



Spring Semester, 2015

Paul Wright

### **GEOG 3301: GEOGRAPHY OF TEXAS**

Required Text: Texas State Historical Association, TEXAS ALMANAC 2014-2015; Erik Prout, GEOGRAPHY OF TEXAS: PEOPLE, PLACES, PATTERNS.

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the physical and cultural features of Texas and their relevance for understanding "what makes Texas tick" and planning options for the future of Texas. Texas as a political entity will be covered initially, followed by discussions of physical conditions in the state. Geographic factors in the history of Texas will then be explored. The latter part of the course focuses on the contemporary population and issues of development and quality of life.

Expected learning outcomes from the course include: understanding the concept of geography and learning to view Texas through a spatial perspective, learning the physical and cultural diversity of Texas, gaining an understanding of why Texas is more than just a political entity notwithstanding its tremendous physical and cultural diversity, how humans have modified the physical environment to create the landscapes we now see, and being able to apply insights gained here to make intelligent choices concerning future directions for Texas.

This course is required for those who will teach Texas geography at the elementary school level. The State in the *TExES Preparation Manual-Generalist EC-6 (191)* has developed "competencies" that need to be taught in the courses concerning Texas Geography. They may be found in the "TExES" folder in the "Content" area of Blackboard for this course. Those expecting to teach should download this document and become familiar with it. The letters in parenthesis associated with the topics covered that are

listed below correspond to competencies listed for Texas Geography in the preparation manual. In addition, through the "geographical approach" (i.e., viewing phenomena through a spatial context and combining components of the physical and cultural environments to gain holistic understandings that cannot be otherwise learned) used in the course, competencies O,P,R,S and U pertaining to the general nature of social science research are discussed. All 26 competences listed as essential for public school teachers of Texas Geography are addressed in the course.

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility 112 Ferguson Hall, Box C-117 or call 837-8203.

There will be 8 quizzes, which will cumulatively count for a third of the final grade. There will be three exams. Each exam will be non-cumulative and will count for a sixth of the total grade. In cases where the final point total falls somewhat below the cutoff for a given grade, grade improvement over the session and any classroom participation will be taken into account in determining whether to raise the grade. Lack of grade improvement and/or classroom participation will not lower the grade, but grade improvement or active classroom participation may raise it.

Attendance is expected and comprises  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of the final grade. There are 100 points that can be received by attending all 45 minute classes on time. Each absence will result in 4 points being deducted from the point total whereas each "tardy" will result in 2 points being deducted from the point total.

Hand-held communication devices (cell phones, blackberries, etc.) are not permitted to be visible in class and must be turned off. Any device observed by me and/or going off in class will result in the owner being dismissed for the duration of the class for the first offense and expulsion from class for the second offense. Leave them elsewhere or out of sight in a container. Any visible device discovered during quizzes or exams will be regarded as prima facie evidence of cheating with the owner being subject to

appropriate disciplinary action. I trust this will not happen to anyone in this class.

Theoretically, there are 600 possible points in the class, although in fact 640 points are possible if one takes all quizzes and exam. In addition, the extra credit opportunity is worth a potential 50 points.

The final grade point range for each grade given at the end of the course is as follows: 480+=A, 420-479=B, 360-419=C, 300-359=D, and <300=F. Your grade may be higher than indicated by the point total based on classroom participation and/or grade improvement during the course.

My office hours are from 9:00-9:50 MWF, and from 9:30-10:30 Tu,Th. You may also see me by appointment or by dropping by in the afternoon and taking your chances that I am in. My office phone number is 837-8150 and my home phone number is 837-7245. My e-mail address is [pwright@sulross.edu](mailto:pwright@sulross.edu). Do not hesitate to call for any reason. I am in LH 306.

Topics, readings, quizzes and exams tentatively will be in the following order. (TEXES competencies are listed in parenthesis):

Jan 20	Texas, just a political entity? (A,N,T)	Text 7-39
Jan 22	Texas, an introduction (B,C,Q)	Almanac 15-16,78
Jan 27	Texas, an introduction	Text, 90-91
Jan 29	Quiz, Geology & Geomorphology	
Feb 3	Geology & Geomorphology (D,N)	Almanac 85-88
Feb 5	Geology & Geomorphology	Jordan 7-14
Feb 10	Geology & Geomorphology	
Feb 12	Quiz, Weather and Climate	Almanac 121-127
Feb 17	Weather and Climate (D)	Text 116-121
Feb 19	Weather and Climate	
Feb 24	Quiz, Water (D,E,F,G)	Text 126-130
Feb 26	Water	Almanac 94-113
Mar 3	Water, Soils (D,E)	Jordan 37-40, Almanac 89-93
Mar 5	Quiz, Flora and Fauna	Almanac 114-117, 125-129
Mar 10	Exam	
Mar 12	Flora and Fauna (D,F)	Text 130-138
Mar 20	Flora and Fauna	
Mar 24	Physical Regions (N,C,E)	Almanac 77-84
Mar 26	Physical Regions	Text 141-168
Mar 31	Quiz, Geog. & Texas Hist.	Text 44-62
Apr 2	Geog. & Texas Hist. (E,H,I,K,L,M,W,Z)	Meinig 23-37
Apr 7	Geog. & Texas Hist.	Almanac 34-43

Apr 9	Geog. & Texas Hist.	
Apr 14	Quiz, Geog. & Texas Hist.	
Apr 16	Geog. & Texas Hist.	Text 83-110
Apr 21	Geog. & Texas Hist.	
Apr 23	Quiz, Population	Text, 192-214
Apr 28	Population (B,C,V,U)	Almanac 415-417
Apr 30	Social Geography (I,K,X,Y)	Text, 215-237
May 5	Social Geography	
May 14	Quiz, Final Exam	