these tools may inform our exploration of the class topics (i.e., used to brainstorm ideas). However, to best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text) for an assignment or classroom assignment. You will be notified as to when and how these tools will be used, along with guidance for attribution. Using AI tools outside of these parameters violates UT Tyler's Honor Code, constitutes plagiarism, and will be treated as such.

Please notify me if you are using translation software as these programs are often flagged by AI.

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get 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. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. [Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course\(s\).](#)

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 must 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 all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place 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 coursework 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 before 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.

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 meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then 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 yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

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 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 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 <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, 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. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

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 to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 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>.

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	1/12	Mapping the Course	Syllabus Chapter 1 of Textbook
1	W	1/14	Lecture: Regions and Themes	Chapter 5 of Textbook
1	F	1/16	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	1/19	MLK Day! No Class	
2	W	1/21	Discussion on Friday Activity Lecture: Physical Environment	Chapter 2 of Textbook
2	F	1/23	Watch PBS video (see link on Canvas)	
3	M	1/26	Discussion on Friday Activity Lecture: Cont. Physical Environment Lecture: Space and Place CENSUS DATE	
3	W	1/28	Lecture: Historical and Cultural Landscapes	Chapters 3 and 4 of Textbook
3	F	1/30	Graded Friday Activity. Explore website “Native Lands” link posted on Canvas and answer questions related to the map	
4	M	2/2	Due: Exploring Indigenous Knowledge and Mapping Discuss Exploring Indigenous Knowledge Lecture: Megalopolis	Chapter 8 of Textbook
4	W	2/4	Lecture: Cities	Read article posted to Canvas
4	F	2/6	Watch film on cities posted to Canvas	
5	M	2/9	Discuss film Wrap up lectures Review for Exam 1	
5	W	2/11	Exam 1: In Class	
5	F	2/13	Graded Friday Activity: Watch documentary on coal mining	
6	M	2/16	Lecture: The Bypassed Northeast	Chapter 6 of Textbook
6	W	2/18	Lecture: The Canadian Corridor	Chapter 7 of Textbook
6	F	2/20	Graded Friday Activity: Watch documentary on coal mining	
7	M	2/23	Due: Questions on Documentary about Coal Mining Lecture: Eastern Interior: Appalachia and Inland	Chapter 9 of Textbook

			South (Ozarks)	
7	W	2/25	Lecture: The New South	Chapter 10 of Textbook
7	F	2/27	Graded Friday Activity: NIMBY	
8	M	3/2	Lecture: Symbolism Discuss the assigned articles Discuss Photo Journal	Read article posted to Canvas
8	W	3/4	Lecture: The Southern Coastlands	Chapter 11 of Textbook Read article posted to Canvas
8	F	3/6	Graded Friday Activity: NIMBY	
SPRING BREAK NO CLASS Monday March 11 to Friday March 15				
9	M	3/16	Due: Graded Friday Activity: NIMBY	Chapter 12 of Textbook Read article posted to Canvas
9	W	3/18	Wrap-up lectures Review for Exam 2	
9	F	3/20	See Canvas for instructions	
10	M	3/23	Exam 2: In class	
10	W	3/25	Lecture: Plains and Prairies	Chapter 13 of Textbook
10	F	3/27	Graded Friday Activity: Ogallala Aquifer Read Article on the Ogallala Aquifer and answer assigned questions	Read article posted to Canvas
11	M	3/30	Due: Friday Activity: The Ogallala Aquifer Lecture: The Rocky Mountains	Chapter 14 of Textbook
11	W	4/1	Lecture: The Intermontane	Chapter 15 of Textbook
11	F	4/3	Watch videos on Water Issues	Videos posted to Canvas
12	M	4/6	Lecture: California	Chapter 16 of Textbook Read article posted to Canvas
12	W	4/8	Lecture: Border Lands	
12	F	4/10	Watch video posted to Canvas	
13	M	4/13	Lecture: The Pacific Northwest	Chapter 17 of Textbook
13	W	4/15	Lecture: The Arctic and Hawaii	Chapter's 18-20 of Textbook
13	F	4/17	TBA	
14	M	4/20	Due: Picture Journal Lecture Wrap-up Exam 3 Review	
14	W	4/22	Group Art Gallery	
14	F	4/24	TBA	
15	M	4/27	Final Exam: 10:15 to 12:15 AM	
15	W	4/29	Finals Week: No Class	
15	F	5/1	Finals Week: No Class	

