GEOG 2305: Fundamentals of Geography
Spring 2021

Angelo State University
Department of History

Instructor
Rob Briwa (he/him/his) | Office: Academic 210G | rbriwa@angelo.edu

Course details
GEOG 2305 Section 010 | Room: Academic 225 | Tuesdays, Thursdays| 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Course materials
There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be uploaded to GEOG 2305’s Blackboard web page as .pdf files or web links.

Office hours
Briwa | Mondays 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. | Wednesdays 11 a.m. to noon | Other times by e-mail appointment.

Course description
Geography 2305, Fundamentals of Geography, is designed to meet the needs of those students planning to teach geography at all grade levels (K-12) in the Texas school system. To that end, it introduces students to the geographic discipline and geography’s core themes, traditions, and concepts and offers in-depth explorations of geographic concepts taught in the K-12 Texas social studies curriculum. The course therefore familiarizes students with core tenets and concepts of physical and human geography. Additionally, it applies geographic concepts and perspectives to selected Texas and global case studies to deepen students’ knowledge of contemporary landscapes at home and farther afield.

Note: During this semester, GEOG 2305 is a hybrid course. This means that you will be able to take this course online as the need arises (for purposes of university-excused absences, quarantine, health concerns, etc.) through accessing course materials (e.g., lectures) via Kaltura videos, uploaded to Blackboard after the lecture during which they occur. This means that students learning remotely will do so asynchronously. Similarly, all assignment guidelines and materials will be made available on Blackboard.

To maintain social distancing guidelines, you will be assigned to a Lecture Group. Lecture Group A will attend lecture on Tuesdays. Lecture Group B will attend lecture on Thursdays. In the event that you miss class, you will only need to review your group’s Kaltura recording. For example, if you are a part of Lecture Group A and miss class, you will need to watch ONLY the Tuesday recording of lecture to remain caught up with the course.

I am happy to clarify information about the structure and delivery of this course, and will do so in our first week of lecture. I am also available via e-mail enquiry.

Learning goals
Upon completion of this course, students will:
• Identify core themes, traditions, and concepts defining the disciplinary boundaries of geography and recognize the value of geographic perspectives in the social sciences.
• Understand core concepts and patterns in selected fields of physical geography, including those relating to climatic patterns; physiographic regions and landforms; the lithosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere; and hazards.
• Understand core concepts and patterns in selected fields of human geography including those relating to patterns of population and settlement; processes of globalization; and the historical processes contributing to the making of contemporary landscapes.
• Understand core concepts and patterns of human-environment interactions, including patterns of human modifications to the physical environment and causes and impacts of climate change.
• Interpret and communicate geographical information through active engagement with maps, charts, graphs, and creative writing.
• Appreciate the relevance and application of geography to everyday living.

You are not alone during COVID-19
This is an unusual semester. The way university education occurs is changing rapidly. In the fullness of transparency, I want to let you know that we are working through this together.

What does this mean for GEOG 2305?
First, I understand your university experiences may change unexpectedly because of factors beyond your control. Communicate with me promptly if changing circumstances impact your experiences of GEOG 2305. During the business week (M-F), I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours. There may be longer delays over the weekend.

Second, there are strategies I recommend for navigating this course successfully. While online assignments can be completed at any time prior to their due date, I strongly urge you to complete them with time to spare. I also recommend you make use of all resources available to you, both within the contexts of this course and beyond. For example, GEOG 2305 contains community message forums for discussing course concepts; troubleshooting logistical challenges; and engaging with your peers and instructor. Other critical resources include your instructor (I am happy to help you!), office hours, library services, and mental health services.

Similarly, because of social distancing guidelines and the need to accommodate remote learning students, our hybrid course employs self-guided learning materials, including PowerPoint materials, digital media such as video, web resources, .pdf documents, etc. Engaging in self-guided learning may be unfamiliar, but there are a number of strategies you can take to improve this process. I am available to discuss these topics with you.

Finally, students’ mental and physical health are my utmost concerns this semester. I encourage you to explore and make use of health services available to students. The University Health Clinic is based in the University Sports Medicine Clinic, Shannon Clinic - Jackson. The Health Clinic provides confidential services to ASU students who have paid the current Medical Services Fee. Students who are registered, attending classes, and have paid the medical services fee have access to unlimited visits to all Shannon Urgent Care locations for Basic Medical Care by board certified healthcare providers at no additional cost.

Similarly, ASU Counseling Services provides short-term therapy to ASU students. Whether you are suffering from issues like depression, anxiety, adjustment issues, relationship problems, academic concerns, emergencies, or trauma, ASU Counseling Services are there to help.
Appointments can be made by calling 325-942-2371 or visiting Counseling Services, at 1901 Johnson St, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

You are not alone in navigating this semester. I am a resource for you.

**Evaluation**

Your performance is evaluated by weekly geographical news entries; writing projects; and applied geography activities (see below for overviews of each type of assignment). There are a possible **400 points** for this course (not including extra credit points). Total points are tentative and subject to change. Extra credit is not available on an individual basis. Grades are not discussed over email, utilize office hours or schedule an appointment.

**Grade Thresholds**

- A: 360-400 points
- B: 320-359 points
- C: 280-319 points
- D: 260-279 points
- F: Under 260 points

**Weekly Geographical News:** 225 points (9 @ 25 points each)

One of our learning goals in GEOG 2305: Fundamentals of Geography is to appreciate the relevancy and application of geography to everyday living. To that end, I ask that you seek out and find news articles that relate to our course materials. You will then produce a short, original reflection that summarizes the news article and poses an argument as to why it fits within the contexts of our geography course materials. **Unless otherwise noted, Geographical News items will be due Fridays by 5 p.m. on Turnitin on the weeks specified in the syllabus.** For example, Geographical News #1 is due Friday, 8/28/2020, by 5 p.m.

**Applied Geography Activities** 100 points (4 @ 25 points each)

Attendance is not mandatory for this course. Successful learning, however, hinges upon student engagement with the subject matter via active learning. To incentivize active learning in the geography classroom, we will complete four applied geography activities throughout the semester. These require you to apply what you have learned in lecture materials to new contexts. **These activities are designed to be completed within a single class period.** If not completed in class during the time allotted (or completed online), **the activity will be due on Turnitin the following week’s Friday.** For example, if Applied Geography Activity 1 is distributed in-class on 9/3 (or 9/5), it is due on Turnitin by 5 p.m. on 9/11. Further details and instructions will be provided!

**Project 1: Geography and Professional Development** 75 points (1 @ 75 points)

As an integrative discipline that spans the physical and social sciences as well as the humanities, geography has relevance in innumerable professional fields. This project is designed to get you thinking about how what you have learned in GEOG 2305: Fundamentals of Geography will inform your professional development. Broadly, you will have a choice of two tracks to complete this project: 1) You may write a reflective narrative applying geographical perspectives or themes learned in this class to your intended professional field; or 2) You may draw on what you have learned to write a Geography Lesson Plan you may implement as an educator in your future classrooms. I will provide further details!

**Extra Credit: Geography in Music** 15 points (1 @ 15 points)
With an open mind and an awareness of geographical concepts and topics, you will learn to see and apply your geography to your everyday life—including the diverse types of artistic media you engage with, such as music! Your extra credit opportunity will be to find a song you believe articulates a geographical concept, and write a brief, well-supported argument about why you think that is the case. Further guidelines will be distributed via Blackboard and announced in class. There may be other extra credit opportunities as the semester continues; should this arise, I will announce these opportunities in class and on Blackboard.

**Missed assignments and late assignments**

**Late work is not accepted for credit.** Extensions are given only in cases where a valid/verifiable absence has been approved at least 24 hours in advance of the due date (e.g., serious illness, a University-approved event). In the case of an excused absence without prior arrangements, you must notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled due date.

**Course policies and procedures**

**Disruptive behavior**

Disruptive behavior is defined as behavior that interferes with the learning environment of your fellow students. This includes talking out of turn during lecture, as well as personal use of digital communication devices during lecture including, but not limited to: text, instant or email messaging, social media, and web browsing. Disruptive students will be ejected from the class at my discretion, according to University policy, and will be given an unexcused absence regarding any missed coursework. All electronic devices must be switched off during class and headphones/ear-buds removed!

**Required Use of Masks by Students in Class at Angelo State University**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**Note:** I will be a stickler for mask wearing compliance! Wear it properly, too. I’ve no need to see your nose, and I have no difficulty hearing you through layers of cotton or other fabrics. In Geography classrooms—and in the Academic Building and lab spaces—I view mask wearing as an essential courtesy and safeguard for your peers and professors, many of whom may have underlying conditions you are unaware about. It may be cliché, but we’re all in this together, and I want students in my classrooms to feel safe.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. The College of Arts and Humanities adheres to the Statement of Academic Integrity.
Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

When in doubt about whether you are engaging in plagiarism, consult me about your use of a source BEFORE an assignment is due (and not at the very last minute!).

Copyright Policy
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Student Disability Services
Angelo State University and the Department of History are committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation. Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center 112

Title IX at Angelo State University
Angelo State University and the Department of History are committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee, meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect
students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 325-942-2022
michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic at 325-942-2171, Counseling Services at 325-942-2371 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

**Student Absence for the Observance of Religious Holidays**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

**Course schedule**
Tentative and subject to revision. All revisions explicitly announced in class and announced on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates of Week</th>
<th>Course Topics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/26/21</td>
<td>Course Introduction: Strategies for Success</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/28/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/4/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/9/21</td>
<td>Maps in the Geographer’s Toolkit</td>
<td>De Blij (2005): 23-45</td>
<td>Activity 1 Activity 1 Geographical News 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/11/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/16/21</td>
<td>Physical Geography: North American and Texas Landforms and Physiographic Regions</td>
<td>Activity 2 Distributed</td>
<td>Activity 2 Geographical News 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/18/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/23/21</td>
<td>Physical Geography: North American and Texas Climate Patterns</td>
<td>Project 1 Distributed</td>
<td>Activity 2 Geographical News 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/25/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3/2/21</td>
<td>Physical Geography: Anthropogenic Climate Change</td>
<td>Geographical News 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/4/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/9/21</td>
<td>Population Dynamics</td>
<td>Activity 3 Distributed</td>
<td>Activity 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/11/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/16/21</td>
<td>Migration and the Global Scene</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical News 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30/21</td>
<td>PROJECT WEEK: WORK ON PROJECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6/21</td>
<td>Cultural Geographies: World Religions</td>
<td>Lewis (1979)</td>
<td>Geographical News 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8/21</td>
<td>Reading the Cultural Landscape—Cemeteries and Grave Markers</td>
<td>Activity 4 Distributed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/21</td>
<td>Labor and Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical News 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical News 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/22/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical News 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/29/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/4/21</td>
<td>Where to Now? Going Forward with Geography</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL EXAM DAYS**

**SECTION 010 (T/R 9:30-10:45): Thursday, May 13, 2021, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

More about final exam sessions to be announced on Blackboard and in-class at a later date.

I am happy to see you here in GEOG 2305: Fundamentals of Geography. Welcome!!!