

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND THE NEWS - GEOG 2200, HIST 2200

SPRING 2019

MEETING INFORMATION

Course meets Monday and Wednesday in Ross Hall 122 from 11-11:50am.

INSTRUCTOR INFO

Dr. Jess C. Porter
Chair of History, Associate Professor of Geography
[Department of History](#)
E-mail: jcporter@ualr.edu

Office: 601J Stabler Hall
Phone: 501.569.8392

DR. PORTER'S OFFICE HOURS

I'm in the office everyday unless traveling. You are always welcome to stop-in, but it's a good idea to call or email first before making a special trip to see me.

REQUIRED TEXT

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about The World, Tim Marshall. New York: Scribner

Any additional materials will be provided by the instructor and your colleagues in class and/or through the Blackboard environment.

ONLINE COURSE RESOURCE

Blackboard: bb.ualr.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is a thematic examination of the historical and geographical context of current events in the United States and the World, and the way in which history and geography inform modern geopolitics and news.

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

- Analyze contemporary global issues from historic and geographical perspectives.
- Locate and analyze current news accounts and historic and geographical source materials related to contemporary global issues.

GRADING

Grades for the course are calculated from your performance on
Topic Research Folders – 12 @ 50 = 600 (Accepted late, with 20% penalty)
Sunday Evening News Round-up Discussion Board Posts – 12 @ 20 = 240 (No late submissions)
Quizzes – 12 @ 20 = 240 (No make-ups)

Total possible points = 1080

Final grades will be assigned based on the following percentages: A > 896 points, B > 796, C > 696, D > 596, F < 596

Research Topic Folders

Research Topic Folders contain the following:

- A description (minimum one fully-developed paragraph, maximum of one page) of a theme of the topic worthy of discussion and potential debate.
- Links to two popular news sources explicitly related to the theme discussed above. One should be from a source wholly or partially in the *Neutral* column and the *Original Fact Reporting* or *Fact Reporting* rows of the media bias chart. One should be from a source considered liberal and one more conservative. Write an annotation for each source. In your description comment on the way(s) each article's perspective or bias is evident in its presentation.
- A link to an academic article on the theme of your choice.
- A link to a primary source, either historic or geographic in nature that could be utilized in a (theoretically) unbiased exploration of the theme.

I will accept late submissions until May 12, 2019. Submissions that are one minute late or one month late will receive the same 20% deduction.

Sunday Evening News Round-up

Beginning Thursday and continuing to a Sunday 11:59 pm deadline, you are to post a potential topic to be included in our Monday news round-up class discussions. Your post will provide a very brief description (one or two sentences) and a link to a source on the topic. Topics should be very current. You are not required to comment on others posts. No late submissions accepted.

I strongly recommend you habituate your intake of news. Start and/or end your day with a quick review of the news at [AllSides](#), [the Associated Press](#), [the BBC](#), [FiveThirtyEight](#), [NPR](#), and any other news sources you like. Most have apps for your phone.

Quizzes

The last 15 minutes of Wednesday classes are reserved for a very brief news quiz. The questions will usually be short answer format and will focus on materials that were discussed in class during the week. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. Please do not ask.

Class Participation

Participation is essential for this class to work and be fun for all. If you aren't in class, you can't participate. Contribute your knowledge, experience, and opinions. The only hard, fast rule is to always be respectful.

SCHEDULE

Weeks of 1/21, 1/28

- News Sources. Where do you get your news and why? Reading and consuming news critically. Media bias chart.
- Primary vs. Secondary Sources, Academic Sources
- Geopolitics Focus: Introduction to Geopolitics
- News round-up 1 – due 1/27
- Quiz 1 – 1/30
- No news round-up 2/3

Week of 2/4

- NO CLASS 2/4
- Research Topic Folder 1: Boundaries – due 2/6
- Geopolitics focus: Russia
- No quiz 2/6
- News round-up 2 – due 2/10

Week of 2/11

- Research Topic Folder 2: Russian neo-imperialism (Ukraine, Crimea, Sea of Azov) – due 2/13
- Geopolitics focus: China
- Quiz 2 – 2/13
- News round-up 3 – due 2/17

Week of 2/18

- Research Topic Folder 3: Uyghurs in China – due 2/20
- Geopolitics focus: United States
- Quiz 3 – 2/20
- News round-up 4 – due 2/24

Week of 2/25

- Research Topic Folder 4: Navies of the Greater Pacific Ocean – due 2/27
- Geopolitics focus: Western Europe
- Quiz 4 – 2/27
- News round-up 5 – due 3/3

Week of 3/4

- Research Topic Folder 5: European (dis)union? – due 3/6
- Geopolitics focus: Africa
- Quiz 5 – 3/6
- News round-up 6 – due 3/10

Week of 3/11

- Research Topic Folder 6: The Chinese in Africa: friends or foes? – due 3/13
- Geopolitics focus: The Middle East
- Quiz 6 – 3/13
- No news round-up 3/17

Week of 3/18 – SPRING BREAK

- No news round-up 3/24

Week of 3/25

- Research Topic Folder 7: American Interventionism – due 3/27
- Geopolitics focus: India and Pakistan
- Quiz 7 – 3/27
- News round-up 7 – due 3/31

Week of 4/1

- Research Topic Folder 8: Nuclear non-proliferation – due 4/3
- Geopolitics focus: Korea and Japan
- Quiz 8 – 4/3
- News round-up 8 – due 4/7

Week of 4/8

- Research Topic Folder 9: Negotiating with North Korea – due 4/10
- Geopolitics focus: Latin America
- Quiz 9 – 4/10
- News round-up 9 – due 4/14

Week of 4/15

- Research Topic Folder 10: “The War on Drugs” – due 4/17
- Geopolitics focus: The Arctic
- Quiz 10 – 4/17
- News round-up 10 – due 4/21

Week of 4/22

- Research Topic Folder 11: The Future of the Arctic – due 4/24
- Geopolitics focus: TBD
- Quiz 11 – 4/24
- News round-up 11 – due 4/28

Week of 4/29

- Research Topic Folder 12: Geopolitical Hotspot – due 5/1
- Geopolitics focus: TBD
- Quiz 12 – 5/1
- News round-up 12 – due 5/5

Week of 5/6

- Course wrap-up
- NOTE: NO FINAL EXAM

GEOGRAPHY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The grade cut-offs listed earlier are firm; for example, a percentage of 89.4 will be a B. No individual extra credit or "redo" work is possible for this class. Don't ask. There is no possibility of a grade being changed except for a genuine computational error on my part.
- No course scores or grade information will be divulged over the phone or e-mail. Blackboard will be used to report course scores and will be the only place exam scores can be obtained besides my office.
- Incomplete grades (I) will be given only in the case of extended, verifiable illness that occurs after the automatic W period; you should withdraw if it occurs before then. Even if you have notified me during the semester of your situation, you must also contact me at the end of the semester to confirm your cause of absence and to discuss arrangements for finishing the incomplete work.
- Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at www.ualr.edu/disability.
- Don't wait until the last week of class to start worrying about your grade if your scores are not as high as you hoped. Contact the instructor for questions/concerns.
- All students are required to perform their own work. Students caught cheating or representing their work as someone else's or vice versa, will be charged as appropriate under the university's [Academic Integrity Policies](#).
- All students are expected to maintain a working e-mail address on file with the university and to log into Blackboard daily for ancillary information, updates, and submission of writing assignments.
- Above all, the instructor expects a civilized, respectful, professional, and open-minded attitude to prevail in the face-to-face and online classroom. Students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.
- During inclement weather, UA Little Rock will make a decision whether or not to close based on all available information. The chancellor will decide whether or not conditions warrant canceling classes and activities and closing the campus or whether classes and activities will be canceled but with specified campus offices open. Online or web-enhanced classes will continue as scheduled at the discretion of the faculty member. The UA Little Rock website, UA Little Rock email, the university's main telephone number (501.569.3000), and the Rave campus alert notification system are the official means of communicating information concerning weather-related closings. When necessary, the university will announce a separate decision about canceling night classes (those classes starting at 4:20 p.m. or later) by 2 p.m., if possible.

Think about a Geography minor. It only requires Physical Geography, Cultural Geography, and 12 additional Geography hours. I hope to see you in another UA Little Rock Geography course soon!

Helpful University Resources

The [Communication Skill Center \(CSC\)](#) is a resource devoted to helping campus and online students in the various stages of preparing a presentation. Services include, but are not limited to, anxiety management, brainstorming, research, content organization, PowerPoint/Prezi design and integration, and providing presenters with balanced feedback. The CSC offers both onsite and online services. Appointments are available and walk-ins are welcome; please feel free to stop by 201 speech building, call us at 501-569-8208, or email: communication.skill.center@gmail.com. Book an appointment: <http://ualrcommunicationskillcenter.setmore.com>

The [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#) was developed to help clients with their writing at any stage of the writing process. They can provide quality feedback about your writing, problem-solving strategies for your writing, and assistance with academic technology. When you visit the University Writing Center for a conference, an intern will look over your text and reply with comments and suggestions as needed to improve its content, development, and organization. Interns can also help you identify patterns of error in your grammar, spelling, and punctuation so you can learn how to correct these errors on your own. Interns will not proofread your paper for you but will instead teach you techniques for how to do this for yourself. The UWC is located in the Student Union B (SUB) Room 116. For more information about us and the services we provide, please call our office at (501) 569-8343.