



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO

GEOG 1303- World Geography

<b>Instructor Name:</b> Michael L. Boucher, Jr., Ph. D.	<b>A&amp;M-San Antonio email:</b> Mboucher@TAMUSA.edu
<b>Office Hours and Location:</b> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 4:00 PM Madla 251. By Appointment and via zoom	<b>Course Location &amp; Time:</b> Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 AM Madla 206

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

*Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World (6th Edition)* by Rowntree, Price, Wyckoff, and Lewis

Colored pencils

**Recommended Course Materials:**

- Microsoft Office suite for a PC. All work must be submitted either as Word or .PDF files and there can be compatibility issues with the Mac word processing programs
- 3 ring-binder for keeping course materials and handouts
- Regular and reliable access to the internet and ability to print copies for class

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**From the course catalog:** Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices found in those regions.

**GRADING POLICIES**

Assessment	Points
Map Final versions	200
Hydropolitics Simulation	40
What should be done with Greenland?	40

Resolving Aral Sea Disputes	40
Policy Proposal: Climate Change in Oceania	40
Geographic Problem Presentations	140
Total	500

Evaluations will be made with numbers. Final course grades of “A” through “F” will be awarded based on the A&M-SA grading Policy (see below):

Letter Grade	Range	Grade Points
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	59 & Below	0.0

## COURSE POLICIES

### ATTENDANCE:

This course is offered as an in-person course. We will meet **every week** for an on-campus/in-person class.

Students are expected to be at all class sessions and prepared for each class. I will be conducting formative assessments throughout the semester. These assessments will be worth points toward the final grade in the course, but equally as important, I use these to gauge the student’s understanding of the course. Therefore, based on student learning, formative assessment points will be taken every class period. I understand that emergencies or crises that cause a student to miss a class period occur at times. If such an emergency arises, the student must contact me as soon as possible to alter the situation for me. This course is designed to prepare future teachers for the classroom; a large part of that preparation is being part of the learning community. Daily attendance enables this preparation and community building to happen.

### LATE WORK POLICY:

Any assignments submitted after the due date will be subject to a grade reduction. Late work will be accepted at the professor's discretion and may not receive full credit.

### ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION IN BLACKBOARD:

Most submissions for this course will be in-person unless explained explicitly in class.

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

All students must have adequate writing skills in English to communicate content professionally and concisely. Students must be proficient in their written presentations, including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow APA guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references and evidence to support their thesis and ideas in the paper and projects.

### **Email and Announcements:**

For all electronic communication with me, please use my email address, Mboucher@TAMUSA.edu, rather than Blackboard messaging. I check my email regularly, but I can only access Blackboard messages when I open the app, which may delay my response. Additionally, I will use announcements to share essential updates, opportunities, changes, or news related to the class. To stay informed, please check your school email **daily**.

### **Recording of Classroom Lectures or Discussions**

Students are prohibited from photographing and recording during classes and from transmitting classroom lectures and discussions by students unless written permission from the class instructor has been obtained and all students in the class, as well as guest speakers, have been informed that photographing or audio/video recording may occur.

Permission to allow the audio/visual recording is **not** a transfer of any copyrights to the material recorded. Photographs, videos and audio recordings may **not be** reproduced or uploaded to publicly accessible web or social media environments. An exception to this will be any student determined by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to be entitled to education accommodations to exercise any rights protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including needed recording or adaptations of classroom lectures or materials for personal research and study.

Public distribution of lecture recordings may constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal or state law, or University policy (See Rules and Procedures 17.01.01-Ownership of Intellectual Property and Tangible Research Property). Violation of this policy may subject a student to disciplinary action via the [University Honor Code](#).

In addition to subjecting you to criminal prosecution, violating the wiretapping law can expose you to a civil lawsuit for damages by all injured parties. [Texas Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 123.002](#).

No recordings will be allowed unless under the direction of the Office of Disability Services.

### **Texas Senate Bill 17**

[Texas Senate Bill 17](#), the recent law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction, or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations regarding academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have **not been altered** post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics pertaining to race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion. I **encourage** you to critically analyze and deconstruct the historical and contemporary purposes, agendas, and effects of this law and similar legislation.