



SYLLABUS - Engelke

(GEOG-3331) United States and Canada

Lecturer: Drew C. Engelke

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Contact me via email . Please do not send messages through Blackboard. Email only.

Office Hours: Virtual as needed

No Late work will be accepted in this course.

Textbook A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada

Toward a Sustainable Future, Second Edition

LISA BENTON-SHORT; JOHN RENNIE SHORT AND CHRIS MAYDA

978-1-4422-7718-2 • Hardback or

978-1-4422-7719-9 • eBook

Now in a thoroughly revised and updated edition, this text offers a comprehensive examination of North America's physical and human geography, weaving in the key themes of environment and sustainability throughout. The authors explore the challenges each region faces, such as water shortages, climate change, increased migration and diversity, urbanization, and continued economic changes. The book also highlights the positive actions that Americans and Canadians are taking to move toward a more sustainable future. New features in the second edition include sections on population, immigration and diversity, and urban trends. Each chapter also features a case study that examines a national park (representing natural and cultural heritage), how the region is coping with climate change, how geospatial technologies are applied to environmental challenges, iconic images and/or cultural festivals, urban sustainability best practices, and global connections and networks. Designed for ease of teaching and learning, the book features full-color photographs and maps throughout; chapter highlights; lists of key terms, places, and major cities for each chapter; discussion questions; and a glossary.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781442277182/A-Regional-Geography-of-the-United-States-and-Canada-Toward-a-Sustainable-Future-Second-Edition>

Course Objectives – Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to be an introductory course in the study of the geography of the United States and Canada. This class will focus on the readings, maps and photographs of the region of the Earth as described by the above listed textbook and “hand-outs” given to the students during the semester. A study of the physical, cultural, political and environmental geography of the US and Canada and the spatial interrelations will be the focus of this class.

Each student will learn the climates, landforms, natural disasters, weather systems and plate tectonics of the region. The students will learn and discuss how the region, realms and specific areas of the US and Canada vary in culture, population, religion, politics, natural resources, climate, economics due to physical geography.

At the conclusion of this course the students will be able to understand, interpret and realize the diverse world in which we live in an intellectual manner and disposition. Each student should

have a general knowledge of the geography of the US and Canada, the physical and cultural features and how it affects where and how people live. This course will enable the students to broaden their views, beliefs and ideals about the part of the world in which we all live and interrelate each day.

Class Format – (on-line)

Blackboard will be the avenue of interaction and learning. You will be required to participate in discussion topics and complete your assignments by the due dates given. Reading the required textbook and participating in discussion topics will be a great way for you to learn during the semester. The Discussion forums, major assignments and final exam will also be integral to your learning. The assignments posted will focus on chapter content of the textbook. All assignments, etc. for the course will be posted in the **Course Content** and **Discussion Board** sections of Blackboard. I will post announcements frequently on the Blackboard. If you need any assistance feel free to email me at drew.engelke@tamusa.edu

Attendance (based on participation)

Since this is an on-line course you will only be required to participate and meet deadlines in discussions topics and all assignments given during the semester. Attendance is **REQUIRED** for the hybrid course only; and during the class days/times designated, unless otherwise stated.

AI policy

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating; plagiarism (the appropriation of another's work and unauthorized incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit); and collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing college work offered for credit). These acts will be subject to academic penalties. For a full statement of TAMUSA's student code of conduct, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Special Needs Policy: 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 disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is **(210) 784-1335** and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

****The Student Academic Success Center** takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in the Madla Building, Suite 336. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1352 or email at Student.Success@tamusa.edu

TexShare Card: All students should acquire a TexShare card. This card will give you access to books and other research materials at most area university libraries, including UTSA and the Alamo College campuses. Contact the TAMU-SA librarian for assistance. This card will enhance your research in other courses also.

Make-Up Policy: Make-up exams will be given for **only** the most severe medical or family emergencies, and **only** with official documentation explaining your lack of participation.

Communication: Your success depends on the communication you have with me throughout the course. Please keep me informed of issues or reasons as to why your assignment was not submitted. I will consider alternatives, such as deducting points and accepting late work or some extra credit to make up for points during the semester in extreme circumstances only. Please inform me if unforeseen issues arise.

Major Course Requirements and Grading policy (Point system)

Major assignments (5 @100)	500	(50%)
Discussion topics (4 @ 75)	300	(30%)
Final Exam	<u>200</u>	(20%)

Total: 1000 points

Point Scale:

900 - 1000 =	A
800 - 899 =	B
700 - 799 =	C
600 - 699 =	D
599 & below =	F

*** COURSE WORK IS TO BE SUBMITTED VIA *TURNITIN* ON BLACKBOARD**

**** Discussion topics to be submitted on the Discussion Board**

Major Assignments (5) – submission via email and “Turnitin Assignments” on Blackboard

You will be assigned 5 major assignments during the semester.

The readings assigned in your textbook will be the primary source of your information.

Expect to submit your completed work on the due date given. You may submit early.

No late papers or make-up work will be accepted.

Discussion Topics (4) – submission on the Discussion Board

A list of topics will be posted during the semester on the Discussion Board section of Blackboard. Please participate and discuss each topic intellectually and analytically.

Make sure you participate prior to the due date. The access will end on due date.

Final Exam (Specific time period for this to be completed/submitted on Turnitin)

Each student will be required to take the exam. It will be comprehensive and will be based on the material/discussions covered during the semester. You will be informed of the due date and format of the final exam prior to or directly following the mid-term.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES – January 2024

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. 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 Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and

individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

COVID-19 SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

COVID-19 is a dangerous illness. Above everything else, your health and safety are our concern. The best estimate now is that 20–40% of people infected with the virus have no symptoms. In compliance with safety practices, students are required to complete the COVID-19 student training course. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate with your name and date of completion. If you have yet to complete the course, please do so immediately, as completion is required to return to campus and participate in the Fall 2020 academic semester.

NOTE: *If you do not complete this training, you will have a Dean of Students hold on your records, which will prevent adds, drops, and registration.*

Students are required to conduct a self-assessment each day before coming to campus to determine if they are exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19. Your presence on campus means that you certify that you are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms.

CHECKLIST

If any of the following apply to you, stay home!

1. Have a diagnosis or suspected case of coronavirus;
 2. Are currently exhibiting any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 as listed on the CDC “Symptoms of Coronavirus” web page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>—**even one symptom** (e.g., cough or headache);
 3. In the past 14 days have had close (less than six feet) contact with a person who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19;
 4. In the past 14 days have had close (less than six feet) contact with a person who is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test because of symptoms or exposure;
 5. In the past 14 days have returned from travel or have traveled through an area with state or local travel restrictions that mandate quarantine upon arrival home.
- Fever or chills (feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

When in doubt, stay home!

If any of the above apply to you, do NOT come to campus. Instead, contact your professor and the Dean of Students Office dos@tamusa.edu, office phone: (210) 784-1354.

All components of this class, including assessments, can be completed virtually, through Blackboard or other platform used in this class. Office hours will be held via Webex or other platform provided by the instructor.

For lecture classes that include a face-to-face component:

Accommodation for missing class if you meet one of the criteria on the checklist or do not feel comfortable physically attending will be made without penalty. Visitors are not allowed, and students can attend class only on their designated day for in-person attendance. All students have a responsibility to ensure they are always contributing to a safe learning environment by following all health and safety protocols.

For laboratory classes that include a face-to-face, hands-on component:

Unlike lecture classes with face-to-face components, laboratories are designed to provide hands-on experience and training in particular skills that are difficult to attain online. Thus, if students are registered for a laboratory course with a face-to-face component, it is expected that they physically attend on their scheduled day. However, if students have a documented health issue, are in another high-risk category, or feel uncomfortable attending in person, they may be able to enroll in a section of the course that is designated OLC (on-line class). If no such section exists, which may occur in upper-division courses, it is imperative that students contact their instructors immediately, and accommodations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Note: You and your instructor may decide that it's in your best interest to finish the course at a later date.

Once enrolled in either a hybrid or a fully on-line section, students may not switch between in-person and on-line learning without instructor approval due to the unique nature of preparing for hands-on activities in a laboratory environment as well as tight regulations on the number of students physically allowed in the laboratory. Accommodation for missing class if you meet one of the criteria on the checklist or do not feel comfortable attending will be made without penalty.

While in the classroom:

1. Sanitize your hands upon entering.
2. Always maintain at least six feet from others, including your instructor and other students.
3. Front-row seating will not be used.
4. Sit in designated seats.
5. Always wear a cloth face covering or surgical mask fully covering your mouth and nose at all times while in the classroom, even if alone.
6. Observe and conform to any markings on the floor indicating appropriate spacing and don't sit in a location that has been marked as being off limits.
7. You may ask questions by raising your hand during class or by emailing the instructor outside of class. Do not approach your instructor before or after class to ask a question or attempt to hand your instructor any document or item, as this does not facilitate social distancing.

While in the laboratory: Special laboratory safety instructions will be provided on the course-specific syllabus, and appropriate training will be provided.

Students who do not live up to these responsibilities will not be permitted to physically attend class. Failure to comply with these health and safety protocols is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. A student who is not in compliance with these health and safety protocols will not be allowed to remain in the classroom and will be reported to the student-conduct office, which may result in the student being barred from the classroom for the remainder of the semester and may also lead to expulsion from the university.

Certain classes may transition to fully online when necessary for health and safety.