"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” –Barack Obama

1 Course Overview

The course gives students a geographic perspective on issues pertaining to important urban, economic, environmental, and climatic issues in the world. Geography, as a discipline, contains frameworks and tools to help in exploring, understanding, and finding potential solutions, to these complex issues. Nearly everything that happens, happens in space – becoming aware of these spatial interactions, whether absolute (specific location) or relative (near/far from other events), can help us draw inferences and conclusions about real world phenomena.

This course meets the general education requirements for the social and behavioral sciences (S) and international (N) credits.

2 Course Objectives:

- Gain an overview of the field and multiple subfields of geography.
- Learn a geographer’s approach to understanding complex processes, such as globalization, climate change, and medical & infectious disease issues.
- Learn about geographic frameworks and specialized tools for dealing with spatial phenomena.
3  Web Page:
For class materials, grades and other interactions, please visit Canvas at
https://ufl.instructure.com/. If you experience problems trying to log on, contact the UF
Computing Help Desk: https://kb.helpdesk.ufl.edu/, e.g. (352) 392.HELP or
helpdesk@ufl.edu for assistance.

4  Textbook/Readings:
No textbook is required. Other readings may be assigned throughout the semester, and will
be posted in Canvas.

5  Course Content:
In addition to the content below, I will be trying to bring in several guest lecturers with related
fields of research.

5.1  Module 1:
- What is Geography?
- Human Geography: Background, Demography, Population Change and
  Overpopulation, Development, Urbanization, Globalization
- Special Topics: Medical Geography

5.2  Module 2:
- Physical Geography: Introduction to Atmosphere & Terrestrial systems
- Human-Environment Interactions: Deforestation, Desertification, Water Resources,
  Energy, and Climate Change
- Geography Tools: GIS & Remote Sensing, Spatial Statistics

6  Evaluations and Grading
6.1  Graded Assignments and Exams
Grading will be from several items and formats:

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>1st Exam (Module 1)</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<td>2nd Exam (Module 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation project(s)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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• Class attendance is highly encouraged. I will be posting slides afterwards, but it likely will not contain all the information I present in the lecture itself. In addition, there may be in-class assignments. If a conflict arises where you know you will be absent, make arrangements with the instructor, or a classmate, ahead of time. If you are unexpectedly forced to miss class, on a case by case basis with proper documentation assistance may be available.

• Please do not be late for exams. You will have only the normal class time for your exams.

6.2 Important Dates

To be determined

6.2.1 Exams
6.2.2 Assignments
6.2.3 Map Library ‘Field Trip’
6.2.4 Guest Lectures
6.2.5 Project(s)

7 Late & Missed Work Policy

• Assignments, in the first 24 hours after the due date, will have a 25% penalty applied (graded score – 25% of that score).
• After that, late work will not be accepted and a grade of '0' will be given.

If you cannot complete an assignment because of an excused reason (illness, family emergency, etc.), please contact us as soon as possible. In order for the assignment to be excused, official documentation must be provided to the instructor. Instructions on how to send me the documents will be handled at the time I am informed of the incident.

It is highly unlikely to have a make-up exam. If an unavoidable event arises and causes you to miss, or anticipate missing an exam, please come and see the instructor. Bring any formal documentation that supports the absence. You must have some written form validating your absence, for example a doctor’s note. At that time, it will be up to the instructor’s discretion to decide to drop the exam (i.e. your grade will be determined by all other graded assignments without consideration of the exam) or schedule a make-up exam.

If you know of an event in advance that will conflict with an assignment or test date, it is your responsibility to contact me beforehand. I prefer to know sooner than later. Not all conflicts will be excused; it is the instructor’s discretion to determine what is excused and what is not.
## 7.1 Grading scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69-67</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59-57</td>
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<td>E</td>
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Grades will be rounded by standard rounding (.5 and above will be rounded up).

Note: Under University regulations a C- “will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit”.

It is your responsibility to know how well you are doing in the class.

There will be a Grades section in Canvas for following your progress. Please use it to keep track of your score, and contact us if there is a discrepancy. If you are not satisfied with the score you receive on an exam or quiz or feel an error has been made, you will be permitted two weeks from the time the score was posted for a review of the assessment (exception: Part II exam will have less than a week to review as it is near the end of term). After this time the score will be entered as a permanent grade.

Please see the UF catalog grading policies for current guidelines not discussion here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

## 8 Emailing

I will try my best to answer e-mail questions promptly (by the next school day ~24 hours). If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please follow up with me because I may not have received the e-mail for various reasons. I do not check my emails as often weekends.

Also: I cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an assignment/examination deadline. Please contact me early so that questions do not accumulate!

## 9 Phone & Laptop Policy

I will allow phone and laptop use during class times (not during exams), as long as it remains in silent mode or muted. Please go outside the room if you need to take or make a call.

## 10 Academic Honesty

You are all bound by the student academic honor code.

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

*"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*
**Plagiarism or cheating of any variety on any assignment will not be tolerated.** If a student is suspected of cheating and there is sufficient evidence in support of the allegation, the student will be reported to the appropriate student body, according to the University's Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution system.

### 11 Special Accommodations

Students requesting disability-related academic accommodations must first register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Disability Resource Center will provide documentation to the student—each student requesting special accommodations must provide this documentation to the Instructor. We do not automatically receive this information, so the student is responsible with providing the DSO request to the Instructor.

I will honor all requests. Please contact me by e-mail to make appointment so that we can go through these accommodations and sign the form.

### 12 Student Support Services

In some special circumstances (when documentation is not available, for instance), we may ask you to contact the [Dean of Students Office](202 Peabody Hall, PO Box 114075, Phone: (352) 392-1261)

The Dean of Students is a resource, available to all students, for when special circumstances arise that disrupts students’ abilities to maintain their academic standing. We encourage students to use this resource if necessary. Several other UF resources exist to help students in a variety of ways; please reach out to them.

Useful Links:

Student Resources and Counseling:

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/supportservices/campuscounseling.php](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/supportservices/campuscounseling.php)

[http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/students](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/students)

[http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)

Student Right and Responsibilities:

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php)

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. The U Matter, We
Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

13 Course Evaluations
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus.*