

Geography 1313-460: World Regional Geography
Online Course Summer II 2026 (July 6th to August 8th)

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: by appointment only (face-to-face or virtual)

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Communications: I encourage you to email me if you have pertinent questions or if you need clarification about the course. I will respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on the weekend.

Required texts:

1. World Regional Geography – People, Places, and Globalization. LibreTexts. Open Education Resource. Compiled 2023. Download Here or on Canvas
[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Geography_\(Human\)/Book%3A_World_Regional_Geography_-_People_Places_and_Globalization](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Geography_(Human)/Book%3A_World_Regional_Geography_-_People_Places_and_Globalization)
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 full-online course administered through Canvas. You must have reliable internet or visit a campus computer lab 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 or **Help** (contact through Canvas).

The course consists of four 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 this short summer semester. Many of the modules are open for about 8 to 9 days 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**).

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.

Class Etiquette: I expect everyone in the online classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude. When emailing me—your geography professor—you should address me by name as you would a boss or in a face-to-face class.

Course Requirements: For Modules 1-4, there will be four exams and four 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.
- The exception is Module 1 that has an introductory assignment so that I can get to know you. This assignment counts for extra credit.

Exams: There are four exams each worth 20%. 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 assignments. The exams are not cumulative and will only cover material from each individual module. The exams will consist of multiple choice, map questions, and true/false questions for a total of 100%. You will have **70 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.**

Online Exam Proctoring Requirement.

To ensure academic integrity, all exams in this course must be completed using a lockdown browser with webcam monitoring (e.g., Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor). During exams, students will be required to use a functional webcam and microphone, and may be recorded throughout the testing session. Students are responsible for ensuring their device meets all technical requirements prior to each exam. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in an inability to complete the exam and/or a grade of zero. Additional instructions and technical support resources will be posted to Canvas.

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

Grades:

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

Course weights:

Four Exams worth 20% each	80%
Four Assignments worth 5% each	20%
Total:	100%
Introduction Assignment:	2 points extra credit on final grade

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*).

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.utt Tyler.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.

Module	Lectures and Reading Assignments (Book Chapters)	Exam	Intro Assignment	Assignment	Module Open Date	Module Closing Date
1	Getting Started Introduction Lecture Lesson (Ch 1) -What is Geography? -Regions -Maps North America Lecture Lesson (Ch 4) -Physical Environment -Population -Cities	1	1	Assignment 1	July 6, 2026 (Monday) 9 am	July 13, 2026 (Monday) midnight
2	Middle America Lecture Lesson (Ch 5) -Physical Environment -Population -Economy South America Lecture Lesson (Ch 6) -Physical Environment -Population and Cities Europe Lecture Lesson (Ch 2) -Physical Environment -Political and Economic -Language and Population	2		Assignment 2	July 14, 2026 (Tuesday) 9 am	July 22, 2026 (Wednesday) midnight
3	Russia Lecture Lesson (Ch 3) -Physical Environment -Historical -Russia Today North Africa/SW Asia Lecture Lesson (Ch 8) -Physical Environment and Population -Geography of the Veil -Israel and Settlement SubSaharan Africa Lecture Lesson (Ch 7) -Colonialism -South Africa	3		Assignment 3	July 23, 2026 (Thursday) 9 am	July 30, 2026 (Thursday) midnight
4	South Asia Lecture Lesson (Ch 9) -Physical Environment -Population -Food and Spices East Asia Lecture Lesson (Ch 10) -Physical Environment and Historical -Language and Family Southeast Asia Lecture Lesson (Ch 11) -Physical Environment -Tourism and Human Sex Trafficking	4		Assignment 4	July 31, 2026 (Friday) 9 am	August 8, 2026 (Saturday) midnight