



HIST 303.01E HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
MWF 10-10:50pm EDS131
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

Office Location: Ferguson 146

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-6pm, and by
appointment

University Email Address:

Mylynka.Cardona@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication:
email

Communication Response Time: 24-
48hrs

COURSE INFORMATION

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 Outcome:

1. Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.
2. Students will produce a book review that demonstrates an understanding of historical argumentation and historiography
3. Students will apply spatial analysis to understanding historical cause and effect.
4. Students will cite sources in proper Turabian format.

Student learning outcomes 1, 3, & 4 will be assessed through map quizzes and the two projects. Student learning outcomes 2 & 4 will be assessed by book reviews.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods / Materials / Activities / Assessments

Instructional Methods

This instructional format for this class is in-person, web-enhanced. We will hold course meetings in our assigned classroom. These course meetings will consist of interactive lectures and discussions. 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 and being due by Sunday (11:59 PM) unless otherwise indicated. All readings should be completed by the Monday meeting of the week they are listed in preparation for in-class discussion.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Course Materials:

Required for ALL students:

- Brotton, Jerry, *Four Points of the Compass: The Unexpected History of Direction*, (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2024), ISBN-13 978-0802163684
- Kapit, Wynn, *The Geography Coloring Book*, (Pearson, 2002), ISBN-13 978-0131014725
- Richardson, Paul, *Myths of Geography: Eight Ways We Get the World Wrong*, (Hanover Square Press, 2024), ISBN-13 978-1335146861
- Standage, Tom, *A Brief History of Motion: From the Wheel, to the Car, to What Comes Next*, (Bloomsbury, 2021), ISBN-13 978-1635573619
- Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers*, 9th ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2013)

Other Materials -

Notebook and pen/pencil for in-class note taking

Map pencils (colored pens) for map assignments and journaling

Additional Materials for reading/viewing will be posted electronically or distributed in class as needed

A NOTE ON SMARTPHONES

Smartphones are one of the most amazing pieces of educational technology ever created.

Smartphones are one of the most frustrating and distracting pieces of educational technology ever created. We might, at times, use smartphones to look up information, to explore historical

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sources, and to examine alternate interpretations. At all other times cellular phones (and computers not being used for note taking) should be silenced and put away. Smartphones also work against the development of a lively and engaging classroom community. They also really, really distract me. For this reason, students are asked to put away their phones upon entering the classroom. While in class, students should be prepared to engage socially and intellectually with their fellow students and professor in an in-person format. Students violating this policy should expect a penalty on their participation grade for each offense.

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 may 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.

Assessments

Ten (10) map quizzes, three (3) book reviews, and three (3) exams. There are also two (2) research projects (with presentations) required for this course. Course attendance & engagement makes up 20% of your overall grade.

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

• Three (3) in-class exams	20%
• 10 map quizzes	20%
• 3 book reviews	15%
• Borders project & presentation	15%
• UNESCO project & presentation	10%
• College professionalism & course engagement	20%
○ <u>Includes SRQ and weekly journals</u>	
TOTAL	100%

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Make-up Exams: There will be ONE (1) opportunity to take missed exams (no make-ups for map quizzes or the final). I reserve the right to give alternate types of exams as make-up tests.

- **The date for taking a missed exam (excluding the final) is Monday, Nov 24th.**

Grading: This course is based on the 100-point system. All assignments are worth 100 points. The final exam is weighted the same as the other two exams. 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

Interaction with Professor Statement

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any reason whatsoever. 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.

Assignments

Map Quizzes

There will be ten (10) map quizzes during the semester. These will cover major features of the physical landscape (rivers, mountains, etc.) and political jurisdictions (cities, states, nations, etc.). *Map quizzes will be on Fridays.*

- The purpose of the map assignments/quizzes is to build/bolster your knowledge of geography. One cannot understand why things happen and how things are experienced if the where of the thing is unknown. Geographical knowledge is a huge portion of this class and we will build our map knowledge together every class.
- Map quizzes focus on preparation for classroom engagement, and to that end support the learning outcome for social responsibility. *(These assignments assess SLOs 1, 3, & 4)*

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Journaling

A key element of this course is developing students' ability to think and reflect. To practice this skill, students will keep a journal where they reflect on the readings as they complete them. At the start of the semester, students will receive a journaling notebook they will use throughout the semester to write their reactions to each week's reading assignments. Students should get into the habit of writing something for each reading assignment, so the expectation is that students will write a minimum of two entries per week, of at least three sentences each. Entries can be about anything related to the reading – entries are places to summarize thoughts, raise questions, consider connections, etc. Journals will be collected every Friday to ensure students are maintaining regular reflection. *NOTE: Journal entries are not assessed for their content – students are encouraged to write their reactions and thoughts and there are no right or wrong answers – but only for completion of the assignment.*

- Reflections focus on developing student ideas and thoughts in preparation for classroom engagement, and to that end support the learning outcome for critical thinking. *(These assignments assess SLOs 1 & 3)*
- NOTE: The journaling grade is part of the college professionalism & course engagement grade

Book Reviews

Each student is responsible for writing a 500-word book review on each of the three assigned books. This review should summarize the book's argument and critically engage with its content. See the book review guide posted in D2L site and the department orientation D2L page for more information. Submit your review through the D2L *assignments* dropbox. Book Reviews are due at the beginning of the week the book is scheduled to be discussed. *(These assignments assess SLOs 2 & 4)*

Exams

There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams in this course. Answers should draw on course lectures, discussions, and assigned readings. Students will have the question ahead of time to prepare if it is an essay exam. No material from outside the course may be used. *(These assignments assess SLOs 1 & 3)*

Borders Project (with Peer Review)

Each student pair 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. Students should conduct research into historical monographs, peer-reviewed journal

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articles, and government resources. Your annotated 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). You will present your reports in class as YouTube videos. Only one group per border. Submit your paper and presentation to D2L dropbox. Everyone will peer review the video presentations in class. *(These assignments assess SLOs 1, 3, & 4)*

UNESCO Project & Final (with Peer Review)

Each student group will select a UNESCO World Heritage Site from the official list (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>). Each group will research the site and submit a proposal and annotated bibliography containing at least five sources, including one of each of the following: a government/NGO source, the UNESCO page, a popular source, and an academic source. You will produce a 15 minute presentation introducing this site to your classmates. This presentation should touch on the places' location, history, physical geography, distinctiveness, and significance to multiple audiences. The presentation will take place in-person during the class exam period during Finals Week. In addition, each group will submit a polished (and footnoted) presentation script through the *assignment* tab in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the UNESCO site and their use of sources. Everyone will peer review the in-person presentations in class. *(These assignments assess SLOs 1, 3, & 4)*

College professionalism & course engagement This grade will be determined based on attendance and participation in course discussions, your overall preparedness for and engagement with each day's work.

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 needed

Week 1	Aug 25-29	Explanation of coursework and assignments
		UNESCO Project Borders Project Journals
Week 2	Sept 1-5	What is Geography? Physical Geography (Bring Geography Coloring Book)
	Mon 9/1	LABOR DAY - TAMUC CLOSED **NO CLASS**
Week 3	Sept 8-12	Historical Cartography- Pt 1.
		Readings: <i>Four Points of the Compass (Chs 1-3)</i>
Week 4	Sept 15-19	Historical Cartography- Pt. 2
		Readings: <i>Four Points of the Compass (Chs 4-6)</i>
	Mon 9/15	Book Review #1 Due: <i>Four Points of the Compass</i>
	Fri 9/19	EXAM 1 – Physical Geography & Historical Cartography
Week 5	Sept 22-26	Borders:
		Readings: <i>Myths of Geography</i> (Intro – Ch 1-2)
		Geography – Asia Pt 1 – All except Russia
Week 6	Sept. 29 – Oct 3	Borders:
		Readings: <i>Myths of Geography</i> (Chs 3-4)
		Geography – Asia Pt 2 - Russia
	Fri 10/3	No class meeting – work on UNESCO Project
Week 7	Oct 6-10	Borders:
		Readings: <i>Myths of Geography</i> (Chs 5-6)
		Geography - Europe
Week 8	Oct 13-17	Borders:

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		Readings: <i>Myths of Geography</i> (Chs 7-8 & Conclusion)
		Geography – Africa Pt 1 (North Africa & the ME)
	Mon 10/13	Book Review #2 Due: <i>Myths of Geography</i>
	Fri 10/17	EXAM 2 - Borders
Week 9	Oct 20-24	Nineteenth Century Exploration & Discovery Pt 1 Readings: (in D2L)
		Geography – Africa Pt 2 (Sub-Saharan Africa)
	Fri 10/24	No class meeting – work on UNESCO Project
	Fri 10/24	UNESCO Project Proposal Due
Week 10	Oct 27-31	Nineteenth Century Exploration & Discovery Pt 2 Readings: (in D2L)
		Geography – North & Central America
Week 11	Nov 3-7	Nineteenth Century Exploration & Discovery Pt 3 Readings: (in D2L)
		Geography – South America & The Caribbean
	Fri 11/7	UNESCO Annotated Bibliography Due
Week 12	Nov 10-14	Nineteenth Century Exploration & Discovery Pt 4 Readings: (in D2L)
		Geography – Oceania
	Fri 11/14	EXAM 3 – Exploration, Discovery, & Colonialism
Week 13	Nov 17-21	A Globalized World Readings: <i>A Brief History of Motion</i> (Intro – Ch. 6)
		Geography – The Arctic Circles (N & S)
	Fri 11/21	UNESCO Project Draft Due – All Groups
Week 14	Nov 24-28	MISC.
	Mon. 11/24	Exam Make up day
	Wed & Fri	**TAMUC CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING**
Week 15	Dec 1-5	A Globalized World Readings: <i>A Brief History of Motion</i> (Ch. 7-12)
	Mon. 12/1	Book Review #3 Due: <i>A Brief History of Motion</i>

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FINALS WEEK	Wednesday 12/08	UNESCO Presentations 10:30-12:30pm & BRUNCH

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, it should be used solely for note taking. If you are using your devices for something other than taking notes you may be asked 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, watching things on your phone, FaceTiming, 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.

Things to help you succeed:

Do the reading ahead of time: There will be a lot of reading in this course, *none of which is optional.* I will deliver the lecture material under the assumption that you have already read the assigned readings for the week. Be sure to take notes as well.

Face Your Fears: Ask questions in class. I do realize that this can be hard. However, asking questions is the only way to find out information you want to know, and it is likely that your classmates may have the same (or a similar) question.

Make Yourself Known: Showing an interest and letting me know you have an interest will help you understand the material, and help me understand you.

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Interaction with Professor Statement

You are strongly encouraged to interact with me. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through ETAMU email. I am also available during my office hours. If you have a situation arise during the semester that will impede your ability to succeed in the class, COME TALK TO ME SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. I will be better equipped to help you in whatever ways I can the sooner you talk to me. If you wait until the very last minute, my hands will likely be tied and my options will be more limited as far as help is concerned. I can help you get/find the resources you may need on campus or in the community. We can meet in-person or via Zoom.

History Librarian:

Our librarian for History is. 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:

Inbar Michael
Velma K. Waters Library, Room 147G
Inbar.Michael@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 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).

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AI Use in Courses

East Texas A&M University 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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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

Late Work

All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted at the discretion of the professor and may 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

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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@etamu.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.

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.etamu.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>

ETAMU Attendance

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

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

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

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<http://www.etamu.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 Rm 162

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

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.

Web url:

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

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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