



SYLLABUS

GEOG 3701

The Making of the Modern World

Spring 2025 (full term)

MWF 1:50-2:45 PM

Journalism 360

3 credit hours

In person

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor

Instructor: Prof Joel Wainwright

Email address: wainwright.11@osu.edu (preferred contact method)

Phone: 614-247-8746

Office hours: immediately after every class + by appointment

Prerequisites

None. No background in Geography is expected or required to enroll in this course.

WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

This is a course in human geography that investigates the character of our modern world. We will examine the concepts and forces that define the modern world as such – the Enlightenment, globalization, capitalism, and nation-states – to build your capacity to understand modernity and its geographical expressions. The course is structured around five core themes:

1. Modernity, the Enlightenment, and globalization
2. The industrial revolution and the spread of capitalism
3. Empire and colonialism
4. Nation-states: the formation of the global polity
5. The transformation of nature

While many of our readings are theoretical, we will draw from case studies from different regions – Europe, the USA, Iraq, China, Korea, Mexico – to ground our studies. Our underlying aim is for you to develop a more rigorous and coherent conception of the world, and in this manner to advance the University's mission: *disciplina in civitatem*.

For the lectures to be effective, you must come to them prepared. Read the material carefully before each class. This is your major responsibility for the course, as well as the key to your success. The readings are challenging, and you will probably have questions. Dwell on them; discuss them with your classmates; bring them to class.

General education & expected course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Describe the spatial and historical context of the making of the modern world (Geography program goal a.1.a);
- Critically evaluate the different processes and forms of power that structure our world (a.2);
- Synthesize different theories of the making of our modern world (d.1).

GEOG 3701 fulfills GE requirements in Social Science under category (2) Organizations and Polities, by focusing on the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions. Students who complete this course will: 1. understand theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and polities; 2. understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts; and, 3. comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

GEOG 3701 also fulfills GE requirements in Global Studies, by focusing on non-Western countries and global issues. Students who complete the course will be expected to: 1. understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.; and 2. recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to Ohio State policy (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive an average grade.

GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE

How your grade is calculated

You will take three exams. The exams will be short answer (short essay) exams. In each case we will allow you to skip (not answer) one question. Additional information about exams will be provided during lectures.

The exams will be on February 7, March 7, and April 25. Exams are unique to each class and cannot be made up. (Exceptions may be made—for illness and emergencies—at the discretion of the instructor.)

Although lecture attendance is not graded, it is required.

Grading scale

Grading options for the course are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, E. An 'I,' or Incomplete, will only be given under exceptional circumstances where I have arranged with you before the last week of the semester. If you wish to request an 'I,' please email me to explain why an Incomplete is appropriate and when you will complete the 'I.'

93–100: A ; 90–92.9: A- ; 87–89.9: B+ ; 83–86.9: B ; 80–82.9: B- ; 77–79.9: C+ ; 73–76.9: C ; 70–72.9: C- ; 67–69.9: D+ ; 60–66.9: D ; below 60: E.

Instructor response time

- **Grading and feedback:** You can expect feedback and a grade within 7 days.
- **Email:** I will do my best to reply to emails within 24 hours on days when class is in session at the university.
- You can call **614-688-4357** if you have a technical problem.

Course schedule: subject to change

#	day	date	topic	assigned reading
1	M	6-Jan	Introduction	
2	W	8-Jan	What is modernity? 1	syllabus
3	F	10-Jan	What is modernity? 2	S Amin
4	M	13-Jan	What is modernity? 3	E Dussel
5	W	15-Jan	What is modernity? 4	S Amin & Dussel (reread/review)
6	F	17-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 1	I Kant
	M	20-Jan	no class: MLK day	
7	W	22-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 2	I Kant (reread/review)
8	F	24-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 3	J Locke
9	M	27-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 4	UN Declaration
10	W	29-Jan	What is globalization? 1	A Smith
11	F	31-Jan	What is globalization? 2	K Marx & F Engels
12	M	3-Feb	What is globalization? 3	A Einstein
13	W	5-Feb	What is globalization? 4	E Wood
14	F	7-Feb	Exam 1	
15	M	10-Feb	Nation-state-capital 1	K Karatani, Preface & Introduction
16	W	12-Feb	Nation-state-capital 2	K Karatani, Chapters 1 & 2
17	F	14-Feb	Nation-state-capital 3	K Karatani, Chapters 3 & 4
18	M	17-Feb	Nation-state-capital 4	K Karatani, Chapters 5 & 6
19	W	19-Feb	Case study 1: Iraq 1	D Gregory
20	F	21-Feb	Case study 1: Iraq 2	S Mourad
21	M	24-Feb	Nation-state-capital 5	K Karatani, Chapters 7 & 8
22	W	26-Feb	Nation-state-capital 6	K Karatani, Chapters 9 & 10
23	F	28-Feb	Nation-state-capital 7	K Karatani, Chapters 11 & 12
24	M	3-Mar	Nation-state-capital 8	K Karatani, catch up/review
25	W	5-Mar	Nation-state-capital 9	K Karatani, catch up/review
26	F	7-Mar	Exam 2	
			Spring break	
27	M	17-Mar	Case study 2: Egypt	H Kandil
28	W	19-Mar	Case study 3: Korea 1	B Cumings 1
29	F	21-Mar	Case study 3: Korea 2	B Cumings 2
30	M	24-Mar	Case study 4: climate change 1	IPCC 1.5 report SPM
31	W	26-Mar	Case study 4: climate change 2	K Saito, selection A
32	F	28-Mar	Case study 4: climate change 3	K Saito, selection B
33	M	31-Mar	Case study 5: the Anthropocene	Steffen et al.
34	W	2-Apr	Student life in-class workshop	M Edmundson
35	F	4-Apr	Case study 6: CCS; Stuart Macintyre, guest	<i>Getting Around Brown</i>
36	M	7-Apr	Student life in-class workshop	H Wang
37	W	9-Apr	Case study 7: China 1	C-K Lee
38	F	11-Apr	Case study 7: China 2	Young Pioneers
39	M	14-Apr	Case study 8: Cuba 1	Che & Fidel
40	W	16-Apr	Case study 8: Cuba 2 to Chiapas 1	selections on EZLN
41	F	18-Apr	Case study 9: Chiapas 2	Marcos interview, EZLN women
42	M	21-Apr	Prospects for a different world	R Rosdolsky
43	Fr	25-Apr	Exam 3 (the final): 10:00 - 11:45 am	

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

All required reading materials will be made available via Carmen.

Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- CarmenZoom virtual meetings (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam and microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Required software

- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you can always connect to Carmen, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).

- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes if you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Technology in the classroom

Because many of us are easily distracted by use of cell phones, computers, recording devices, and the like, all such equipment should be turned off and placed out of sight during class. (I will say more about my reasoning in class.)

Discussion and communication guidelines

Please be respectful and thoughtful. We seek a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably.

OSU Health and Safety

All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>). Non-compliance will be warned first; disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

Academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's *Code of Student Conduct* (studentconduct.osu.edu), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another

student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have committed academic misconduct, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

For further information on academic misconduct, see the Committee on Academic Misconduct web page (go.osu.edu/coam) and Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions).

Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course.

Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options at titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu. Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin, and disability. For more information on OIE, visit equity.osu.edu or email equity@osu.edu.

Commitment to a diverse & inclusive learning environment

Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each

member of our community; and encourages everyone to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at go.osu.edu/ccsondemand. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidpreventionlifeline.org. The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at go.osu.edu/wellnessapp.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Ohio State strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss your options; moreover, you are strongly encouraged to register with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) to establish reasonable accommodations. Please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave.

Among other services, SLDS offers in-person exam proctoring. Students who are registered with SLDS and whose accommodations include adjustments to exams (e.g., additional time) will only be able to schedule an exam in the SLDS database if there is a seat available. For this reason, **early scheduling of your exams – within the first two weeks of class – is strongly encouraged**. SLDS will collaborate with you to try to find a space, but it is your responsibility to contact them early in the semester to initiate the process. The scheduling deadline is 1 week in advance. SLDS will allow students to schedule their exams within a 3-day window (class exam day + 2 days after). **Students are expected to schedule their exams as close as**

possible to the day and time the exam is given in class. In other words, you are strongly encouraged to take the exam on the same day, and overlapping in time, as the other students.

Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of Carmen Canvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor. On Canvas accessibility, see go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility; on CarmenZoom accessibility: go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility