

FALL 2017 GEO2200 - Intro To Physical Geography

Instructors:

Carly Muir: carlysmuir@ufl.edu
<i>Carly's Office Hours:</i>
Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm

1 Course Overview

This is a study of some of the basic elements of the physical world in which climates, meteorology, and landforms are examined in terms of their natural occurrences, distribution and interrelationships. The class meets the General Education requirements of a Physical Science. This class is separate from GEO2200L, meaning it is taught by two different people. Please be sure to email your lab instructor if you have questions about lab material.

2 Course Objectives

- To understand the nature of solar energy reaching the surface of the Earth, and its temporal and global variability. You should be able to explain why we have seasons.
- To understand how the interactions of oceans, continents and atmosphere transfer energy from places experiencing excess energy to those of deficit energy, and how these give rise to the typical climate of a location.
- To understand the nature and origin of energy arriving at the surface of the Earth from within the planet, the mechanisms of this energy transfer, and their global distribution.
- To understand the processes by which the competing forces of energy derived from the climate system and those from within the Earth interact to produce typical landscapes.
- To indicate the ways in which all of the above impinge upon human behavior and our interaction with our environment.

3 Instructors

Carly Muir (carlysmuir@ufl.edu)

I am a PhD student in Geography with a B.A in Geography (specialization in Environmental Geosciences) and an M.Sc in Geography. My research interests include climate variability in Africa, remote sensing, and agriculture. If at any time you have a question about my work or the geography department please feel free to contact me!

Office Hours

During office hours I will be available to answer questions in my office, via email, and the Canvas Conference tool (like a chat room). See the top of the first page for times and locations. There is also a discussion page open to students to post questions all day. This can be found on the Discussion tab, and is called the “Physical Geography Questions”. The instructor or other students will be able to post answers or have a discussion about the course, but I will not check the discussion too frequently. It is always best to email me (any time) or use the conference tool during office hours.

4 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 by the next school day, please follow up with us because I may not have received the e-mail for various reasons. I typically do not check emails on weekends. Also: I cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an assignment/examination deadline. Contact me early so that questions do not accumulate!

Canvas has an email service. I will periodically check this email, but the quickest and most efficient way to reach them is to email them using the addresses provided at the top of the syllabus.

5 Texts

There is an optional textbook for this class. You can buy the ebook or the hardcopy, either is fine for this course.

Exploring Physical Geography (1st edition). Stephen Reynolds, Robert V. Rohli, Julia Johnson, **Peter Waylen**, Mark Andrew Francek. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2014.

6 Assignments

QUIZZES

Each quiz will consist of videos, tutorials, etc. and a series of questions to evaluate knowledge. You will have unlimited time to complete the assignments via canvas, and can work with other students. Once you log in to take the quiz you cannot leave the webpage.

CURRENT EVENT (2 x 20 points each)

For this assignment you are required to find a current event and submit a 300+ word paper. In this write up you should do the following four things:

- 1) **Briefly summarize the event**
- 2) **Explain in detail the concepts described, using terms from the book**

- 3) Explain how this event is related to physical geography**
4) Provide a proper citation for the article/film AND TEXTBOOK

You will not receive full credit if you do not cite the textbook in proper format. You must also use terminology/material from the textbook to provide an in-depth explanation of the concepts covered in the article/film. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND reading the example document linked in canvas.

You may choose to read a newspaper/magazine article or watch a documentary. If you choose to read an article it must be published within the last two years. If you choose to watch a documentary it is ok to cover a more general issue, such as water resources, climate change, earthquakes, etc. This assignment is meant to be fun and show you that physical geography is all around you! You can choose to relate an article/film to any topic in the textbook, **even if we have not covered it yet**. If you would like to explore a topic not in the textbook, but is still related to physical geography, please email me with the article/film for approval.

Good websites for articles:

sciencedaily.com, npr.org, bbc.com

Options for documentaries on Netflix:

Generation Earth (Watch just one episode) (Highly recommend this one)

The Future of Water (Water Resources)

Mission Blue (Oceanography/Biomes/Climate Change)

Chasing Ice (Glaciers/Climate Change)

DamNation (Dams/Water Resources)

Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West

A River Between Us (Water Resources)

Seeds of Time (Agriculture/Climate Change)

The Great Invisible (Gulf Oil Spill/ Ocean Biome)

Big Men (Oil/Energy/Climate Change)

Catching the Sun (Energy/ Solar insolation/ Climate Change)

EXAMS (2) 25 points each

Examinations consist of individual multiple choice questions and short response (3-5 sentences).

- The two examinations will evaluate your knowledge of each of the two halves of the course, part I and part II, **separately**. The **second examination** will therefore only evaluate material presented in part II.
- *Be advised that, for all tests and examinations, you will only have until **midnight on the due date** to complete the questions. Please remember to sign-in with adequate time to complete each evaluation.*

7 Grading Scheme

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-94	93-90	89-87	86-84	83-80	79-76	75-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-57	<57

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 tab 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 **one week** 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>

8 Late Policy

Late assignments will only be accepted 24hrs after they are due and there will be a 20% penalty. No exams will be accepted late unless prior arrangements are made.

If you cannot complete an assignment or an exam because of an excused reason (illness, family emergency, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible. In order for the assignment to be excused, **official documentation** must be provided to either instructor. Instructions on how to send the documents will be handled at the time I am informed of the incident. Note that most of the assessments are open for multiple days. The valid reason must cover all of these days.

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 and let me know. I prefer to know sooner than later. Not all conflicts will be excused (e.g. you want to miss an exam to attend a rock concert). It is the instructors' discretion to determine what is excused and what is not.

9 Academic Honesty

[Accountability to 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."

In the Assessments, Canvas will shuffle the order of the questions and the order of the possible answers, generating a nearly unique assessment per student. **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.

10 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.
- We will honor all requests. Please contact an instructor by e-mail to make appointment so that we can go through these accommodations and sign the form.

11 Student Support Services

As a student in a distance learning course or program you have access to the same student support services that on campus students have. For course content questions contact your instructor(s).

- For any technical issues you encounter with your course please contact the UF computing Help Desk at 342-392-4357. For Help Desk hours visit: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.
- For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services>
- In some special circumstances (when documentation is not available, for instance), we may ask you to contact the Dean of Students Office: **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.

12 Complaints

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

13 Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. 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>.