

# CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: <b>Historical Geography</b>		
Course Number: <b>HIS/GEOG 326</b>	Section Number: <b>01</b>	Semester: Spring 2024
Semester Credit Hours: 3	Room: Labry Hall 209	Schedule: <b>MW 2:00-3:15 PM</b>
<b>Required Course Materials:</b>  <b>Holt-Jensen, Arild, <i>Geography: History and Concepts (5th Edition)</i></b> Sage (ISBN: 978-1-5264-4014-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eBook is available for purchase online.</li> <li>A physical copy is available for purchase at the CU Bookstore and Amazon.</li> </ul> <b>Crosby, Alfred W., <i>Ecological Imperialism</i></b> Cambridge University Press (ISBN: 978-0-521-54618-8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to buy this book from Amazon or another retailer.</li> </ul> <p><i>Further readings for this course will be added to Canvas.</i></p>		

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of Instructor:	Professor Miguel Angel Chavez
Telephone Number:	Office: (615) 257-4402
E-mail Address:	<a href="mailto:mchavez@cumberland.edu">mchavez@cumberland.edu</a>
Office Hours:	<b>Labry 230 - MW 9-11 AM / TR 9-12 PM</b>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the various ways in which history has affected and has been affected by geographic patterns, including but not limited to physical, political, cultural, and environmental elements. Students will be exposed to a variety of historical and current historical geographical research methods

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, audio-visual presentations, and student presentations. Students are expected to take notes and participate in class discussions.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Students will come away with an understanding of geographical history by engaging with primary sources, reading the writings of historians, geographers, and various scholars, and by completing writing and cartographical assignments. By the end of the semester, students will have an understanding of the relationship between history and geography.

Using primary and secondary sources, students will be required to think and write critically and logically about historical events and themes.

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
2	Exams	40%
1	Map Assignment and Presentation	20%
1	Fictional Map Analysis	10%
1	Book Review	10%
1	Class Discussion	10%
-	Attendance and Participation	10%

## GRADING

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**Exams:** There will be **two exams (a midterm and final)** over the material discussed in class as well as any assigned reading. The exams will consist of written essays. Each exam will be count towards 20% of your course grade, or 40% in total.

**Map Assignment:** There will be **a map assignment** during the semester. Students will create a map (either on a poster board or digitally) depicting a historical event. Students will write a 3-4 page paper accompanying the map giving context and sources. Finally, the project will be presented to the class at the end of the semester. More details will be provided in the class and on Canvas.

**Fictional Map Analysis:** Students will complete **a fictional map analysis**. Students will select a fictional map and write a 2-3 page paper *historicizing* the map. More details will be provided in class and on Canvas.

**Book Review:** There will be **a book review** during the semester. Students will select a book from an approved list and situate that book in the context of the other class readings. This will be 10% of the course grade. More details will be given as to the review's requirements.

**Class Discussion and *Precis*:** Discussions will be an important part of this course. As such, it is imperative for you to read the weekly assignment and come prepared to discuss that with your classmate. I will ask students to write up a 1-2 page review for a week of readings. More details will be announced in class and on Canvas.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students will be expected to attend class daily and arrive on-time. Roll will be taken every meeting, as per Cumberland University policy. **Participation in class discussions is necessary and a core part of this course.** This will count 10% of your grade.

**Extra Credit:** There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

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A = 100-93 / A- = 92.9-90 / B+ = 89.9-87 / B = 86.9-83 / B- = 82.9-80 / C+ = 79.9-77 / C = 76.9-70  
/ D+ = 69.9-67 / D = 66.9-60 / F = 59.9-0

Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” is February 12. Last day to withdraw with a “WP” or “WF” is on March 25.

<http://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/Current-Catalog/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Registration-Policy/Drop-Process>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the “Academic Integrity Policy” section of Cumberland University’s 2023-2024 Catalog:

<https://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/en/Current/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Further, students are to live up to the *Cumberland Creed*: “Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability.”

Academic integrity violations include (but are not limited to): **plagiarism, cheating, re-submissions of prior assignments, using AI programs** (e.g. Chat GPT), and **damaging and destroying academic material. Violations will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Further, violations could be reported to the Dean of Students, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or the Provost.**

**Cite your sources carefully when writing!** Remember to use quotation marks when quoting from a primary or secondary source. Do not copy-and-paste information from Wikipedia or the textbooks and pretend it is your own work. Do not lend your writing to your classmates: numerous cases of plagiarism have been reported by that method.

## TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM

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I highly recommend you take your lecture notes on paper. However, given the needs of students with accessibility issues to use laptops and recorders, I will allow students to use laptops and tablets for note taking. But do not be disruptive with your technology use. In addition, do not use your smartphone in class. If you end up distracted and miss part of the class, that’s ultimately your responsibility.

## STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

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As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in our communities. At the same time, other communicable illnesses are also present. Members of the Cumberland University community are asked to help maintain a campus that is safe for all by undertaking appropriate

health precautions. We encourage community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing.

If you do experience symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or other ailments, we encourage you to seek medical attention through the University Health Services by making an appointment at <https://cumberland.edu/health-services/> or through your personal health provider. Students may be excused from class attendance with a note from University Health Services or a private health provider, though anyone receiving an excused absence will continue to be responsible for completing all required course assignments.

For further guidance on how to respond to COVID-19, please review the University's statement on health protocols at: <https://www.cumberland.edu/coronavirus/current-health-protocols/>.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE – HIST/GEOG 326: Historical Geography**

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This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Textbook:

- AHJ = *Geography (History and Concepts)*
- Check the [Modules page](#) for our weekly readings.

### **Week 1 – Jan. 16 to Jan. 19**

Introduction / Maps are Liars 😞

Reading(s):

- Get your textbooks!
- Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps* (excerpts)
- Richard White, "What is Spatial History?"
- YouTube, ["Historical Geography" \(Overview\)](#)

Class Discussion: Introduction; thoughts on geography and history

Homework: Get your textbooks and readings in order!

### **Week 2 – Jan. 22 to Jan. 26**

Overview of Geography and Key Concepts

Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 1
- Umberto Eco, "On the Impossibility on Drawing a Map of the Empire"
- Jorge Luis Borges, "On Exactitude in Science"
- François Furstenberg, "The Significance of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier in Atlantic History"

Class Discussion: Historical Geography and Limits of Cartography

### **Week 3 – Jan. 29 to Feb. 2**

Ancient Geography

Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 2 (up to Strabo)
- Herodotus, *The Histories* (Excerpt)
- Ian Ross, "[Did the Romans have maps?](#)"
- Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, "[Explore Peutingers Roman Map](#)"
- Vedran Bileta, "[Ancient Mariners: Sailing the Roman Mediterranean](#)"

Class Discussion: Geography in the Ancient World

### **Week 4 – Feb. 5 to Feb. 9**

Biblical and Religious Geography

Reading(s):

- Stump, Roger, "Religion and Human Geography"
- Armstrong, Karen, *Fields of Blood* (Excerpts)
- [The Pilgrimage of Etheria \(Excerpts\)](#)
- PBS, "[Sacred Sites](#)" (Video)

Class Discussion: Religious Geography and Cosmology

### **Week 5 – Feb. 12 to Feb. 16**

Islamic and Medieval Historical Geography

Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 2, "The Middle Ages and the Renaissance"
- Sayyid Ali Asghar Razwy, "[Geography of Arabia](#)" and "[Arabia before Islam](#)"
- Ibn Khaldun, *Muqaddimah* (Excerpts)
- Schmid et al., "[Climate-driven introduction of the Black Death \(...\)](#)"

Class Discussion: Geography in its Medieval Context

### **Week 6 – Feb. 19 to Feb. 23**

Historical Geography of East Asia

Reading(s):

- Ruth Mostern, *The Yellow River: A Natural and Unnnatural History* (Excerpts)
- Patrick Grant "Geography's Importance to Japan's History"

Class Discussion: Asian Historical Geography and the Question of What is Asia?

### **Mid-Term Exam – Feb. 28**

### **Week 7 – Feb. 26 to Mar. 1**

Ecology and Prelude to the Columbian Exchange

Reading(s):

- AHJ, remainder of Ch. 2

- Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism* (Intro to Ch. 6)

Class Discussion: Eurasia's Advantages over the New World

--- Mar. 4 to Mar. 8 - SPRING BREAK! NO CLASSES ---

### **Week 8 – Mar. 11 to Mar. 15**

The Columbian Exchange and Imperialism

Reading(s):

- Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism* (Ch. 7-12)
- Barbara Mundy, "Making the Aztec Capital"

Class Discussion: Consequences of the Columbian Exchange

*Fictional Map Analysis Due – Mar. 23 at 11:59 PM*

### **Week 9 – Mar. 18 to Mar. 22**

Literature, Art, and Geography

Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 3 and 4
- Yi-Fu Tuan, "Literature and Geography: Implications for Geographical Research"
- Sara Blair, "Cultural Geography and the Place of the Literary"

Class Discussion: Fictional Geographies and History / Fictional Map Analysis

### **Week 10 - Mar. 25 to Mar. 29**

The Historical Geography of Africa

Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 5 and 6
- Michael Robinson, *The Lost White Tribe* (Excerpt)
- Laura J. Mitchell, "Appraising Nature: Pastoralist Practice, Hunting Logics and Landscape Ideology in Colonial Southern Africa"
- National Geographic, "[Africa: Physical Geography](#)"

Class Discussion: The Geographies of Africa

*Book Review Due – April. 6 at 11:59 PM*

### **Week 11 – Apr. 1 to Apr. 5**

Landscapes, Oceans, and Mountains

Reading(s):

- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean* (Excerpts)
- Mark Kurlansky, *Cod* (Excerpts)
- James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed* (Excerpts)

Class Discussion: History of Landscapes and of Things

## **Week 12 – Apr. 8 to Apr. 12**

### Imperialism and Geography

#### Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 7 and 8
- J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires* (Excerpts)
- Dava Sorell, *Longitude* (Excerpts)
- John Darwin, *After Tamerlane* (Excerpts)
- JB Harley, "New England Cartography and the Native Americans"

Class Discussion: Imperialism and the East-West Divide

*Map Assignment Due – April 13 at 11:59 PM*

## **Week 13 – Apr. 15 to Apr. 19**

### Map Assignment Presentations

#### Reading(s):

- James Clifford, "Diasporas"
- Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons* (Excerpts)

Class Discussion: Presentations! 🎉

## **Week 14 – Apr. 22 to Apr. 26**

### Postmodernism and Deconstructing the Map

#### Reading(s):

- AHJ, Ch. 9 and 10
- J.B. Harley, "Maps, Knowledge, and Power"
- William Rankin, *After the Map* (Excerpts)
- Mona Domosh and Karen M. Morin, "Travels with Feminist Historical Geography"

Class Discussion: History, Geography, and Narratives

**Last Day of Classes – April 26**

*Final Exam – April 29 (1:30 PM to 3:30 PM)*

## CAMPUS SUPPORT

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**Disability and Accessibility:** Students with a disability can register with the **Office of Accessibility**, located in Labry Hall 226, to discuss the possibility of accommodations. Once registered and approved, an electronic copy of the accommodations will be sent to the student and the professor. Students are encouraged to register for accommodations early in the semester. The Office of Accessibility can be reached by phone (615-547-1286), by email ([adavis@cumberland.edu](mailto:adavis@cumberland.edu)), or in person (Labry Hall, room 226). For more information, please visit: <https://www.cumberland.edu/accessibility/>.

**Counseling:** The **University Counseling Center** is located in Labry Hall 225. Appointments for individual personal counseling sessions, which may be in-person or virtual, can be scheduled by calling or emailing Eddie Christian at 615-547-1397 and [echristian@cumberland.edu](mailto:echristian@cumberland.edu), or by emailing Sandy Fields (virtual appointments only) at [sfields@theratribe.com](mailto:sfields@theratribe.com). The Counseling Center website also contains additional information that may be helpful: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-counseling-services/>.

**Library:** The **Doris and Harry Vise Library** is very helpful in your studies for obvious reasons. The regular Fall 2023 hours of the library are:

*Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

The library website can be very useful as well: <https://library.cumberland.edu/home> - scroll down to "Quick Links" to find the Vise Library Catalog and other resources. If you need help from off campus, please call the library at 615-547-1299 or email: [library@cumberland.edu](mailto:library@cumberland.edu).

**Computer Labs:** There are computer labs available to students, faculty, and staff, located in the basement of Labry Hall. There are also selected workstations available in the University Library and above the atrium on the second floor of Labry Hall, as well as on the second floor of Memorial Hall and in the Learning and Career Commons. If you have problems with any of these computer workstations, printers/copiers, or have other account issues, please submit an IT Service Request by emailing [support@cumberland.edu](mailto:support@cumberland.edu). Student passwords can be reset by visiting: <https://cams3.cumberland.edu/rptool/index.html?s=1>

**Academic Support:** The **Office of Student Retention and TN Promise Support** exists to offer encouragement, support, and guidance as you navigate life at CU. Among other services, they can offer referrals to the Office of Student Success (Tutoring and Writing Center) as well as the Counseling Center and the Office of Accessibility, when needed. This office houses three academic coaches, who can offer one-on-one sessions to help with things like time management, study skills, etc. Additionally, TN Promise students will receive reminders about important deadlines and requirements from this office. Contact Student Retention and TN Promise Support by visiting LCC 202, calling 615-547-1206, or emailing: [retention@cumberland.edu](mailto:retention@cumberland.edu).

**Student Success:** The **Office of Student Success** is located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 122. This office oversees tutoring and testing services for all actively enrolled Cumberland University students, including the Writing Center (LCC 116) and subject-based academic tutoring labs that are widely available. You can sign up for individual tutors in most CU courses or small group sessions for foundations courses as



well. Virtual tutoring sessions are also available for online students. You can visit LCC 122 or LCC 116 directly or email [OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu](mailto:OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu) or call 615-547-1238 for a referral. Additional information is also available on the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/academics-2/office-of-student-success/>

**Career Services:** The **Office of Career Services**, located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 225, supports students and alumni in the development and achievement of career decisions and goals. Services are provided to all Cumberland students and graduates and include: Self-Assessment and Career Planning, Internship and Job Postings, Resume and Cover Letter Review, Graduate School Preparation, and Career-Related Workshops.

Remember to check out the Cumberland App and the website *HireCU* at <https://cumberland-csm.symplicity.com/> for part-time, full-time, and internship job opportunities! For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Career Services Director, Dixie Rury, by phone (615-547-1308) or via email ([drury@cumberland.edu](mailto:drury@cumberland.edu)) or visit the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/student-life/internships-and-career-services/>

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