

# **GEOG 2305: Fundamentals of Geography**

## **Angelo State University – Glen Rose High School Department of History**

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### **Course materials:**

There are two textbooks that will be used in this course. One will be the primary source of information, the other will be a secondary/enrichment source.

Boehm, Richard G., and Jay McTighe. *World Geography*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2016.

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. Pearson, 2017.

### **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 global and Texas case studies to deepen students' knowledge of contemporary landscapes at home and farther afield.

### **Learning goals:**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the core themes, traditions, and concepts that define the disciplinary boundaries of geography and recognize the value of geographic perspectives in the social sciences.
- Develop an appreciation of map use and interpretation as a central tool of the geographer's toolkit.
- 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 relating to physical geography.

- Understand core concepts and patterns in selected fields of human geography, including regions; those relating to patterns of population and settlement; the interconnectedness between places and regions via 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.
- Appreciate the relevance and application of geography to everyday living.

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Real talk:**

Doing well in this course is not complicated, but it requires work: regularly attend class, read the assigned readings before the lecture, be attentive and take good notes during lecture, review lecture material afterwards while it is fresh, and communicate promptly when the need arises. Studying in small batches consistently between exams will yield better results than trying to absorb it in huge chunks. Reading assigned for any lecture is very manageable. Reading material before class will reinforce learning. Facing fifty pages the night before an exam is overwhelming and typically results in a poor score. Similarly, hurriedly completing an assignment the night before it is due often results in sloppy work and increases the number of otherwise easily fixed mistakes. The cliché holds true: slow and steady effort wins the race. Your instructor is here to help you be successful, consult me! Much of what it takes to do well in your undergraduate endeavor is time management, attention to detail, and the ability to prioritize. Remember, your professors were undergraduates too, so please do not hesitate to ask for help when you need it.

### **Evaluation**

Your performance is evaluated by assignments and exams. Exams and Projects will make up 70% of your grade and Assignments will make up 30% of your grade. There is an exam with every unit. Exams will be made up of writing questions. These can be, but are not limited to: essay, short answer, and completion. Daily assignments will be outlines of major readings, reading quizzes, creating maps (both hand drawn and digital), and analysis of data acquired using geographic tools and other items provided by the instructor.

## Supply List:

1. Five Subject, College Rule Spiral Notebook
  - a. I recommend the [Mead](#) brand as they have a plastic cover, and pockets inside. I have students fill these notebooks every year, so please do not purchase a smaller one. This notebook **is for this class only**. When I grade notebooks, if there is another classes notes in it, or if your stuff is in a folder for another class I will not grade it.
2. Map/colored Pencils
  - a. I recommend the 24 set of [Crayola Colored Pencils](#) as they have the largest variety at a low price.
3. Dark Blue or Black [ink pens](#)
  - a. I do not allow pencil on written assignments. If you write an assignment in pencil, I will not grade it.
4. [Highlighters](#)
5. Hand [pencil sharpener](#)
6. [Pencil Bag](#) to store your stuff!