

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**Wayland Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title, Number, and Section

**GEOG/HIST 3318-VC01 – Environmental/Geographical History of the U.S.**

Term

Fall 2018

Instructor:Prof. Jessica J. Patton Maeer

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address

817-515-7674; jessica.patton@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location

available by email M-F and usually on weekends

Class Meeting Time and Location

online

Catalog Description

The changing ways our society has defined, interpreted, valued, and used nature; the varying social, political  
and economic agendas that have defined society’s relationship with its natural surroundings; survey of the settlement patterns of the U.S., with special emphasis on Texas.

**There is no prerequisite for this course**

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s)

1) ***Major Problems in American Environmental History,*** by Carolyn Merchant, Cengage Publishers, 3rd edition, 9780495912422

2) ***Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900,*** by Alfred Crosby, Cambridge Publishers, 2015, 9781107569874

Course Outcome Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* The diffusion of major regional cultures throughout the United States.
* How geographic factors have influenced settlement patterns, economic development, political relationships, and policies within Texas and the US.
* The doctrine of First Effective Settlement.
* The Central Place Theory
* The location of various geographical features in the United States.
* The motivations behind the acquisition of territories by the United States.
* Changing concepts of the natural environment.
* Common critiques of man’s interaction with nature.
* The challenge of balancing human needs with ecologically sound practices.
* Major environmental catastrophes: Three Mile Island, extinction of animals, etc.
* The development of the modern environmental movement in the US.

# Attendance Requirements:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**Additional attendance policies:** Attendance records will be based on on-time submission of graded assignments.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Instructor’s policy on Academic Dishonesty**

**The instructor and the college require a high level of academic behavior and honesty from students in this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work that was used in whole or in part for another course without obtaining permission of the instructor in advance, the submission for credit of any work that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to another student, or the attempts to commit such acts. Students who violate the college rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the failure of that assignment and possible removal from the course. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the college community, policies regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.**

Disability Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

**The course will start with an orientation activity worth 25 points. The remaining points for the course will consist of Discussion Board assignments and written assignments. There will be no exams for this course.**

**Orientation Quiz – 25 pts.**

**Orientation Discussion Boards – 25 pts.**

**Orientation Information Form – 25 pts.**

**1 book Q & A – 100 pts.**

**4 Reading Response Assignments – 75 pts/each**

**3 Discussion boards – 75 pts/each**

M**ethod of determining course grade: Each student’s final grade will be based on a total points earned scale:**

**626 – 700 = A**

**556 – 625 = B**

**486 – 555 = C**

**416 – 485 = D**

**Below 416 = F**

# The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

# Student grade appeals

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

See Course Planner below.

# Additional Important Information:

1. Because this is a 100% online course and all materials are available online during posted availability dates, no late work will be accepted. This policy is firm in order to be fair to all students – if I extend a due date for one student but not for all students, that creates an unfair situation.

2. I do not accept any homework or discussion board assignments through email. Every graded assignment must be turned in through the BlackBoard portal. The purpose of this is to protect you, the student. Sometimes emails do not end up where they were sent – they can end up in the ether, floating around somewhere. I would also encourage you to save a screen shot of the confirmation page for every assignment you submit – this gives us something to work with if your assignment goes “missing,” which can happen with any online classroom platform. You can make a folder for submission confirmations (be sure to label each one individually). At the end of the semester after you receive your final grade, you can delete the entire folder.

3. All due dates/times are based on Central Daylight Savings Time (CDST). All graded work will be due at 11:59 p.m. on the respective due date – and no late work will be accepted. If you live outside of the central time zone, please adjust the Course Planner accordingly so you won’t miss any due dates/times. Also, cut-off times for assignments are based on BlackBoard’s clock – not necessarily your computer’s clock, so please be aware of these deadlines. As soon as the due date/time passes, the graded activity will disappear from BlackBoard and you will not be able to turn in any completed work after it disappears. The best solution for avoiding a missed due date/time is to make sure you complete and turn in your work early. Any student who attempts to turn in graded activities at the last minute and misses the deadline will not be able to send those graded activities through email or receive an extension.

[**http://catalog.wbu.edu**](http://catalog.wbu.edu)

**GEOG/HIST 3318 – ENVIRONMENTAL/GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF THE U.S. COURSE PLANNER – FALL 2018**

**Orientation Quiz** -- Due by Friday, August 24, at 1:00 p.m.

**Orientation Discussion Board** – Due by Friday, August 24, at 1:00 p.m.

**Orientation Information Form** – Due by Friday, August 24, at 1:00 p.m.

**Q & A on Alfred Crosby’s *Ecological Imperialism*** due Friday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m.

**Reading Response Paper #1** due Sunday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m.

**Discussion Board #1** due Saturday, September 22, at 1:00 p.m.

**Reading Response Paper #2** due Friday, September 28, at 1:00 p.m.

**Discussion Board #2** due Friday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m.

**Reading Response Paper #3** due Friday, October 12, at 1:00 p.m.

**Discussion Board #3** due Friday, October 19, at 1:00 p.m.

**Reading Response Paper #4** due Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 1:00 p.m.