World Regional Geography (GEOG110-040) Assignment: Geographic Content Creation & Curation Via Scoop.it

Late last year, I presented a paper at the annual conference of the National Council of Geographic Education (NCGE) in San Marcos, TX. While at the conference, I attended many sessions that introduced me to many technological and pedagogical innovations that were being utilized by other geographers. One paper in particular, by Dr. Seth Dixon from Rhode Island College, highlighted a free online tool called "Scoop.it." This tool allows for the tagging of articles, videos, presentations, etc. that can be arranged into a collection of multimedia resources that can be shared with other users. The tool intrigued me from the onset and I proceeded to investigate the tool's capabilities and potential.
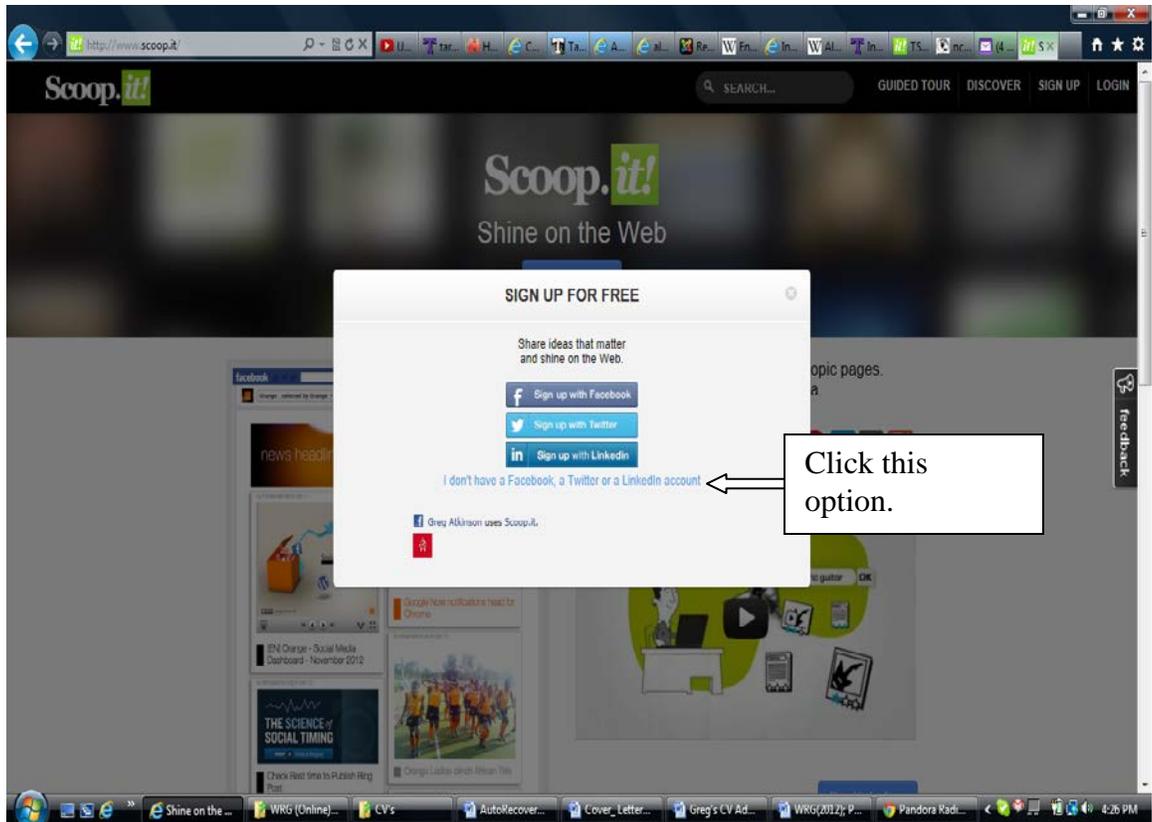
This assignment acts as my first formal foray into using Scoop.it from an academic perspective. In general, I am proposing that we create and maintain a "Tarleton World Regional Geography" web presence through Scoop.it.

I believe the assignment has general and discipline-specific merit. From a generalist's perspective, this assignment will act to improve a student's ability to locate, filter, evaluate, and create content that will be publically available. From a geographic perspective, this assignment will act to improve a student's ability to contextualize "current events" so that a more insightful discussion can occur with respect to what is happening in the world.
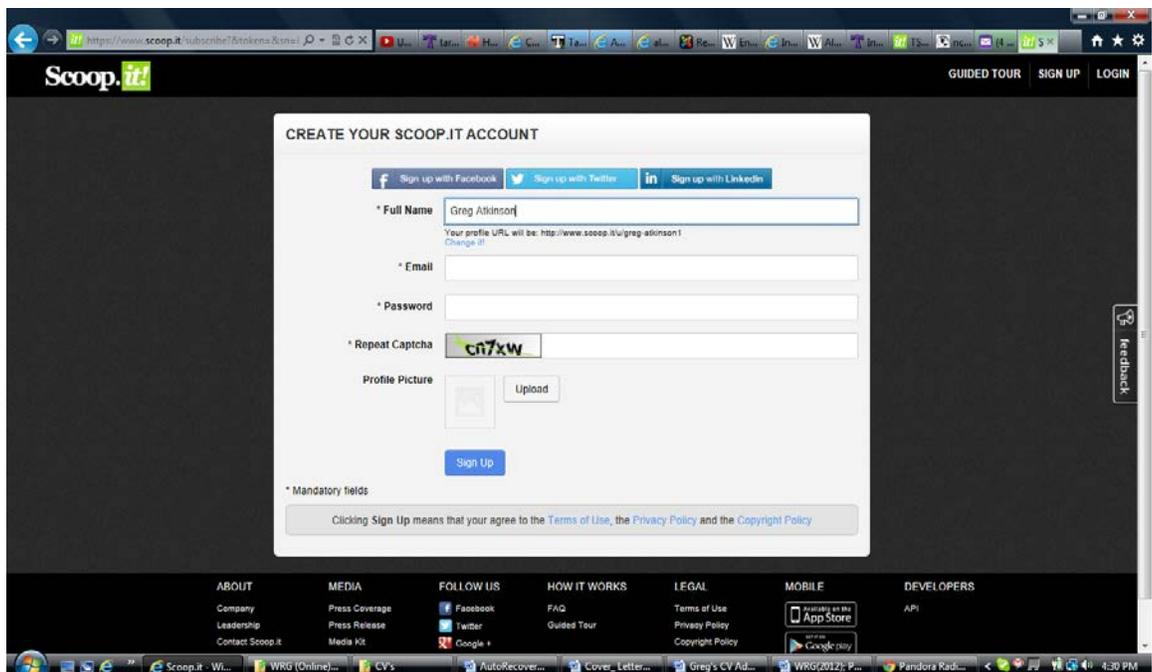
Specifically, students will:

a) Register with Scoop.it.
Go to the following website http://feedback.scoop.it/knowledgebase to find out how to register (the information you need will be under Section 1: "Getting Started with Scoop.it").

Note: When you first attempt to register, a pop-up screen appears asking you how you would like to register, by providing you with several options. PLEASE CLICK THE "I DON'T HAVE A FACEBOOK, TWITTER, OR A LINKEDIN ACCOUNT" option.

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Click this option.

Note: When registering, please use your real name and provide a contact email address that you regularly check. (When it comes to "suggesting" resources for our page (the "TSU World Regional Geography" page), my comments will be sent directly to this email address that you provide to Scoop.it).

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b) After you have registered with Scoop.it, access the TSU World Regional Geography Scoop.it page by typing in "TSU World Regional Geography" into the search box (located in the upper right-hand corner of the Scoop.it page) or by clicking the following hyperlink:
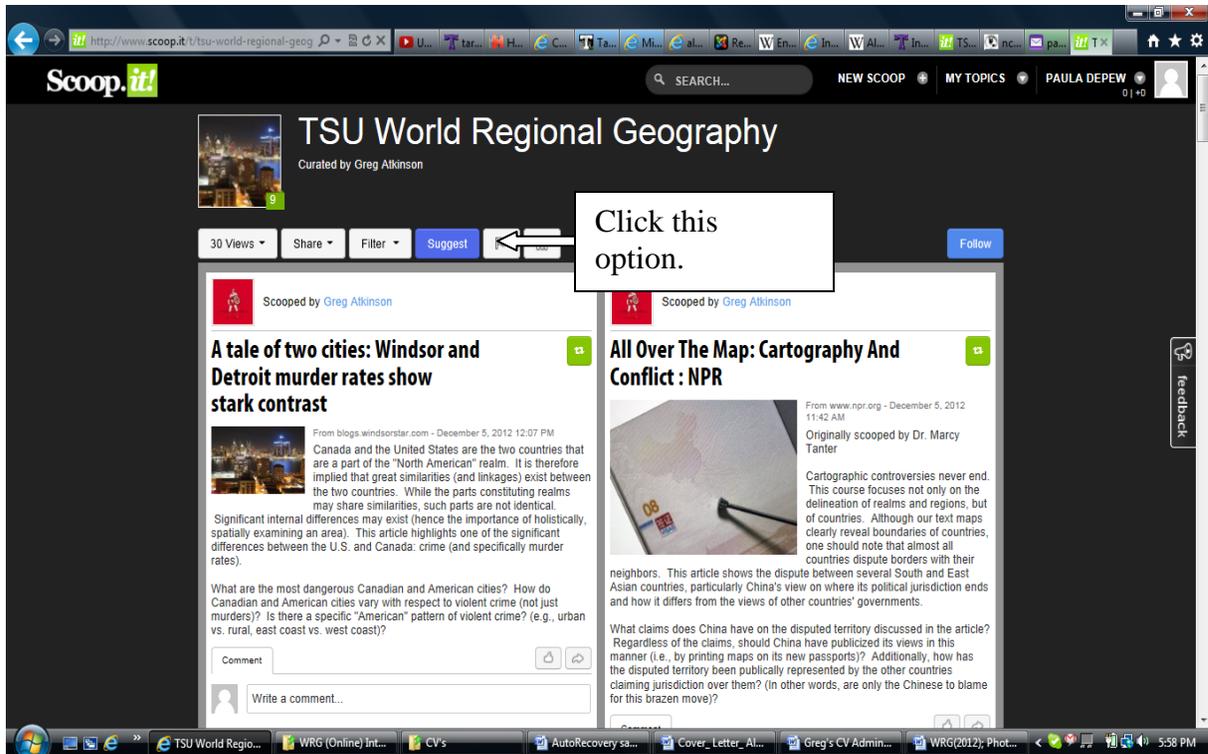http://www.scoop.it/t/tsu-world-regional-geography

This will show you what our page currently looks like and it will be this page to which you will contribute content.

c) Contribute one geographically relevant "story" for four chapters of the text. (Therefore, over the course of the term, you will be required to submit four "stories").
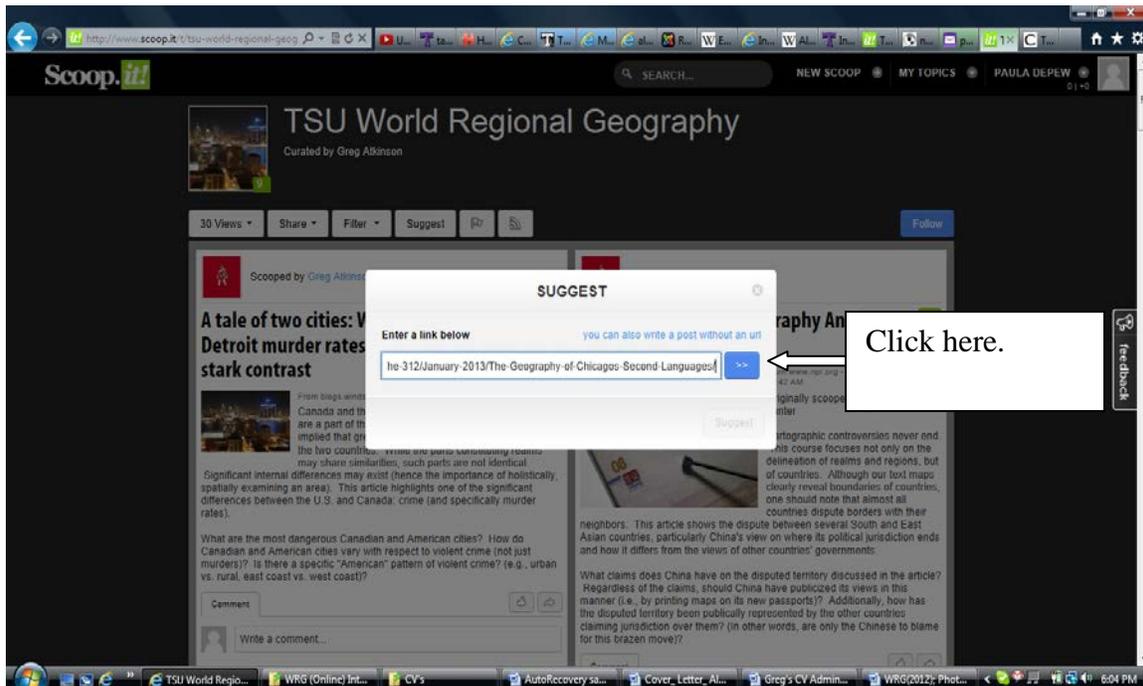
The required text for this course is divided into thirteen chapters (although students will not be able to submit stories pertaining to a few of these chapters. For a list of available chapters, refer to the list below). I want you to find geographically relevant content for four of these chapters. Given that we will be covering these chapters at different points during the Autumn 2013 term, the accepted submissions will be due at different times. Refer to the table below to see when your submissions are due:

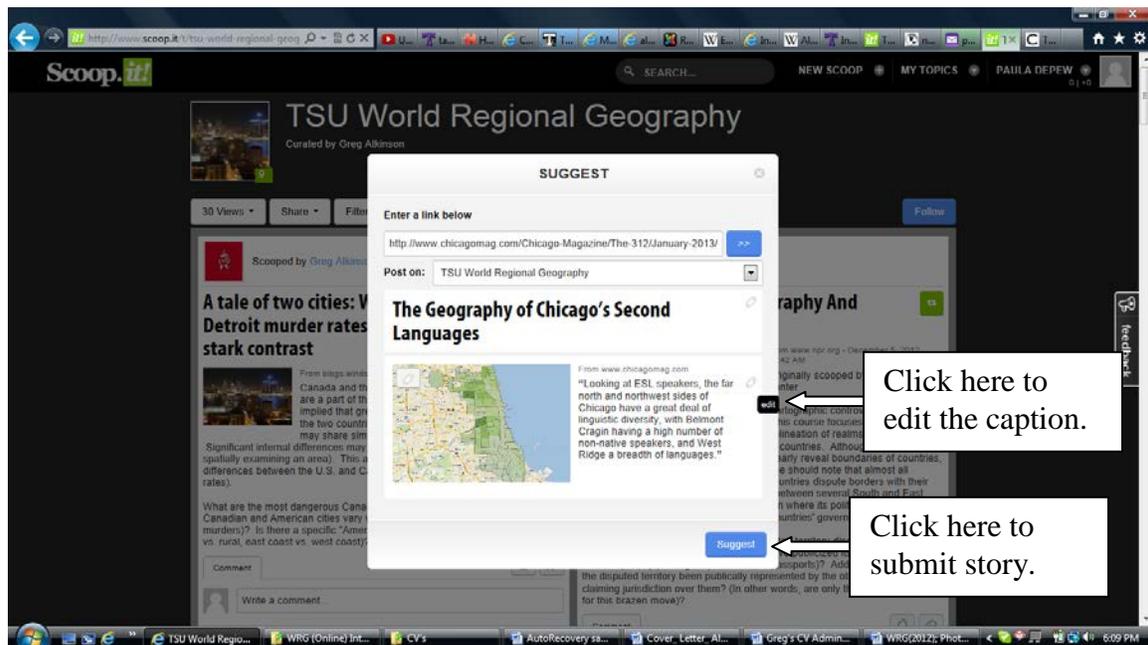| Chapter	Due Date	Chapter	Due Date
North America	Sept. 20 (9AM)	NASWA	Nov. 8 (9AM)
Middle America	Oct. 4 (9AM)	Subsaharan Africa	Nov. 8 (9AM)
South America	Oct. 4 (9AM)	South Asia	Nov. 22 (9AM)
Europe	Oct. 18 (9AM)	East Asia	Nov. 22 (9AM)
Russia	Oct. 18 (9AM)	Southeast Asia	Nov. 22 (9AM)

d) Each contribution must include the following:
   a. A web link that takes the reader to the appropriate information.
   b. A 125-word (approximate) caption that briefly describes the issue and sets it within an appropriate geographic (regional AND theoretical) context.
   c. Pose 3 questions that spur additional discussion pertaining to the issue.
   d. Provide 3 "tags" that allow students to quickly search out the post. The tags should include a regional reference, a subdisciplinary reference, and a conceptual/theoretical reference.

e) Students should use Scoop.it to submit their contributions to me. This can be done in the following fashion:
   a. Log into your Scoop.it account.
   b. Access the "TSU World Regional Geography" Scoop.it page.
   c. Click the "Suggest" button.

Click this option.

d. After you click "Suggest," a pop-up screen will appear asking for you to type in the link that you want to have included in the "TSU World Regional Geography" page. After you type in the link, click the blue button with the two arrows right beside the link.

Click here.

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e. After this, you may then type in your caption (requirements for the caption are identified earlier). To do this, click the small "edit" icon in the submitted story. After you have written the caption, click "Submit." Once you do this, I will be able to consider your submission. I will either send it back to you with required edits or will accept and publish the story. You will be notified as to whether or not your submission has been accepted within 24 hours of me receiving it.

Note: It will be your "final" submission prior to publication that will be the one that is graded. Given that my name is attached to this publically-displayed website, only submissions of acceptable quality will be published. It is highly likely that you will need to submit your story at least three times before I accept it for publication.

f) The posts for each chapter will remain available for viewing and commenting for a one week period. During this time, it is expected that students engage in a discussion based upon the questions posed in each caption. The student responsible for the posting of the story (i.e., responsible for the "scoop") will be in charge of answering / addressing questions or comments to the story. This should be done in a timely fashion so as to provide time for further discussion of the issue.

Grade:
This assignment is worth 20% of the final grade assigned in the course.

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Geographic Content Creation & Curation Via Scoop.it

Grading Sheet

Student Name: _____   **Chapter: _____**

                                          10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Resources

Story Source
(15% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Story has intrinsic geographic value. Story is current. Story is derived from respectable source.
Story is objective in orientation. Story author identified. Author is credible).

Captions

Writing & Grammar
(10% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Writing is clear, polished, well structured, and concise. Competent use of English displayed).

Summary & Tags
(10% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Captions succinctly summarizes story/issue. Captions include appropriate tags to easily access story).

Context
(20% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Captions identify, highlight, and contextualize (from both a thematic & regional perspective)
important geographic concepts, information, and models.

Questions
(10% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Sufficient number of questions posed. Questions are conceptually and regionally relevant. Questions
are thought-provoking. Questions require student to investigate text and other sources).

Discussions

Discussion Generated
(20% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Posted story attracts attention. Discussion is insightful. Discussion addresses questions posed in
caption. Discussion addresses larger implications of issue).

Discussion Sustained
(15% of total)   O O O O O O O O O O
(Student posting story addresses questions / comments. Student posting story addresses questions /
comments in a timely fashion. Student posting story displays clear regional understanding of
concept/issues and of relevance to realm and potentially beyond).