

NB: The list of site visits for HTS 2100 changes every semester. As a result, exact travel dates cannot be provided until the first day of class. For further questions, email Dr. Stoneman directly.

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)
Course Syllabus
Web version

Instructor

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Meeting

TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Mode of Interaction: In-person residential instruction

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 formation, organizing principle, and wider socio-economic impact. The course employs direct experience as a main pedagogical instrument – “seeing” industry at work – through a series of site visits to leading companies 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 and 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):

Class discussion	10%
Site reflections	20%
Reading reflections	20%
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.

After each site visit, students will post a *site reflection* on Canvas for each location visited, containing their studied thoughts about their visit as well as any questions provided. Site reflections are due by 6pm on the following Monday after site visits. *Reading reflections* should demonstrate careful consideration of the assigned material; they are due on Canvas by 9am on class day. Your reading reflection will contain set questions, from which you can choose, as well as open response, which may cover any aspect of the reading that you deem important. All responses must be at least one paragraph long. In order to encourage dialogue, please reply at least five times during the semester to other students' site and reading responses, respectively (for a total of 10 replies). Failure to do so will result in the loss of 5% each from your overall respective grade for each grade category. 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. Missing replies will count at half the rate of responses.

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. Final presentations will take place in class on [date]. 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.

Reading Material

The course has no required textbook. Required reading material will be posted on T-Square.

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)

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.

Site Visits

Please note: The list of site visits changes every semester. As a result, the final list of visits (including travel dates) cannot be provided until the first day of class.

Students are required to take four off-campus visits and a single on-campus visit (Institut Lafayette). All off-campus visits take place on Fridays and normally return to GTL by 6pm. We take one overnight trip per semester. In the past, this has included BMW (Munich) in fall, and Airbus (Toulouse) in spring semesters.