

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY
HIST 3302-01-10679-GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT IN HISTORY
FALL 2016

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday: 1:00 – 2:00 pm or by appointment

Course Time: Tuesday-Thurs. 10:50 am-12:05 pm
Classroom: ARHU 177
Office: ARHU 346 B

Course Description

This course is a comprehensive survey of social, economic, political, cultural and geographical factors influencing the course of world history. Emphasis will be on thematic and content material. The course will focus on the environmental changes in the course of history and how these changes impact the geography, culture and human history. It will also cover the human impact on environment and various ecosystems along with the river systems and their connections to civilization-creation, trade roads and migration patterns that were triggered by shifting environmental changes.

Overall, the course will combine cultural developments in geographical regions using the competencies identified for TEXES teaching certificates. As the basis of this course, we will develop our geographic understanding of the cultural regions of the world. As an historian, I do plan to add historical information for each region of the world.

Course Objectives

- Students who take this class will be able to identify in written form various physical regions of the earth using the features of these regions such as river systems, climate and vegetation types.
- Students who take this class will be able to demonstrate in written form the knowledge of ecosystem, climate and landform patterns and their features and how these patterns evolve.
- Students who take this class will be able to demonstrate in written form the knowledge of main river systems, cultural and environmental features of world regions.
- Students who take this class will be able to analyze the relationship between human groups and geography and assess in written form how changes in climate, environment and ecosystems impact social, economic and political developments.
- Students who take this class will be able to demonstrate knowledge of (TEKS) Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for 7th – 12th grade (Social Studies).

Required Texts

Les Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price & William Wyckoff, *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development* (Boston: Pearson, 2015, 6th Edition) ISBN: 0321-910060.

As the course must cover a number of issues that cannot be examined solely from the perspective of a few works, some shorter works, articles and translation of primary documents will be available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements & Assignments

8 Assignments (20 points): You will receive a total of 8 assignments. Your 3 worst grades will be dropped from the final calculation. You will complete the assigned reading, answer the questions and submit them in class. Most of the assignments will require reading and analyzing primary documents. You will read the document and answer the questions. Analyzing primary documents requires background knowledge of the subject. You are advised to read the related section on your textbook.

Grading Assignments: Every assignment will be graded based on its focus, content, accuracy, adequacy and interpretation. You may receive up to 4 points for each assignment. Incomplete, inaccurate or unsatisfactory assignments will get lower points. Assignments will make up total 20 points toward your final grade.

Analytical Essay (30 points): During the semester you will write one analytical essay. Essay-writing guidelines and all related handouts will be posted on Blackboard.

2 Quizzes (10 points): There will be 2 short quizzes.

Midterm Examination (20 points): The midterm exam will include essay questions. The exam will cover all material presented during the first half of the course, including readings and notes.

Final Examination (20 points): The final exam will also include essay questions. The exam will cover all material presented during the second half of the course, including readings and notes.

Course Policies

Grading Policy: I will grade all assignments and exams within 10 days. Essays will be graded within 20 days.

Analytical Essay	(30 %)	2 Quizzes	(5x2=10 %)
Midterm Examination	(20%)	Assignments	(20 %)
Final Examination	(20 %)		

A= 90 and Above B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 59-69 F= Below 59

Class Participation & Attendance: You will participate in weekly discussions of the required texts and other books or articles as assigned. You are expected to participate in class discussions. You should come to class prepared and have done as much of the reading as you can. Showing a consistent lack of preparation will hurt your prospects for success in this class in all of its facets. No more than 2 excused absences are allowed. If you have to miss a session, you should notify me in advance. You may be dropped from the course if you miss more than 3 meetings. Be aware of and keep up with the Course Schedule in the Syllabus. Participate in activities to the best of your ability.

Course Drops: If you miss two consecutive assignments in a row, you may be dropped from the course. According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Communication and Netiquette: Students in online courses should use the email system in Blackboard Learn. I will answer all emails within 48 hours. Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted through the students' official University supplied UTRGV email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned email for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. You are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email that are blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.

All students must have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references to support their thesis and ideas in the assignments.

Late Work and Make Ups: Quizzes, Midterm and Final Exam will remain on Blackboard until its due date. Once they are removed from Blackboard you will not have access to exams. Make-up exams will be given only if you provide a documented emergency situation that had prevented you from completing the exam. No make-up exam will be given online. If you miss an exam, you must come to my office to take your exam. There is no make up for missed group discussion and primary document assignments. No extensions are allowed for late essays except in extreme circumstances, which MUST be documented.

Incomplete Policy: Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if you have a documented emergency. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 30 days.

Grading Assignments and Exams: I will grade and give feedback on all assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final exams within 10 days. Essays will be graded within 20 days.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV

Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time.

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

Mandatory Course Evaluation Period: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Oct 5 – Oct 12 for Module 1 courses

Dec 1 – Dec 7 for Module 2 courses

Nov 18 – Dec 8 for full fall semester courses

Course policies are subject to change: It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in Blackboard.

Topics & Schedule

August 30- September 1: Introduction to the course: geography and environment in World history, competencies. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 1.

September 6: Class meets at UTRGV Ballroom for ISMER Conference.

September 8: Physical Geography and Environment. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 2. **Assignment 1!**

September 13-15: North America. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 3. **Assignment 2!**

September 20-22: Latin America and the Caribbean. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 4 and 5. **Assignment 3!**

September 27-29: Sub-Saharan Africa. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 6.

September 29: **QUIZ 1!!!**

October 4-6: Southwest Asia and North Africa. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 7. **Assignment 4!**

October 11-13: Europe. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 8.

October 18: Midterm Exam Review

October 20: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION!!!**

October 25-27: Russian Domain. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 9. **Assignment 5!**

November 1-3: Central Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 10. **Assignment 6!**

November 8-10: East Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 11. **Assignment 7!**

November 15-17: South Asia **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 12.

November 17: **QUIZ 2!!!**

November 22: Southeast Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 13.

November 24: **Thanksgiving Holiday!**

November 29-December 1: Australia & Oceania. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 14. **Assignment 8!**

November 29: **ANALYTICAL ESSAY DUE!!**

December 6: Final Exam Review.

FINAL EXAMINATION !!! TBA