

GEOG 304: Economic Geography

Spring: 3 credit hours

MWF: 910-10am

HALB 101

Professor: Carmen P. Brysch, PhD

Office/Hours: Oceanography & Meteorology (O&M) Building 706C: Fridays, 1130am-1230pm
and by appointment

Email: carmen.brysch@tamu.edu

Course description: Location of economic activities over the earth; distribution of agriculture, manufacturing, tertiary activities and transportation; economic growth of areas.

Course prerequisites: none

Course Objectives/Outcomes

What is it? Where is it? Why is it located there? So what? Geography is much more than a collection of facts about capital cities and mountain ranges; the essence of geography is to study why locations and features matter. Geography is the study of spatial organization of human activity, and of people's relationships with their environment – whether in an urban or a rural setting. How have human activities and social/cultural characteristics in a place been shaped by the landscape? And in turn, how has the landscape been shaped by human activities?

This course will introduce you to a variety of concepts and methods that geographers use to analyze spatial patterns and processes. The course is organized regionally, but this does not preclude broader thematic discussions. I hope that this will be an interactive course – and that we can draw on our classmates' "regions of expertise" to learn from each other. I encourage sharing of any type (articles, literature, music, food...) that will help us "experience" and understand each region.

Learning objectives*

- to develop an understanding of the geographical perspective
- to enhance student awareness of the context and importance of economic activities, especially as they manifest themselves in spatial and regional patterns
- to develop an awareness of the economic problems of the developing world and the links between these problems and our own communities' experiences
- to instill something of the geographer's world view: a spatial sense, a sensitivity to the human-environment connection, and a tendency to integrate information on a regional basis

Requirements and Required Materials:

- All required course materials and required readings are in our course learning management system (LMS), Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to access Canvas regularly to view assigned readings and materials as well as assignment and exam due dates.
- Laptop
- Student ID

Grading Policy:

4 exams x 80 points, Total: 240 points (lowest exam grade is dropped)

2 assignments x 20 points, Total: 40 points

1 assignment x 35 points, Total: 35 points

Total points: 440 points

Exams: 72.8

Assignments: 13.6%

In-class Writing Assignments: 13.6%

Total: 100%

Course Grade

Final grades will be calculated on the following scale:

90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 59% and below=F

Your course grade is the percentage grade listed in Canvas.

At the end of the semester, you will receive the grade you *earned*. This will depend on your effort and participation in the course. ***** Please Note: Changes will not be made to the grading structure. There has never been any sort of “curve” and subjective grade adjustments will not be made.**

Students have one week from the day assignment and exam grades are posted in the Canvas gradebook to bring any issues to my attention. After one week, the grade will stand. Because of privacy concerns, grades will only be posted in Canvas. Additionally, please be aware that **grades cannot be discussed via e-mail, in telephone conversations, or in class before or right after class meets**. If you would like to discuss your grade, we can arrange a time to discuss.

Assignments and Responsibilities Policy

Lectures will NOT be verbal repetitions of the assigned readings, but a significant amount of class time will be devoted to discussions of issues related to the readings. Therefore, any assigned readings should be read before class. You are responsible for material presented in class including additional topics, current events, ideas, and examples. Time will be set aside for whole/small group or think-pair-share discussion and other activities.

Course material will be made available via the Canvas website or in class. Lecture presentation slides will be posted online in Canvas AFTER we are finished discussing a topic. These will NOT contain all of the details and explanations included with the original lectures presented in class. For all these reasons, coming to class is essential if you wish to receive a good grade. Please do not ask me to make copies of the notes. You are responsible for obtaining any materials from classes that you have missed. Please access the Canvas course website frequently as most of the course material will be made available there.

Make sure to keep your browser updated, as this is the most common answer to many technical issues related to Canvas.

Exams: 4 In-class Canvas Examinations worth 80 points each/ total: 240 points (lowest exam grade will be dropped)

Examinations will cover material introduced during lecture, required readings, your class notes, as well as material presented through additional readings and videos. Each exam will only cover material from its respective exam section. Exams will include multiple-choice and true/false questions. See the schedule for material covered on each exam.

Exam cheat sheet: For each exam, including the final, you are allowed to bring one 8”x11” sheet of paper with notes, can be handwritten or typed. Only one side can have notes. **If you do not abide by these stated rules, you will forfeit the use of the cheat sheet.**

*******The exams are independent.** All other electronic devices and belongings must be put away during exams. If caught using another electronic device (e.g., cell phone, smart watch, etc.) or other notes or belongings during the exam (besides the cheat sheet), will result in a zero on the exam and a report to the Student Conduct Office. *********

Students must arrive early for each exam (before 910am (exams 1-3); before 8am (final exam)). Once the first exam has been turned in, students will not be allowed to take the exam.

*****Please be sure to bring your student ID card, we will check student IDs.*****

Make-up exams will only be allowed with a University approved absence. You have one week from the exam date to submit your University approved absence to schedule a makeup exam. Submit your University approved excuse as soon as possible.

Final Exam

The final exam-Exam 4 will not be comprehensive. The format will be the same as the other exams. The final exam time is determined by the University and is listed in the course schedule and in Canvas. **There is no option to change the final exam date and time for this course (i.e., take the exam early or later than indicated by the University's final exam schedule).** *****Please note: a makeup exam for the final exam is not guaranteed.*****

Final exam schedule: <https://aggie.tamu.edu/registration-and-records/classes/final-examination-schedules>

Your lowest exam grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. This means that if you are satisfied with your grade once all assignments have been graded and exams 1-3 are completed, you do not have to take the final exam (exam 4). The final exam will be the exam grade that is dropped.

Assignments:

2 assignment at 20 points each/ total: 40 points

1 assignment at 35 points each/ total: 35 points

- Assignment instructions and due dates will be discussed in class and can be found in the Assignments module in Canvas and Canvas Assignments.
- Students are expected to submit assignments electronically in Canvas by the due date/time.
- Emailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Because assignment due dates are known on day one of the semester, late assignment submissions will not be accepted and no extensions will be given.
- You do have enough information in the assignment instructions to complete the assignment even if we have not yet covered the related topic(s) in class.
- Submit your required assignments early in the semester.

Extra Credit: possibilities

Instructions will be located in the Extra Credit module in Canvas*. Extra credit CANNOT be offered on an individual student basis. Extra credit points awarded are NOT percentage points unless otherwise noted. Extra credit opportunities are to be submitted in Canvas ONLY and by the due date listed in Canvas or in class. No emailed extra credit submissions will be accepted. The worth of extra credit opportunities is determined by Dr. Brysch.

- +1% on final average for extra credit book review.
 - See canvas for due date. See the extra credit book review module in canvas for book ideas and guidelines for submission.
- +2 points on assignments if submitted two class days before the assignment due date – NO exceptions and NO the computer crashed, avoid submitting at 1155pm.
 - For example: if the assignment is officially due on a Friday, then you need to submit that Monday before for the +2.
- In-Class extra credit engagement activities: 10 at 1 possible point each

- In-class engagement activities will randomly occur during the semester. The engagement activity could focus on the previous lecture, that day's lecture, or be related to that day's assigned readings or a previous class's readings.
- Engagement activities are each worth a possible 1 point each. You have to be successful at the activity to receive points. In other words, if you submit a blank activity sheet or do not answer thoughtfully, you will not receive credit or receive only partial credit.
- +1% on final average at end of the semester if you have 9/10 in-class engagement activities
- Engagement activity sheets will either be handed out at the beginning of class, during class, or at the end of class. Students must be in class on time and at the start of class to receive an engagement activity sheet. Engagement activities submitted on a student's "own paper" will not be accepted.
- Emailed engagement activity responses will not be accepted.
- If a student completes an engagement activity and turns the engagement activity in before class is over and leaves class, the engagement activity will not be accepted.
- Engagement activities sheets must include all information asked for and handwriting must be legible. Risk points off or the engagement activities not counting for not following these guidelines.
- In-class engagement activities will be due in class that day and cannot be made up. Again, make attending class a priority to take advantage of these extra credit points.
- Grades for in-class engagement activities will be entered into Canvas during the last week of classes and before the scheduled final exam.
- If students are caught completing in-class engagement activities for each other, credit will not be received. A report will also be made by the instructor to the Student Conduct Office.
- ***Other extra credit opportunities** might arise during the semester. They will be announced in class with a specific due date/time and instructions.
- **If students are disturbing the peace in class: any and potentially all awarded extra credit received (or potential extra credit) will be removed from Canvas. — see Course Policies: Attendance, Conduct, and Communication below.**

Late Make-up Work Policy:

Students are expected to submit assignments electronically in Canvas by the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Participation, Attendance, and Professionalism

A portion of your grade will be associated with the participation, attendance, and professionalism you demonstrate during the semester. Professionalism will be comprised of prompt class attendance, staying the entire class period, class participation, being a team player, professional use of technology, and personal ethics and honesty.

Professionalism:

Traits of a professional include a high academic standard, continual renewal of knowledge, personal responsibility for work, service to society, display of self-confidence, and dedication beyond personal considerations.

Course Policies: Attendance, Conduct, and Communication

Each student is required to attend class. Low attendance will result in you missing important announcements and material. Research has also shown that the grade received in a class has a direct correlation to the regularity to

which students attend. You are responsible for obtaining any information or announcements that you missed in class.

Students are expected to be on time, prepared for all lectures (i.e., having done the assigned readings). Issues related to the bus as a reason for late arrivals or missed classes is not a valid excuse. Please do not pack up before I dismiss the class. If you must leave early, please inform me prior to class. Excused absences (available at: <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>) that are known ahead of time should be documented and arranged with me prior to your absence (e.g., university trips, religious holidays (please inform me during the first two weeks of class), court appearances). You must provide an original excuse document within one week of the conclusion of your absence if the absence could not be predicted (e.g., illness or funeral of an immediate family member).

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

You are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward the professor, as well as toward your peers. Disruptive behavior is disrespectful and interferes with the learning of others around you, as well as your own learning. Any form of discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated. **If your behavior in class becomes disruptive or distracting to anyone, you will be asked to leave the classroom.** This includes but is not limited to arriving late, ringing cell phones, videos playing during class, texting, reading material or completing homework not related to class, talking to the people sitting around you, sleeping, etc. All cell phones, texting and other devices, and headphones should be turned off and put away during class. Laptops and similar devices (e.g., iPads, etc.) are for taking notes only and students must show me their notes after class. I reserve the right to revoke the privilege of using electronic devices in class by students unless outlined in individual student's accommodations by the Department of Disability Resources.

Texas A&M University's Student Rules on Classroom Behavior: <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule21/>

Also important: <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule24/>

[Because our course conduct policies are consistent with the University's, non-compliant students will be referred to the Student Conduct Office.](#)

*******Communicating with me: Dr. Brysch (carmen.brysch@tamu.edu) *******

TAMU email is considered the official means of communication by Texas A&M University. Please check your Texas A&M University Email account regularly and I will only respond to emails from TAMU email accounts. I will respond to email, telephone, and written messages as quickly as possible during normal business hours; Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. **Because I anticipate many emails this semester, if you do not hear back from me with 24-48 hours, please resend your email in the event I accidentally missed it.**

*******WHEN EMAILING ME: You MUST include the following: *First and Last Name as listed in Canvas; Course Name; and Class Time.* – If you do not include the course you are in, I may not reply to your email. If you do not email from your TAMU email, I may not reply. *******

All written communication must use proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. I will not respond to e-mails that use "IM" or text messaging language. Emails should also begin with a proper salutation (e.g., Dear Dr. Brysch) and end with a proper salutation.

Please review the “How to Email a Professor” document posted in Canvas or available at: <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>

Classroom acoustics and technology: Issues related to the technology and acoustics used in the classroom are taken seriously. Sometimes I cannot tell if the microphone goes out or how loud it is. If you are unable to hear me, see a video or any media or graphics that are being displayed, or if a screen projector goes out, **please let me know immediately.**

Attendance Policy

Class attendance and participation is an individual student responsibility. Students taking traditional face-to-face courses are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments by stated due dates.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

“The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

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You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course.
- Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.
- Any violation will result with a zero for the assignment and possible failure of the course.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below) Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

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Disability Resources is located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

Students are expected to meet with me to discuss accommodations within the first two weeks of the semester.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

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Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus

Texas A&M College Station

Students who need someone to talk to can contact Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) or call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](#).

COVID Syllabus Statement for Fall 2022

To help protect Aggieland and stop the spread of COVID-19, Texas A&M University urges students to be vaccinated and to wear masks in classrooms and all other academic facilities on campus, including labs. Doing so exemplifies the Aggie Core Values of respect, leadership, integrity, and selfless service by putting community concerns above individual preferences. COVID-19 vaccines and masking — regardless of vaccination status — have been shown to be safe and effective at reducing spread to others, infection, hospitalization, and death.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and the instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule as necessary. Changes in topics will be announced and additional and/or other readings and activities may be assigned.

****Students are advised to make note of exam dates and assignment due dates in Canvas and on the course calendar. These due dates will not change. The course grading scheme will not change.****

Course Calendar: see the course calendar document in the course information module in Canvas. – Assignment due dates/exam days can also be found in Canvas assignments.

Course topics: GEOG 304 Economic Geography:

Week	Date	Topic and Chapter Readings
Week 1	January 13-17	Introduction to Geography, the Geographic Perspective, and Economic Geography
Week 2	January 20-24	Dynamics of Capitalism
Week 3	January 27 – 31	Development and Underdevelopment: History, Indicators, and the Future
Week 4	February 3-7	Development and Underdevelopment: History, Indicators, and the Future
Week 5	February 10-14	Manufacturing and Production
Week 6	February 17-21	Manufacturing and Production
Week 7	February 24-28	Deindustrialization
Week 8	March 3-7	Services
Week 9	March 10-14	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	March 17-21	Population
Week 11	March 24-28	Migrant Labor
Week 12	March 31-April 4	Consumption
Week 13	April 7-11	Consumption
Week 14	April 14-18	Resources and the Environment
Week 15	April 21-25	Resources and the Environment
Wk 16	April 28 – last day of class	Alternatives: Can we create diverse economies?
Final Exam	Friday, May 2, 8am	

