

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY
HIST 3302-9OL-28583-GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT IN
HISTORY
FALL 2018

Instructor: Dr. Tamer Balci
Telephone: (956) 665-8785
E-mail: tamer.balci@utrgv.edu
Office Hours: Friday: 9:30 – 10:30 am in office or by appointment

Course Time: Online
Classroom: Blackboard
Office: ELABS 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. *Hist 3300 is a prerequisite for this course for only History majors.*

Course Objectives

- Students who take this class will be able to identify in written form different aspects of globalization and describe how globalization impacts world geography and ecosystem.
- 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, 2017, 7th Edition. ISBN: 978-0134539423).

Note: 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.

Hist 3302 Facebook: Some information and up to date news about Geography and Environment in History will be shared through course facebook wall. Click like on the page after you access it through: <https://www.facebook.com/drtamberbalci/>

Student Expectations

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| -Participate in 4 Group Discussions | -Complete 4 Assignments |
| -Complete 2 Quizzes | -Complete 1 Midterm |
| -Complete 1 Analytical Essay | -Complete 1 Final Exam |

Course Requirements & Assignments

4 Group Discussions: You will receive a total of 4 group discussion assignments. I will post questions from the assigned reading of that week/module. You will complete the assigned readings, answer the questions and submit them on Blackboard Discussion Forum. You will also engage in discussing the subject by providing feedback to other classmates' posts. You will receive at least five days to complete each assignment.

You will find two types of discussion forums in the course Blackboard site:

Assignment Forums: These forums are related to collaborative and discussion assignments, as described in Learning Module sections. My role in discussion forums is that of a facilitator. I will occasionally correct misconceptions and/or redirect conversations that need redirecting. I may also post comments following the completion of discussion indicating my general impressions of the comments and conclusions.

General Help Discussion Forum: Post any questions or comments you may have about course technical issues to this forum. If you have a question about course content or mechanics, I encourage you to post it to the General Help discussion forums. Doing so gives all in the course an opportunity to help one another and allows everyone to benefit from answers to your questions. If your question is a personal one, you can email me separately.

4 Assignments: You will receive a total of 4 individual assignments. You will complete the assigned reading, answer the questions and submit them on Blackboard. 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.

2 Quizzes: There will be two short online quizzes. You will take them on Blackboard.

1 Midterm Examination: The exam will cover all material presented during the first half of the course, including readings and notes. You will take the exam on Blackboard.

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

1 Final Examination: The exam will cover all material presented during the second half of the course, including readings and notes. You will take the exam on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policy: I will grade all assignments and exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days. You can access your grades through My Grades link on Blackboard.

4 Group Discussions (4x25=100 Points)

2 Quizzes (2x50=100 Points)

4 Assignments (4x50=200 Points)

1 Analytical Essay (200 Points)

1 Midterm Exam (200 Points)

1 Final Exam (200 Points)

Total: 1000 Points

A: 900 points or more

B: 800 to 899 points

C: 700 to 799 points

D: 600 to 699 points

F: Below 600 points

Technical Requirements: By taking an online course you accept that you will take the necessary online training, posted on Blackboard, to fulfill course requirements. You are advised to contact directly to Center for Online Learning Teaching and Technology (COLT) for difficulties. I will not provide any technical guidance about how to use Blackboard. **COLT Contact Info:** coltthelp@utrgv.edu or through <http://utrgv.edu/online>. Phone **Brownsville:** (956) 882-6792, **Edinburg:** (956) 665-5327.

Computer Hardware: To participate in this online course, you should have easy access to a computer less than 3-years old with high-speed internet connection via cable modem, LAN or DSL. To ensure you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please refer to Supported Browsers, Plugins & Operating Systems for Blackboard Learn from Blackboards resource page.

Student Technical Skills: You are expected to be proficient with installing and using basic computer applications and have the ability to send and receive email attachments.

Software: Microsoft Office's Internet Explorer (latest version), Mozilla's Firefox (latest version; Macintosh or Windows), Adobe's Flash Player & Reader plug-in (latest version), Apple's QuickTime plug-in (latest version), Virus protection, Microsoft Office.

Attendance and Participation: This is an online course. There will not be regular scheduled meetings. Online courses require your active participation. Here are some tips for success:

- In discussion forums, you learn from one another by posing questions, justifying your comments, and providing multiple perspectives. When you prepare for discussions through thoughtful reflection, you contribute to your own successful learning experience as well as to the experience of your peers.
- Log in to the course frequently (at least several times per week for long semesters and daily for summer sessions) and check the announcements. This will keep you apprised of any course updates, progress in discussions, assignment information, and messages requiring immediate attention.
- Failure to access Blackboard may cause you to miss an assignment or an exam.
- Be aware of and keep up with the Course Schedule in the Syllabus.

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 TWO BUSINESS days. 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 their 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 discussions and 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 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS 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.

Student Services: Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

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 on or about:

Module 1 October 4 – 10
Module 2 November 29 – December 5
Full Fall Semester November 15 – December 5

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

MODULE 1: Week 1: August 27-31, Week 2: September 3-7

August 27-31: Introduction to the course: geography and environment in World history, competencies. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 1. **Group Discussion 1!**

September 3-7: Physical Geography and Environment. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 2. **Assignment 1!**

MODULE 2: Week 3: September 10-14, Week 4: Sept. 17-21 Week 5: Sept. 24-28

September 10-14: North America. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 3.

September 17-21: Latin America. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 4. **Assignment 2!**

September 24-28: The Caribbean. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 5.

September 28: QUIZ 1!!!

MODULE 3: Week 5: October 1-5, Week 6: October 8-12, Week 7: October 15-19

October 1-5: Sub-Saharan Africa. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 6.

October 8-12: Southwest Asia and North Africa. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 7. **Group Discussion 2!**

October 15-19: MIDTERM EXAMINATION!!!

**MODULE 4: Week 8: October 22-26, Week 9: October 29-November 2, Week 10:
November-5-9**

October 22-26: Europe. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 8.

October 29-November 2: Russian Domain. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 9. **Assignment 3!**

November-5-9: Central Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chp 10. **Group Discussion 3!**

MODULE 5: Week 10: November 12-16, Week 11: November 19-21

November 12-16: East Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chp 11. **Assignment 4!**

November 19-21: South Asia **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 12. **QUIZ 2!!!**

MODULE 6: November 26-30, December 3-5

November 26-30: Southeast Asia. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 13.

November 30: ANALYTICAL ESSAY DUE!!

December 3-5: Australia & Oceania. **Reading:** *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Chapter 14. **Group Discussion 4!**

Final Examination Due: Friday, December 7, 10:00 pm on Blackboard