



**HIST 303.01E (#20498)
Historical Geography
Course Syllabus: Spring 2017**

Location and Time: SS 150, M/W/F 1:00 PM
Instructor: Dr. Andrew C. Baker
Office Location: Ferguson 106
Office Hours: M/W 2 – 4 pm, T/R 3:30 – 5:00 pm and by appointment
Office Phone: 903-468-8742
University Email Address: Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu

Required Materials

Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen, *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, 2012, ISBN 978-0-19-973150-3
Tom Standage, *A History of the World in Six Glasses*, Bloomsbury, 2005, ISBN: 978-0-8027-1552-4
Tim Marshall, *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World*, Scribner, 2015, ISBN: 978-1501121463
David R. Montgomery, *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*, 2nd Ed., University of California Press, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-520-27290-3

Course Description

A study of the various ways in which history has affected and has been affected by geography, including but not limited to physical, political, cultural, and environmental elements. Topics may include the emergence of ancient civilizations, the spread of Islam, and global commercial relations. An overall goal of this course is to prepare students for an interconnected world. As such, this course is designated as one which fulfills a global course requirement for the University’s Global Scholars and Global Fellow Programs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:
A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessment Rubric

Map Quizzes (8)	200
Book Reviews (2)	150
Test I	100
Test II	100
Border Project	100
World Tour Project	150
Commerce Project	100
<u>Participation</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	1000

Student Responsibilities

Classroom Participation

Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. Thoughtful participation means more than talking frequently, although this is encouraged. It means demonstrating both a knowledge of and a willingness to think critically about the assigned readings.

Students are encouraged to engage not only with the professor and the material, but also with each other where appropriate. Students must remain a respect for their colleagues at all times.

Technology

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)
Some course materials will be posted to the course website, managed through Pearson LearningStudio. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Do not engage in any of the following:

- Plagiarism: The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- Fabrication: Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Going online and taking information without proper citations, copying parts of other student's work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else's thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please come see me to clarify. Any cases of academic misconduct may be reported to university administration for violating the academic honesty requirements in the student handbook. They will also result in failure of the assignment in question and possibly for the course.

Writing Center:

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting papers. The Writing Center is an open resource available to all. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper.

Course Assignments

Writing Style and Citations

All papers submitted for the course should follow the History Department style guide posted on the department website. Failure to comply with these expectations in an assignment will detrimentally impact your grade.

Map Quizzes

There will be eight map quizzes during the semester. These will cover major features of the physical landscape (rivers, mountains, etc.) and political jurisdictions (cities, states, nations, etc.). These will be based lists available on the course eCollege site and will be matching.

Book Reviews

Each student is responsible for writing and bringing to class a hard copy of a 1000 word book review on two of the three assigned monographs (Montgomery, Standage, Marshall). This review should summarize the book's argument and critically engage with its content. Late papers will forfeit a letter grade per 24 hour period late. You must submit a copy to the eCollege dropbox for plagiarism checking.

Border Project

Each student will sign up for one of the "borders" from the provided list. Your task is to become an expert on the history of the political boundaries in question, including their past form, the reasons for their current shape, and the prospects for future change. Your bibliography must include at least five sources, three of which must be academic (peer reviewed). You should include a title page, footnotes, and a bibliography. After researching your topic, you will write a 4-5 page brief that summarizes your findings. You must include both a current and a past map as an addendum (properly cited). We will discuss your reports in class. Only one student per border.

World Tour Project

Each student will select a UNESCO World Heritage Site from the official list (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>). You will research the site and submit an annotated bibliography containing at least one of each of the following: a government/NGO source, a popular source, and an academic source. The bibliography is due two weeks before your presentation when indicated in the syllabus. This is in addition to any materials found on the UNESCO site. You will be introducing this site to your classmates using 15 minutes of class time. Your presentation should touch on the places' location, history, physical geography, distinctiveness, and significance to multiple audiences. You will submit a lesson plan/script a week before the presentation. Time limits will be strictly enforced. Each student will sign up for one of the in-class presentation days and must choose a site that fits with the day's given theme. No more than three students may go on any given day.

Commerce Project

One of the goals of this course is to bring geographical analysis to bear on our immediate surroundings. As such, students will conduct a spatial research project related to the historical geography of Commerce, Texas. More details to follow.

Tests

There will be two tests consisting of essay questions. Test questions will come from course lectures, discussions, and assigned documents.

Global Scholars

If any student is seeking the designation of "Global Scholar," the World Tour project and presentation is the assignment/assessment you must upload to get credit for this course as a Global Connections class. Each student working toward becoming a Global Scholar must upload their QEP assessment into their ePortfolio at <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/administrativeOffices/studentAccessAndSuccess/QualityEnhancementPlan/global-scholar.aspx>. Since this assignment is not a traditionally-defined essay, I highly suggest that the student include the entire assignment packet (cover letter, presentation materials, script, and bibliography) in the upload to the ePortfolio file.

Procedures and Policies

Drop/Withdrawal

If you decide that you need to drop or withdrawal from this course, it is your responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork. I will not drop you from the course if you stop

attending. See the registrar's website for the last day to drop the course without a grade and the last day to Q-Drop.

Electronic Devices

Students are permitted to bring laptop computers to class for the purpose of note taking. Students are NOT permitted, however, to check e-mail, use the internet, complete other assignments, update facebook profiles, or use their computer or cell phone for any purpose other than taking notes unless expressly instructed to by the professor. Please silence your phones when you arrive each day.

Email Communication

All course communications will come through your university email account. Be sure to check it regularly. You should contact me through my TAMU-C email address (Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu). I check my email regularly between 8 am and 5 pm Monday – Saturday. I do not check my campus email on Sunday. A failure of planning on your part does not constitute a crisis on my part.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vital so success in the course. Each unexcused absence after the fourth will result in a loss of 30 points from a student's participation grade. Only medical and family emergencies and university approved absences will be excused. Normal sickness does not qualify as an emergency and will only be excused with a doctor's note. Students are expected to obtain class notes from fellow students when absent. Students who show up more than ten minutes late to class will be considered absent for that day.

Late and Make-up Work

Make-up tests will only be offered in the case of an excused absence as described above. Students who anticipate university-approved absences must make arrangements to complete the work at an alternate time. Late work will be penalized a letter grade per day late (including weekends) to a maximum penalty of half credit.

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus is a plan, not a contract. Circumstances and events, including student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced as far in advance as is practicable.

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Course Schedule

January 17	Course Introduction
January 19	Thinking like a Geographer
January 22	Thinking like a Geographer Map Quiz #1: Pacific
January 24	Geography's Modern Legacy: Russia Reading: Marshall, Chapter 1
January 26	Geography's Modern Legacy: China and the US Reading: Marshall, Chapter 2-3
January 29	Beer, Wine, Rum, Slavery, and the Atlantic World Reading: Sandage, <i>Six Glasses</i> , Chapters 1-6 World Tour Signups
January 31	Beer, Wine, Rum, Slavery, and the Atlantic World Map Quiz #2: Latin America/Caribbean
February 2	Latin America /Greater Caribbean Reading: Marshall, Chapter 9
February 5	Tea, Coffee, the British Empire, and You World Tour I Bibliography/Proposal Due Reading: Sandage, <i>Six Glasses</i> , Chapters 7-10 http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/04/24/178625554/how-coffee-influenced-the-course-of-history http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/04/24/177757797/coffee-for-a-cause-what-do-those-feel-good-labels-deliver http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/04/22/177975138/how-coffee-brings-the-world-together
February 7	South and Central Asia

	Reading: Marshall, Chapter 7
	Map Quiz #3: South and Central Asia
February 9	Coca-Cola and Globalization
	Reading: Sandage, <i>Six Glasses</i> , Chapters 11-12
	Sandage Review Due
February 12	World Tour I: Pacific, Latin America, South Asia
	Border Project Explanation and Sign Up
February 14	World Tour I: Pacific, Latin America, South Asia
February 16	Borders and Migration
	Reading: Diner and Hagen, Intro, Chapters 1-3
February 19	Borders and Migration II
	Reading: Diner and Hagen, Chapters 4-6
	World Tour II Bibliography/Proposal Due
February 21	Borders and Africa catchup day
February 23	Sub-Saharan Africa
	Reading: Marshall, Chapter 5
February 26	Sub-Saharan Africa
	Elizabeth Garland, "The Elephant in the Room: Confronting the Colonial Character of Wildlife Conservation in Africa"
	http://www.jstor.org/stable/27667379
	Map Quiz #4: Africa
February 28	Border Project Discussion
	Border Project Due
March 2	Middle East and North Africa in a Day
	Map Quiz #5: Middle East
March 5	Middle East and North Africa in a Day
	Reading: Marshall, Chapter 6
March 7	Test 1
March 9	World Tour II: Middle East and Africa
	World Tour III Bibliography/Proposal Due
March 12	Spring Break
March 14	Spring Break
March 16	Spring Break
March 19	World Tour II: Middle East and Africa
March 21	Europe
	Reading: Marshall, Chapter 4
	Map Quiz #6: Europe
March 23	Teaching Europe through Geography
March 26	World Tour Day III: Europe and the Atlantic

March 28	World Tour Day III: Europe and the Atlantic
March 30	Dirt and Agriculture Reading: Montgomery, <i>Dirt</i> , Preface, Chapters 1-3
April 2	Erosion, Population, and Civilization Reading: Montgomery, <i>Dirt</i> , Chapters 4-5
April 4	Easter Island and the Future of Civilization Reading: Montgomery, <i>Dirt</i> , Chapters 8-10 World Tour IV Bibliography/Proposal Due Montgomery Review Due
April 6	Southeast and East Asia Map Quiz #7: SE and E Asia Reading: Marshall, Chapter 8 Marshall Review Due
April 9	Teaching Southeast and East Asia through Geography
April 11	World Tour Day IV: Central, Southeast, and East Asia
April 13	World Tour Day IV: Central, Southeast, and East Asia
April 16	World Tour Discussion (Themes and Teaching Practice)
April 18	North American Geography Introduction Map Quiz #8: North America Introduce Mapping Commerce Project
April 20	North American Geography Introduction
April 23	Landscapes and American Identity Homework: American Landscape Image Due Read: Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History", 1893 (online)
April 25	Researching Commerce Meet in TAMU-C Special Collections, 4 th Floor, Gee Library Watch: http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi898407193
April 27	Seeing Like A Geographer Reading: James Scott, <i>Seeing Like a State</i> , 52-83 (eBook through Gee Library) Come prepared to discuss a map of your choice from texaslandscape.org
April 30	Race and Space in US History Read: Richard H. Schein, ed., <i>Landscape and Race in the United States</i> (1-12) https://liblion.tamuc.edu/record=b2576170~S1
May 2	Landscapes of Memory and Memorial Read: Richard H. Schein, ed., <i>Landscape and Race in the United States</i> (187-211) https://liblion.tamuc.edu/record=b2576170~S1
May 4	Catch-up Day Mapping Commerce Project Tour (Time TBD)

Final Exam

Mapping Commerce Project Due
Date and Time TBA