Geography 2200: Introductory Physical Geography – Online Sections

Instructors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dawn Nekorchuk: <a href="mailto:nekodm@ufl.edu">nekodm@ufl.edu</a></th>
<th>Noah Mueller: <a href="mailto:nmueller@ufl.edu">nmueller@ufl.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dawn’s Office Hours in TUR 3126A:</td>
<td>Noah’s Office Hours in TUR 3126A:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Make sure you have a WIRED Internet connection with approved browser by Sakai. See Recommended Browsers FAQs.
2. The midterm and final exams will be proctored through an online proctoring service, ProctorU. This requires a high speed internet connection, a webcam, and a microphone. Please review the ProctorU technical requirements. More information on the proctoring is also available on pages #5 of the syllabus.
3. Contact UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357) immediately when you encounter difficulties and keep the TICKET NUMBER for future reference and for reporting to the instructor.
4. Please read through the e-Learning FAQs and best test practices.
5. Self-discipline is very important to this course. Make sure you follow the suggested Topic Dates. Reviewing the lecture videos is the first resource for all course material. DO NOT let queries accumulate until the tests. Much of this material is cumulative; therefore, a lack of understanding of early material will hinder your ability to comprehend material that follows. For questions about the lectures, please ask fellow classmates first (via the discussion board) and if you need further assistance, feel free to attend office hours or email us.
2 Course Objectives
The course lectures and the e-version of the Lecture Supplement will assist you in successfully accomplishing each of the objectives below:

- To understand the nature of solar energy reaching the surface of the Earth, and its temporal and global variability.
- 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

Teaching Assistants:

Dawn Nekorchuk (nekodm@ufl.edu)
Dawn is a doctoral student in Geography with a M.S. in Public Health and a graduate diploma in Geographic Information Systems. Her research focuses on medical geography - the interaction of geography with health issues. In particular, she works on modeling zoonotic infectious diseases across multiple species.

Noah Mueller (nmueller@ufl.edu)
Noah is a doctoral student in Geography with a B.S. in Wildlife Management and a M.S. in Environment and Politics. His research focuses on coastal and marine tourism, extreme weather events, and climate change impacts to coastal environments, particularly in small islands and Florida. He has a special interest in photography, ornithology and herpetology.

Lecturer (pre-recorded videos)

Dr. Peter R. Waylen (http://geog.ufl.edu/people/faculty/waylen/)
Dr. Waylen holds an undergraduate degree in Geography from The London School of Economics in England, a Ph.D., from McMaster University in Canada, and has taught Introductory Physical Geography for over 25 years at the University of Florida. His research interests lie in the large scale interactions of global oceans and atmosphere, such as El Niño, in controlling the variability and extremes in climates and hydrology (floods, droughts etc.). As a geographer, he is especially interested in the impact that these phenomena have upon humans and their livelihoods, and the impacts that human activities may have upon the natural world.
Office Hours
Dawn and Noah will both hold office hours, when they will be available to answer questions via email or in person at the scheduled rooms in Turlington. They will also utilize on-line web chats during certain office hours. See the top of first page for times and locations.

Emailing
We will try our 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 we may not have received the e-mail for various reasons. We typically do not check emails on weekends. Also: we cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an assignment/examination deadline. Contact us early so that questions do not accumulate!

Lecture Supplement
We have put together a package of relevant course materials (tables, diagrams, maps) which are available in e-version in two formats: Microsoft Powerpoint and PDF versions that are downloadable from the course website.

This Lecture Supplement also contains a listing of the major topics that you should have mastered at the end of each section so that you might evaluate your knowledge before progressing with additional new lecture materials.

Please use this lecture supplement as a framework for following the lectures and taking notes, as the original slides will not be released.

Texts
We are adding a new required textbook for this class (options discussed below):


We are also adding McGraw-Hill Connect, which will be optional. This will provide an electronic version of the book to read, as well as their system for self-testing on the material.

The UF bookstore will have the textbook with the Connect key. If you buy the textbook from other sources and want to use the McGraw-Hill Connect, you will need to buy a “CONNECT PLUS” key ($85) when you first register (not recommended if you want to use Connect, it will be expensive to buy both).

You may also choose not to buy the paper textbook, and instead only use the online book through the MGH Connect system. (Note that you will not have access once the class ends.)
8 Evaluations and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Number of Assignments</th>
<th>Points per Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part I Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SYLLABUS QUIZ**

At the start of the course you need to pass a syllabus quiz. This quiz may be taken multiple times until you score 100%, and there is no time limit within the quiz. It is open syllabus. *If you do not reach 100% by the due date, it will be re-graded to 0%.*

**HOMEWORKS (4)**

Each homework will consist of videos, tutorials, and other materials as well as a series of questions to evaluate knowledge. Students have 7 days during which the homework will be available (Assessment tab). During this 7 day period, you will have unlimited time to complete it. If at any time you wish to leave the assignment and return to it later in the 7 day window, simply click on “Continue Later”. During your breaks you are welcome to review your notes, lecture videos or outside sources before returning to the homework. The four homework assignments are listed below, and due dates may be found in the course schedule:

1) Seasons & Zenith Angle
2) Climate
3) Geology & Plate Tectonics
4) Hydrology & Erosion

**MISSIONS**

Missions are task oriented assignments to be completed throughout the course of the semester. Due dates for each of the missions will be throughout the semester, however feel free to submit them early. You may pick topics that will be covered later in class, though we recommend that you review those lectures and/or book sections before writing up your mission. Each student is expected to accrue 60 points, at 20 points per mission (i.e. 3 missions total during the semester). Each mission will be comprised of a) proof of the completed task and b) a 300 word report detailing what the task was, the features of the task, and how it relates to physical geography using the appropriate terminology and explanations used in class. This write-up is expected to demonstrate your scientific knowledge and understanding of the material/topic.
You may choose from the following missions (repeats are accepted, except where noted below):

- A photograph of a physical geography event or feature related to climate
- A photograph of a physical geography event or feature related to Earth’s surface
- A photograph or proof of attending a museum exhibit that relates to physical geography
- A photograph or proof of constructing a physical model depicting physical geography
- A digital model of a climate process discussed in lecture (use picture or video editing software to construct your model)
- A digital model of a physical process discussed in lecture (use picture of video editing software to construct your model)
- An emergency preparedness brochure (or some other print media) that is related to physical geography (e.g. hurricane, earthquake, volcano, etc.)
- A newspaper article related to any part of physical geography covered in lecture (NOTE: you are only allowed to pick a newspaper article ONCE during the semester)
- Take an aspect, topic, or process of physical geography and tie it back to your major (or minor). How is physical geography important to this field? Be sure to tell us what field or discipline outside of geography you are relating it to (NOTE: you are only allowed to pick this ONCE during the semester)
- Propose your own mission (approval from the instructors is required before you proceed with your mission)

If your mission involves an uncommon file type, please check with the instructors well in advance to ensure we’re able to view it. (Sakai does not do well with htm or html files – please save or print as pdf or another format if possible, or provide the link.)

**Joint Mission:**

For ONE of the missions you are allowed to work in partners (teams of two, no more than two). Selection of the partners will be up to the students. The write-up length is doubled to 600 words, and in addition (not part of the 600 word write-up) must include a brief statement of how the work was equally divided. One person will submit the mission via Sakai, with BOTH names clearly marked in the mission. Both students will receive the same grade.

**EXAMS (2)**

Examinations are **CLOSED-NOTE** and will each consist of individual multiple choice questions as well as multiple choice questions directed to maps and diagrams from the course materials.

- The exams will be proctored online using ProctorU (see next section).
- The exams are available on the “Assessments” tab in the left sidebar.
- Two (2) hours are allocated for each test. You will be “timed out” after this. Having logged in to take the test once, you will not be permitted to re-enter the test site for that particular test.
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.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to login, etc..) take a screen shot of the problem [In Windows, (Print Scrn) and on a Mac, (Cmd-Shift-4)] and paste into a program like Word or Paint. Save this file. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem.

- If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking the exam, immediately call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357. Ask for and keep the ticket number for future reference.

- **Best Practices for Taking Online Exams/Quizzes in E-Learning**

**Exam Proctoring Service (ProctorU)**

For the two examinations, the GEO 2200 will be using ProctorU for online proctoring services. This will be used by all students taking this course online, regardless of whether you are an on-campus student or not. You can access ProctorU at [www.proctoru.com](http://www.proctoru.com).

- Students are REQUIRED to have a **microphone** and **webcam** in place during the test-taking period.
- Please bring a reflective surface such as a CD, DVD or mirror. This is so you can show the edges of your monitor to your proctor.
- Students will NOT be allowed to take an exam without a webcam.
- Students must register for a time slot for their course exams with ProctorU starting the second week of the semester, but **no later than 3 business days prior to an exam**.
- Exams can be administered any time of the day, seven days a week – exams will CLOSE at the posted time in the course – do NOT schedule an exam appointment with ProctorU that will take you past this time, even if they allow it, i.e. do NOT sign up for an appointment at 11:00PM on the last day of the exam because the exam will close at 11:59PM and your exam time will only be 59 minutes versus the time allotted in the course for the exam.
- Remember that if you schedule your exam outside of UF helpdesk hours ([http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/business-hours/](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/business-hours/)), they will not be able to assist you with E-Learning issues if technical difficulties arise. You may schedule for any time within the window, but be aware late night exams will have reduce technical support.
- No one is allowed in the room with you while you take your exam, so be sure to make proper arrangements.
- The proctor will ask you for **two forms of picture ID** and may ask some public record questions to identify yourself.
Geography 2200: Introductory Physical Geography – Online Sections

- Please plan on 1-hour in addition to the test taking time for interfacing with ProctorU.

Proctoring fees are prepaid as part of your tuition. For exams scheduled less than 3 business days (72 hours) before an exam, however, they will charge you a $5 late fee.

9 Extra Credit
There will be one extra credit offering – a homework-like assignment near the end of the class. It can have questions from any topic in class (and may even go slightly beyond). The questions will be difficult, or cover absolutely key points from the course. The value will be ~5% of the total course grade, but it can fluctuate depending on the class average course grades at the time. Do not bank on the extra credit, e.g. the homeworks are worth far more…..

10 Grading Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59-57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Gradebook option in e-Learning 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

11 Late Policy
Semesters move quickly, and it is very easy to fall behind with video lectures. For assignments (homeworks/missions), we will accept them one day late with a 25% penalty. Anything more than 24 hours late will not be accepted and a grade of “0” will be assigned. No exams will be accepted late.

If you cannot complete an assignment or an exam 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 either instructor. Instructions on how to
Geography 2200: Introductory Physical Geography – Online Sections

send us the documents will be handled at the time we are 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 us beforehand and let us know. We 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.

12 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, Sakai 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.

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.
- 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.
12 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/](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/).

- For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services](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.

- Useful Links:
  - [Student Counseling by College](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services)
  - [Student Right and Responsibilities](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services)

13 Complaints
Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints) to submit a complaint.

14 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](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](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).