Georgia Tech Lorraine, European Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology
The Blue Banana: History, Geography, and Culture of a Megaregion
HSOC 2100 (Science and Technology in the Modern World)
Spring 2023
Course Syllabus

Instructor   **Meeting**
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Office Hours: Open

Curriculum Requirements
The course meets the social science elective and ethics requirements at Georgia Tech and counts towards the International Plan.

Course Description
Georgia Tech's European campus is located at the center of the Blue Banana – the arc-shaped backbone of European industry that stretches discontinuously from North Wales through Greater London, the Benelux countries, Alsace and Lorraine, and the German Rhineland to Switzerland and northern Italy. Over the past two centuries, cities and industrial regions within the Blue Banana - in areas from mining and manufacturing to high tech – rather than individual nation-states have driven Europe's economic growth and technological development. Europe is not primarily a continent or culture region, but a Blue Banana.

HTS 2100 examines European science and technology through the lens of the Blue Banana. It analyzes several aspects of industrial regions: their historical formation, organizational dynamic, and wider socio-economic impact. The course examines the Blue Banana up close. It employs direct experience as a main pedagogical instrument – "seeing" industry at work – through a series of site visits to leading sites in the Lorraine area (and beyond). Readings, written reflections, and oral research presentations build on site visits, allowing students to make connections between individual industries, local regions, and the larger European megaregion of the Blue Banana.

Course Objectives
HTS 2100 will meet the following core objectives in term of learning outcomes:

·   Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.
·   Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.
·   Students will describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts.
·   Students will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language.
·   Students will be able to judge factual claims and theories on the basis of evidence.

(Language is taken directly from the General Education Mission Statement of Georgia Tech's Core Curriculum, available on the Registrar website.)

Grading
Course assessment will be based on the following elements (see below for descriptions):

Leading class discussion	5%
Reading & workshop reflections	15%
Site reflections	20%
Class discussion	10%
Site visit presentation	20%
Final project	30%

Georgia Tech Lorraine is a serious academic program. Attendance on course site visits is required. While not required, attendance at all classes is strongly encouraged. Please let me know in advance if you cannot attend class for an official reason. Unexcused absence on site visits will count as a letter grade (10%). Please turn off electronics, including laptops and cell phones, during class.

Concerning assignments, students will sign up *to lead class discussion* of assigned readings once during the semester (10 minutes). Please sign up in twos or threes in the spreadsheet provided under Collaborations on Canvas. *Reading reflections* should demonstrate careful consideration of the assigned material; they are due on Canvas by *12 noon* on Wednesday. Your reading reflection will contain a choice from a list of questions, as well as an open response, which may cover any aspect of the reading that you deem important. All question responses must be at least one paragraph long. You must complete *eight (8)* out of 11 total reading responses. You must also post a *workshop reflection* for any workshop that you attend, which is due by midnight on the following day; workshop reflections are included with your reading reflection grade. After each site visit, students will post a *site reflection* on Canvas for each location visited, containing their careful thoughts about their visit as well as any set questions provided. Site reflections are due by 6pm on the following Monday after site visits. Site or reading reflections completed more than one day late will not count. Failure to complete either site or reading reflections will result in the following grades: 1 missing (90%), 2 missing (80%), 3 missing (70%), etc.

Students will receive an overall grade for *class discussion* on the following scale: 95% (regular and substantial contribution) – 90% (moderate contribution) - 85% (little to no contribution). Discussion grades will post twice during the semester on Canvas; the final grade will average the two figures. Class discussion contributions should increase our general understanding of the material rather than merely repeat points.

For *site visit presentations*, you will divide into groups and provide an introduction of the site before the visit, as well as an analysis of the site post visit. Your *final project* will also be a group project on an industrial region of Europe. You will have a detailed schedule of deadlines, including an annotated bibliography of five major sources and a class roundtable discussion of topics and theses. You may request copies of sources behind paywalls from the instructor. Overall project grading will therefore have both completion and evaluation components. Final presentations will likely take place in class on *April 12*. There are no quizzes, tests, or final exam.

Final course grading will be done on a letter basis and will be rounded up on the half percentage point (i.e. 89.5% = A). Final grades will not be available through Oscar until the Monday following the end of the exam period. Please do not ask to change grades.

Please note that only class members can attend site visits.

Honor Policy
Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. All infractions will be handled through the Office of the Dean of Students and treated with the highest degree of seriousness.

Reading Material
The course has no required textbook. You will find all required reading material posted on Canvas.

Inclusion Policy
The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.
(Language taken from Ivan Allen College Dean's Office)

Site Visits
The list of site visits for Spring 2023 will not be finalized until the first week of classes. Site visits take place on Fridays. We will normally return to GTL for full-day visits by 5:00pm. Please understand that visits are subject to last-minute cancellation or change of date due to circumstances out of GTL's control. Visits may require proof of vaccination ("pass sanitaire"). The visit to Airbus in Toulouse requires a EurRail pass; please let me know if you do not have one on the first day of class. The visit to Institut Lafayette will take place on the GTL campus at 5pm on a weekday and lasts two hours.