



**Virtual Campus Fall 2008
School of Behavioral and Social Sciences**

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

Geography 3318 VC01 - Environmental and Geographical History of the United States

Instructor: Beverly Penner, MA

Contact information: beverly.penner@wayland.wbu.edu or pennerb@wbu.edu

Phone: (505) 262-9282 or (505) 379-7073

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 Textbooks:

Nature's Nation - An Environmental History of the United States, by John Opie.

Harcourt Brace College Publishers, ISBN # 0-15-500219-8

Course Outcome Competencies:

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following -

- 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.

Course Requirements:

- Required, informative weekly readings.
- Weekly quizzes based on notes/readings.
- Activities related to the current topic.
- Discussion board topics w/a minimum of two required entries each week.
- Two formal, un-proctored exams.

Course Expectations:

Put forth diligent effort in all readings and assignments and adhere to all deadlines.

Check announcements at least twice weekly and keep in touch with instructor.

Be proactive... don't procrastinate!

Have fun - realize the fascinating complexities that make up the field of Geography.

Grading Method:

The University's grading scale will be used:

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=less than 60%.

Course grades based on:

Reading assignments:	Not graded, but crucial to course success.
Weekly quizzes:	20 points each (10 quizzes total - 20% of grade)
Discussion board entries:	10 points each (min. 2 per week, 20 total - 20% of grade)
Activities:	20 points each (10 activities total - 20% of grade)
Tests:	200 points each (2 tests - 40% of grade)

Attendance:

Students enrolled in a Virtual Campus course are expected to participate in class 'sessions' and complete all required work. I have, as the instructor, the ability to view each student's log-in history, areas accessed, etc. Students who do not check in consistently will receive one absence for every week of inactivity. Policy states that 'any student who misses 25% or more of class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course.' Therefore two weeks of inactivity could result in a failing grade.

If you must be away from the course due to unavoidable work circumstances or family emergency, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably prior to the absence if at all possible. Otherwise, carve out time each week (except holiday weeks) for the next eleven weeks to devote to this course.

Academic Honesty:

University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as one's own. See the current WBU catalog, pp. 78-79 for penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty.)

Service for the Disabled: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities at the first class meeting.