



## **HIST 303.01E Historical Geography**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021 (#82418)

Ferguson SS 310, MWF 9:00-9:50 AM

Updated August 9, 2021

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Andrew C. Baker

Office Location: Ferguson 106

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-3:00 and by appointment

Office Phone: 903-468-8742

University Email Address: Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours (excluding weekends)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Required Materials**

Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen, *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, 2012, ISBN 978-0-19-973150-3

Tom Standage, *An Edible History of Humanity*, Bloomsbury, 2009, ISBN: 978-08027-1991-1

Tim Marshall, *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World*, Scribner, 2015, ISBN: 978-1501121463

Bartow J. Elmore, *Citizen Coke: The Making of Coca-Cola Capitalism*. Norton, 2015, ISBN: 978-0-393-35334-1.

#### **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. This course prepares students for an interconnected world and therefore fulfills a global course requirement for the University's Global Scholars and Global Fellow Programs.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will identify, construct, and support an argument using secondary sources.
2. Students will apply spatial analysis to understanding historical cause and effect.
3. Students will cite sources in proper Turabian format.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

### **Instructional Methods**

This instructional format for this class is in-person, web-enhanced. We will hold course meetings in our assigned classroom (Ferguson SS 310) at 9 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday except where indicated in the course schedule. These course meetings will consist of interactive lectures, discussions, and project presentations. These course meetings will not be recorded. Remote attendance will not be offered. Additional course materials will be available asynchronously through D2L under the *content* tab. The course schedule is organized by week, with assignments, quizzes, and exams being due by Saturday (11:30 PM) each week unless otherwise indicated. All readings and posts should be completed by the Monday meeting of the week they are listed in preparation for in-class discussion. Quizzes and tests are timed and will be administered through D2L's *quiz* tab.

In the event of a campus closure, class meetings will move to Zoom (facilitated through D2L) at the standard class time. In the event of a cancelled class meeting for which an alternate Zoom meeting is not possible, the instructor will create a discussion post based on the day's topic to serve as an alternate assignment for affected students.

Frequent, clear communication is essential to students doing well in this course. I strive to be flexible and understanding in meeting student needs. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I am available to meet with students to discuss class content, expectations, and other relevant topics through virtual (zoom) or in-person office hours (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-3:00 and by appointment).

### **Departmental Orientation and Guides**

The history department has uploaded orientation materials to the department's history major D2L shell (HIST 500). These materials are available to assist you in learning the basic skills, professional norms, and departmental expectations for history majors. Please consult them as needed throughout the semester. All materials submitted for the course should follow the History Department style guide and the information presented in the department's orientation available through the D2L majors page. Failure to comply with these expectations in an assignment will negatively impact your grade.

### **Classroom Participation**

Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. Thoughtful participation is not necessarily the same as talking frequently. It means demonstrating a knowledge of the material, a willingness to think critically, and, most importantly, a willingness to learn from others. Humility and trust are essential virtues in the classroom. Students are encouraged to engage not only with the professor and the material, but also with each other where appropriate.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Assessments</b>	
Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:	Map Quizzes (8)	200
A = 895-1000 Points	Discussion Posts (8x15)	120
B = 795-894 Points	Tests (4x70)	280
C = 695-794 Points	Border Project	100
D = 595-694 Points	World Tour Project	100
F = 000-594 Points	Commerce Project	100
	Participation	100
	Total	1000

### **Assignments**

#### 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 taken through the D2L *quiz* portal and will be based on location lists and maps available under the *content* tab of the D2L site. These quizzes will be matching. Students are encouraged to review using <https://online.seterra.com/en>

#### Posts

Where indicated in the course schedule students will be responsible for submitting a post in response to the question provided under the course “discussions” tab. Student posts should be at least 200 words and should fully answer the question using course readings and lecture material. All sources should be cited using turabian footnotes. While these assignments will be completed within the D2L “discussion” forums, you are not responsible for submitting responses to other student’s submissions. Posts are due by class time on the date indicated in the course schedule. Posts will be graded using a rubric as explained on D2L.

#### Tests

There will be four non-cumulative tests (including the final exam) consisting of essay questions. Answers should draw on course lectures, discussions, and assigned readings and will be administered through D2L. Students may have access to their notes and the assigned readings as they compose their answers. No material from outside the course may be used. Provide proper citation for all quotations.

#### Border Project

Each student will sign up for one of the “borders” from the provided list on D2L. 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. Students should conduct research into historical monographs, peer-reviewed journal articles, and government resources. Your bibliography must include at least five sources, three of which must be academic (peer reviewed). After researching your topic, you will write a 4-5 page brief that summarizes your findings. Your paper should include a title page, footnotes, and a bibliography. 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. Submit your paper to D2L dropbox.

### World Tour Project / Peer Review

Each student will select a UNESCO World Heritage Site from the official list (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>). Your selection must have a cultural geography component and must be located outside the USA and Europe. You will research the site and submit a proposal and annotated bibliography containing at least one of each of the following: a government/NGO source (not counting UNESCO), a popular source, and an academic source. This bibliography is due through D2L a week before your presentation. You will produce a 15-20 minute video introducing this site to your classmates. This presentation should touch on the places' location, history, physical geography, distinctiveness, and significance to multiple audiences. This video should also be submitted through D2L's *discussion* feature in order to allow each student to view it and provide feedback.. In addition, each presenter will submit a polished (and footnoted) script through the *assignment* tab in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the site and their use of sources.

### Downtown 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 historical research project related to the historical geography of downtown Commerce, Texas. Each student will sign up to research a particular downtown location. Students will conduct research through Waters Library Archives and Special Collections, local history resources, digital resources, and on-site research on their location. Students will compose and submit a 300-500 word history including at least two media items (historical image, audio, film, map, etc.). These assignments should be submitted through D2L. Students are also encouraged to submit their assignment for possible inclusion in the East Texas History App (EastTexasHistory.org). See the guide and rubric on D2L for more information.

### Participation

One of my goals in this course is to foster an academic community where we each learn from each other and where we practice civic and academic virtue. This means showing up to class on time, preparing to engage the subject at hand, and being willing to both speak and listen to your professor and colleagues. Your participation grade will be assessed based on my perception of your willingness to model this type of academic engagement.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>August 30-September 3</b>
August 30	Course Philosophy/Reading Maps
September 1	History, Geography, Historical Geography
September 3	No Class
Recordings	UNESCO Project
Readings	Syllabus/D2L

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Post Due	Student introduction post to D2L UNESCO signup
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>September 6-10</b>
September 6	No Class – Labor Day
September 8	Geopolitics
September 10	Climate History Part 1
Recordings	Realms: Pacific and Antarctica
Readings	Marshall, Chapters 1-3, 10
Post	Marshall (September 8)
Due	World Tour 1 (Pacific, Middle East, and Africa) Proposal Due Map Quiz: Pacific
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>September 13-17</b>
September 13	Climate History Part 2
September 15	Anthropocene?
September 17	Landforms
Recordings	Border Project Explanation
Readings	Peter Brannen, “The Dark Secrets of the Earth’s Deep Past,” <i>The Atlantic</i> March 2021, 60-75 ( <a href="#">online</a> ).
Post	Climate History (September 13)
Due	Map Quiz: Landforms Border Project Sign-up World Tour 1 (Pacific and Africa) Due
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>September 20-24</b>
September 20	Neolithic Revolution
September 22	Territory and States
September 24	Reading Standage
Readings:	Standage 1-4
Due	Test 1
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>September 27-October 1</b>
September 27	Borders: Nation States
September 29	Borders: Migration
October 1	Borders: the book
Recordings	Realms: Africa
Readings	Diner and Hagen (all); Marshall 5
Post	Borders (September 27)
Due	Map Quiz: Africa
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>October 4-8</b>

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October 4	Exploration: Map to Globe
October 6	Globalization
October 8	Border Project Day
Readings Due	Standage, Chapters 5-7 Border Project Map Quiz #4: Latin America/Caribbean
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>October 11-15</b>
October 11	Columbian Exchange
October 13	Invasive Species and Widowed Landscapes
October 15	Conservation, Preservation, and Rewilding
Recording Readings	Realms: Latin America Marshall 9 Elizabeth Garland, "The Elephant in the Room: Confronting the Colonial Character of Wildlife Conservation in Africa" <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/27667379">http://www.jstor.org/stable/27667379</a> (p51-61)
Post Due	Conservation and Colonialism (October 15) World Tour 2 (Latin America) Proposal Due Map Quiz: Latin America
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>October 18-22</b>
October 18	Disease: Smallpox
October 20	Disease: Malaria and Yellow Fever
October 22	No Class
Recordings Readings Due	Realms: Europe Marshall, 4 Map Quiz Europe World Tour 2 (Latin America) Due Test 2
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>October 25-29</b>
October 25	Food: Malthus and Population
October 27	Food: The Potato
October 29	Food: The Green Revolution
Recordings Readings:	South and Central Asia Standage, Chapter 7-12 Marshall 7
Post Deadlines:	Standage (October 27) Map Quiz South and Central Asia World Tour 3 (Asia) Proposal
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>November 1-5</b>

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November 1	The City and History
November 3	The City and Geography
November 5	The Commerce Project
Recordings	Realms: North America
	Commerce Project Explanation
Due	Map Quiz North America
	World Tour 3 (Asia) Due
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>November 8-12</b>
November 8	Landscapes and Identity
November 10	Landscapes and Memory
November 12	Research Day – Waters Library
Readings	Richard H. Schein, ed., <i>Landscape and Race in the United States</i> (187-211) <a href="https://liblion.tamuc.edu/record=b2576170~S1">https://liblion.tamuc.edu/record=b2576170~S1</a>
Post	Monument Avenue (November 10)
Due	Test 3
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>November 15-19</b>
November 15	Commodities in History
November 17	Rivers and History
November 19	Reading Elmore
Readings	Elmore intro, 1, 3 and your assigned chapter (2/4/5)
Post	Elmore Assigned Chapter (November 19)
Due	Commerce Project draft due
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>November 22-26</b>
November 22	Dams and History
November 24	Thanksgiving Break
November 26	Thanksgiving Break
Recordings	Realms: Middle East
Readings:	Marshall 6
Deadlines:	Map Quiz Middle East
	Commerce Project final draft due
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>November 29-December 3</b>
November 29	Sugar and Slavery
December 1	Sugar and Industry
December 3	Elmore Discussion
Readings	Elmore chapter 6 and assigned chapter (7-9)
Post	Elmore Assigned Chapter (December 3)
Due	World Tour 4 (Middle East/N.Africa) Proposal

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<b>Week 15</b>	<b>December 6-10</b>
December 6	Fossil Fuels
December 8	Copper and Electricity
December 10	Catch-up Day
Recording Readings Due	Realms: Southeast and East Asia Marshall 8 Map Quiz: Southeast and East Asia World Tour 4 (Middle East/N.Africa) Due
Final Exam	Wednesday, December 15 Test 4 due, Class wrap-up discussion

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

### ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

#### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

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<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **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 – Friday. I do not check my campus email on Sunday. A failure of planning on your part does not constitute a crisis on my part.

### **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Statement on Student Grievances**

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/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.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is vital so success in the course. Unexcused absences will impact your participation grade for the semester. Only medical and family emergencies and university approved absences will be excused. If you anticipate any difficulties attending course sessions, please be proactive in contacting the professor.

### **Late 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. Unexcused late work will be penalized a letter grade per day late (excluding weekends) to a maximum penalty of half credit.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as 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 in advance.

### **Global Scholars**

Students in this course are encouraged to pursue designation as a Global Scholar as follows:

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Applications for status as a Global Scholar are available through ManeSync during each fall semester. Students who completed the GCAA in their freshman experience course, have earned 55 hours and maintained a 3.3 GPA will be notified in their fifth semester of enrollment at the university.

1. The QEP committee and Global Fellows will review the application, essay, and reflection documents of each student and rate using an established Rubric. Student can opt in or out of consideration for the Global Scholar travel award.
2. Based on participation and documentation, students are selected and awarded status as Global Scholar.
3. From the applicants, a maximum of 20 students are selected to receive a travel scholarship for their choice of existing travel options through the International Programs Office.
4. All students receiving a travel scholarship are expected to share their experiences during the semester following travel and are also required to assist with the spring induction banquet.

The application is accessed through ManeSync within the "Future Global Scholars" group.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **Health and Safety**

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- 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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **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 Statement**

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

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