



**GDRS425-01E Gender, Culture, Society: World Travel & Travel Writing**

**MWF 10-10:50am EDS131**

**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mylynka Cardona

*You may address me as either Professor Cardona or Dr. Cardona*

**Office Location:** SS146

**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed 2-4:30pm and by appointment

**Phone (call or text):** 262.724.6870

**University Email Address:**

mylynka.cardona@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:**

TAMUC email

**Communication Response Time:** 24-48 hours

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Required Texts**

- Byerly, *Are We There Yet?* (2012). ISBN: 9780472051861
- Gosch & Stearns, *Premodern Travel in World History* (2008) ISBN: 9780415229418
- Hodgson, *Dreaming of East* (2006) ISBN: 9781553652045
- Mackintosh-Smith, Ed. *Travels of Ibn Battutah*, Macmillan Collector's Library (2016), ISBN: 978-1909621473
- Poska, *Gendered Crossings: Women and Migration in the Spanish Empire* (2016), ISBN: 978-0826356437
- Weaver, *Exploration: Very Short Introduction* (2015) ISBN: 9780199946952
- Zheutlin, *Around The World On Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride*, (2007), ISBN: 978-0806530666

Additional readings and other materials will be posted electronically (in D2L) or distributed in class

Software Required – D2L BrightSpace/MyLeoOnline

Optional Texts and/or Materials -

Notebook and pen/pencil or laptop/tablet for in-class note taking  
 Smartphone or other internet-accessible device for in-class assessments

Course Description**GDRS 425 - Gender, Culture, Society****Hours: 3**

Through various topics, themes, and readings, this course explores issues in gender, culture, and society that highlight the complex ways that gender is manifested in various cultures from historical, contemporary, and global perspectives. This course offers a variety of interdisciplinary approaches to assessing the role that gender plays in social and cultural development. May be repeated for credit as topics change.

Specifically, in this course we will examine the role of travel and travel writing in world history. We will look at who travels, why they travel, and how and why people write about their travel. There is an expectation that students will come to class with the materials read beforehand and be able to discuss critically the topic/materials of the week.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.
2. Students will demonstrate an awareness of gender differences in a given society or culture.
3. Students will understand the approaches used by multiple academic disciplines to make arguments about attitudes toward gender.

*Student learning outcomes 1-3 will be assessed by reading responses and a final research paper.*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS****GRADING**

This course is based on the 100-point system. All assignments are worth 100 points. I do not round up. If you earn an 89.9 you will receive a B for the course. Final grades are determined on the following scale:

100 –90 = A, 89 –80 = B, 79 –70 = C, 69 –60 = D, 59 and below = F

**Assessments:** There will be several assessments of your progress in this course.

Values of major assignments and examinations for this course are as follows:

- Three (3) exams: 20%
- Map Quizzes: 10%
- Five (5) reading responses - Fridays 20%
- Research Paper 15%

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

• In-class discussions - Mondays	15%
• <u>College professionalism &amp; course engagement:</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

### **Interaction with Professor Statement**

Students are encouraged to contact me. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through TAMUC email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can work with you if/when things come up.

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments Due</u>
1	Wed., Jan 10	<u>Introduction</u>	Welcome to the Class Overview of readings, assignments, & class expectations
	Fri., Jan 12		
2	<b>Mon., Jan. 15</b>	<b>M: MLK Day</b>	<b>TAMUC CLOSED JAN 18 ** NO CLASS**</b>
	Wed., Jan. 17	What is Travel Writing?	Readings in D2L
	Fri., Jan. 19		
3	Mon., Jan. 22	The Classical Period	Gosch & Stearns, <i>Premodern Travel in World History</i> Ch. 1-4
	Wed., Jan. 24		
	Fri., Jan. 26		<b>Research Project Topic Due</b>
4	Mon., Jan. 29	Post Classical World Travel	Gosch & Stearns, <i>Premodern Travel in World History</i> Ch. 5-8
	Wed., Jan. 31		
	Fri., Feb. 2		<b>EXAM 1</b>
5	Mon., Feb. 5	Travel in the Muslim World	Mackintosh-Smith, Ed. <i>Travels of Ibn Battutah</i>
	Wed., Feb. 7		
	Fri., Feb. 9		<b>Mackintosh-Smith, Reading Response Due</b>

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

<b>6</b>	Mon., Feb. 12	Travel in the Christian World	Readings in D2L
	Wed., Feb. 14		
	Fri., Feb. 16		<b>Annotated Bibliography Due</b>
<b>7</b>	Mon., Feb. 19	<b>Exploration and Discovery</b>	Weaver, <i>Exploration: Very Short Introduction</i>
	Wed., Feb. 21		
	Fri., Feb. 23		<b>Paper Proposal Due</b>
<b>8</b>	Mon., Feb. 26	<b>Exploration and Discovery</b>	Readings in D2L
	Wed., Feb. 28		
	Fri., Mar. 1		<b>EXAM 2</b>
<b>9</b>	Mon., Mar. 4	<b>Travel in the New World</b>	Poska, <i>Gendered Crossings: Women and Migration in the Spanish Empire</i>
	Wed., Mar. 6		
	Fri., Mar. 8		<b>Poska, Reading Response Due</b>
	<b>Mar 11-15</b>	<b>SPRING</b>	<b>BREAK **TAMUC CLOSED**</b>
<b>10</b>	Mon., Mar. 18	<b>Travel in the New World</b>	Readings in D2L
	Wed., Mar. 20		
	Fri., Mar. 22		
<b>11</b>	Mon., Mar. 25	<b>Exploration and Discovery II</b>	Readings in D2L
	Wed., Mar. 27		

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

	Fri., Mar. 29		<b>Paper Draft Due</b>
<b>12</b>	Mon., Apr. 1	<b>Exploration and Discovery II</b>	Readings in D2L
	Wed., Apr. 3		
	Fri., Apr. 5		<b>EXAM 3</b>
<b>13</b>	Mon., Apr. 8	<b>The Rise of Tourism</b>	Byerly, <i>Are We There Yet?</i>
	Wed., Apr. 10		
	Fri., Apr. 12		<b>Byerly, Reading Response Due</b>
<b>14</b>	Mon., Apr. 15	<b>Traveling Women</b>	Hodgson, <i>Dreaming of East</i>
	Wed., Apr. 17		
	Fri., Apr. 19		<b>Hodgson, Reading Response Due</b>
<b>15</b>	Mon., Apr. 22	<b>Traveling Women</b>	Zheutlin, <i>Around The World On Two Wheels</i>
	Wed., Apr. 24		
	Fri., Apr. 26		<b>Zheutlin, Reading Response Due</b>
<b>16</b>	Mon., Apr. 29		<b>Exam make-up day</b>
	<b>Wed., May. 1</b>		<b>STUDY DAY</b>
	<b>Fri., May. 3</b>		<b>STUDY DAY</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Mon., May. 6</b>	<b>10:30am- 12:30pm</b>	<b>Research Papers Due &amp; Potluck Brunch</b>

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Attendance: Students attend class at their own discretion, but should keep in mind that some assignments are in-class only. Attendance is part of your course engagement – you cannot engage in the class if you are not here. It is your responsibility to come to class prepared for lecture. *This course relies heavily on in-class discussions of the assigned readings. You need to stay on top of the work.* If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to gather class notes from a classmate. I do take roll (via seating chart) and if you are in class but not PRESENT, *i.e. on your phone or other device, sleeping, etc.* you will be counted absent for the day.

Electronics Policy: Our class is a time for learning and discussion. Cell phones and other devices should be silent and put away during class – unless otherwise specified for an in-class activity. Airplane mode is preferred. If you are using a laptop/tablet, use it solely for note taking. If you are using your devices for something other than taking notes, I can ask you to power the device down.

Student Behavior: Behavior, which may result in your being asked to leave my class, includes, but is not limited to sleeping, talking during lectures, movies or clips, text messaging, gaming, playing with your phone, using electronic devices other than for specified activities, and working on another course's work/homework during my class.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Classroom Behavior**

All students will observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive leaning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your attention. This means turning off cell phones, and other devices, and putting away any other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

### **Late Papers**

All written assignments are due as indicated in this Syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance (when possible).* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will receive a grade of F.

### **Academic Honesty**

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and me that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

### **Writing Center**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. 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. More information

### **CHSSA Librarian:**

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance, as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam  
 Director of Research and Instruction  
 Services  
 Velma K. Waters Library, Room 147F  
[Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu)

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Classroom Behavior**

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies, and

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*



Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect college-level professionalism & course engagement. This means putting away cell phones, and any other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed with advance permission of the professor).

Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class.

I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class (see above statement on Interaction with Professor).

### **Late Work**

All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted at the discretion of the professor and will be assessed a penalty. If you know you will be away when something is due, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will be given a grade of zero (0).

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

*The syllabus is a working document and a guide.* Circumstances and events, including class 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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

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)

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

## **AI Use in Courses**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## **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>

### **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/13student ts/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student%20ts/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf)

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

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 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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 Velma K. Waters 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

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

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.

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS - LMS**

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

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*

Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:  
<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.*