Geography 2200: Introductory Physical Geography – Online Sections

Instructors:

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Office hours:
Tuesday 11 am - 2 pm
Friday 11-2 pm
By appointment

Office hours online only – please go to the chat room on Sakai

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/chat board) and if you need further assistance, feel free to attend office hours or email either of 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.

3 Course schedule
A course schedule of deadlines and recommended topic dates is available on Sakai-> Topic Dates/Schedule.

4 Emailing
- We will try our best to answer e-mail questions promptly.
- We cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an assignment/examination deadline. Please email sooner rather than later!

5 Evaluations and Grading

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<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Number of Assignments</th>
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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 and you can refer to the syllabus while taking the quiz.

QUIZZES (2)

Each quiz will consist of videos, tutorials, etc. and a series of questions to evaluate knowledge. Students have two (2) days during which these quizzes will be available, and while the quiz is open, there is unlimited time to complete it. If at any time you feel uncertain of the answer, you may click on “Continue Later”, and you may leave the quiz to review your notes, lecture videos or outside sources before returning to answer that question towards completion of the quiz.

MISSION

The Mission is a task oriented assignment to be completed throughout the course of the semester. The 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. If your mission involves an uncommon file type, please check with the instructors well in advance to ensure we’re able to view it.

Choose one of the following missions:

- 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 or 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
- 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
- Propose your own mission (approval from the instructors is required before you proceed with your mission)
EXAMS (2)

Given this is a distance learning course we acknowledge not every student may be available to take the exams at a specific time. You are therefore given a time window of two days during which the exams will be available.

Exam 1: July 17-18th
Exam 2: August 6-7th

Examinations are CLOSED-NOTE and will each consist of multiple choice questions sometimes referring to maps and diagrams from the course materials.

1. The exams will be proctored online using ProctorU (see next section).
2. The exams are available on the “Assessments” tab in the left sidebar.
3. 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.
4. The two examinations will evaluate your knowledge of each of the two halves of the course, part I (Lecture 1-30c) and part II (Lecture 1-26), separately. The second examination will therefore only evaluate material presented in part II.
5. 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:

6. 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.
7. 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.

Exam Proctoring Service (ProctorU)

For the two examinations, 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.

- 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/), 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 reduced 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.

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.

### Grading Scheme

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<th>C+</th>
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<td>66-63</td>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>59-57</td>
<td>&lt;57</td>
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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
7 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. We strongly recommend that you use this.

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.

WE WILL NOT BE RELEASING THE ORIGINAL LECTURE POWERPOINTS. Please use this lecture supplement as a framework for following the lectures and taking notes.

8 Late Policy
Semesters move quickly, and it is very easy to fall behind with video lectures. For all assignments, 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 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 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.

9 Supplementary Texts
Comprehending new information is more efficient when we use several of our different senses. There is no required book for this class, but the recommended book "Introductory Physical Geography, GEO2200, University of Florida, Selected Content From Exploring Physical Geography" serves as a very good supplement to the online lectures. If you are a geography major you might want to consider buying one of the optional texts instead of the recommended book as they provide a wider scope of physical geography and might be useful in your future studies as well.
(NOTE: The lecture videos are the primary sources for all exam questions, so in the unlikely event of any conflicting information, documentation of the discrepancy must be documented and provided to the TAs.)

**Recommended**


**Optional**


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/](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
  - Student Right and Responsibilities

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.

13 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.

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. 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.