

GEA 1000: Geography for a Changing World
University of Florida • Department of Geography
Spring 2024

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Office Hours: By appointment and Office Hours (This is subject to change after the first week of courses due to schedules getting set for the semester. Updated office hours will be communicated after the first week)

Read the complete syllabus:

GEA 1000: Geography for a Changing World

Welcome to the “Geography of a Changing World” course. This course provides an understanding of the dynamic interplay of physical, human, and environmental forces shaping our planet. The complexity of the world's Geography is simplified with the knowledge and understanding that *"everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things"*- Waldo Tobler.

Course Overview

This course offers a geographic perspective on key urban, economic, environmental, geomorphologic, and climatic issues globally. Geography, as a discipline, provides the frameworks and tools necessary for exploring, understanding, and potentially solving these complex issues. Students will utilize map interpretation skills to analyze data and deduce conclusions about real-world phenomena. As most events occur in space, understanding these spatial interactions, both absolute (specific location) and relative (proximity to other events), aids in making inferences about real-world phenomena.

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

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, environment, and climate change.
- Learn about geographic frameworks and specialized tools for dealing with spatial phenomena.

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 @ (352) 392.HELP or helpdesk@ufl.edu for assistance.

Textbook/Readings:

No textbook is required. Other readings may be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted in Canvas.

Course Structure and Content:

These are the current content and structures, but they may be updated during the semester. The first half of the semester is going to be looking at different aspects of geography on a global scale. The second half of the semester will be specific to geography and the focus areas here at UF.

Week 1: Introduction to Geography

Week 2: Demography, Population, and Overpopulation

Week 3: Development and Urbanization

Week 4: Globalization and Diversity

Week 5: Focus Area 1- Earth System Science

Week 6: Focus Area 2- Medical Geography in Global Health (MGGH)

Week 7: Final Paper or Final Project Introduction and Midterm Exam Review

Week 8: Mid-Term Exam

Week 9: Focus Area 3-Places, Networks, and Flows

Week 10: Focus Area 4-Geopolitics and the Global Environment

Week 11: Focus Area 5 Catastrophes, Conservation, and Conflict

Week 12: Focus Area 6 Sustainability and the Global Environment

Week 13: Focus Area 7 Geospatial Analysis and Techniques

Week 14: The Future of Geography

Structure

- PowerPoint lectures
- Potential Podcasts
- Videos/Readings (supplemental or substitutions for class lectures)

- Assignments, quizzes, and discussion posts
- Exams (Midterm and Non-cumulative final)

EVALUATION GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Syllabus Quiz (5 points – 5%)

- A syllabus quiz will be administered via Canvas.

Discussion Posts (5 points each – 15%)

- Twelve Discussion posts will be administered throughout the course via Canvas. These will pertain to various topics covered each week—4 points for writing your own post (Due Sundays @ 11:59 PM) and 1 point for replying to at least one classmate (Due Sundays @ 11:59 PM).

Assignments (10 points each – 20%)

- Twelve homework assignments will be given to help students further explore lecture materials. One week to complete each assignment (Due Fridays @ 11:59 PM).

Mid-term exam and Final Exam (30%)

- Two exams covering all course contents by the day of the test will be administered via canvas. The exam will comprise a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay responses. The final exam is noncumulative and will cover from the mid-term to the end of the course.

Final paper or project (100 points – 30%)

- Students will complete a research paper about a special course topic. The length is three pages (1000 words) and must have proper references. Students will select topics, if you are unsure your topic is appropriate or meets the requirements please ask via Canvas email. The second option is a project where you will create module material for the course. Additional information is available on the assignment page. 100 Points.

GRADING SCALE & GPA EQUIVALENT

Letter	Range	GPA
A	100% to 94%	4.00
A-	< 94% to 90%	3.67
B+	< 90% to 87%	3.33
B	< 87% to 84%	3.00
B-	< 84% to 80%	2.67
C+	< 80% to 77%	2.33
C	< 77% to 74%	2.00
C-	< 74% to 70%	1.67
D+	< 70% to 67%	1.33
D	< 67% to 64%	1.00
D-	< 64% to 61%	0.67
E	< 61% to 0%	0.00

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information see [UF's Grading Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The extra credit offered for this course is worth 2% on the final grade, due to this there will be NO rounding grades.

COURSE POLICIES

- *Midterm Make-up Policy:* A midterm exam missed due to excused reasons can be made up. The instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule upon receipt of appropriate evidence.
- *Late submissions:* Late submissions of mid-term exam assignments and discussion posts can be accepted but for 10% off each day. Once the assignment closes it will not be reopened. If something arises that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time please let me know ASAP to come up with a solution.

When it comes to the final paper, late submissions will be accepted, but they will incur a 25% point reduction. **The final paper/project is due on April 29, 2024.** Papers can be submitted up to 1 day after the due date until 11:59 PM. Any submissions received after this grace period will be assigned a zero score, and no exceptions will be granted. Please be diligent in observing the final paper's due date.

- *Grade disputes:* Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why they believe they should have received such a grade.
- *Contacting the instructor:* Students needing to contact the course instructor should do so using Canvas' messaging platform.
- *Required Technology:* Students need to have access to a personal computer or laptop with a working webcam and microphone to access all features of the course Canvas site, and to participate in online office hours and optional live Q&A sessions. Broadband internet access is required.

OTHER INFORMATION

- *Academic honesty:* UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." [The Honor Code\(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.
- *Accommodations for students with disabilities:* Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the [Disability Resources Center\(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.
- *Counseling and mental health resources:* Students facing difficulties completing the course or who need counseling or urgent help should contact the on-campus [Counseling and Wellness Center\(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (352-392-1575)
- *Online course evaluation process:* Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional

and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> (Links to an external site.). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email received from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> (Links to an external site.). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> (Links to an external site.).

- *Canvas help:* If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to login, etc.) take a screen shot of the problem. 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.

Syllabus Statement regarding presentation of controversial material in class and classroom decorum:

People learn best when they are encouraged to ask questions and express their diverse opinions on course content, which may include images, texts, data, and theories from across the disciplines. This is especially true in courses that deal with provocative or contemporary issues. UF offers many such courses, in which students encounter concepts of race, color, sex, and/or national origin. We teach these important issues because understanding them is essential for anyone who seeks to make economic, cultural, and societal contributions to today's complex world. With this in mind, we do not limit access to, or classroom discussion of, facts, ideas, and opinions—including those that some may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or even offensive. In response to challenging material, students and instructors are encouraged to ask honest questions and thoughtfully engage one another's ideas. But hostility, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, and provocation for provocation's sake have no place in a classroom; reasonable people disagree reasonably. These guidelines can help instructors and students as they work together to fulfill the mission of the University of Florida, which includes the exploration of intellectual boundaries, the creation of new knowledge and the pursuit of new ideas.

COVID19 STATEMENT

- Life has been unpredictable lately. As such, it is understandable that situations may arise during the semester that may create hardship. If you become impacted by the ongoing pandemic, please contact the course instructor to provide documentation and discuss a fair course of action.

CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES

- U Matter, We Care. (352) 292-2273. UF's umbrella program for UF's caring culture. Provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. <http://umatter.ufl.edu>
- University Counseling Center & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd., (352) 392-1575. Personal and career counseling, as well as therapy for anxiety, stress and mental health issues. <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromises their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues (including mental health crises). <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/care>
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, (352) 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>.
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, (352) 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Field and Fork Pantry. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>.
- UF Help Desk. (352) 392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- University Police Department, (352) 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.