

GEA 1000: Geography for a Changing World

University of Florida • Department of Geography

Class Section: CW20,GEUF (26529,27029)

Fall 2020

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Office: TUR B107 Turlington Hall

Office Hours: By appointment.

Credit Hour: 3

Class Format: Online

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](#)

1 Course Overview

The course seeks to give students a geographic perspective on issues about important urban, economic, environmental, geomorphologic and climatic issues in the world. As a discipline, Geography contains frameworks and tools to help in exploring, understanding, and finding potential solutions to these complex issues. Students will be expected to use map interpretation skills to analyze data and draw inferences and conclusions about real-world phenomena. Nearly everything 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 behavioural 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, environment, and climate change.
- 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 @ (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 Structure and Content:

These are the current content and structures, but they may be updated during the semester.

5.1 Structure

- Scheduled Zoom class by agreement with students
- PowerPoint lectures
- Videos/Readings (supplemental or substitutions for class lectures)
- Assignments/quizzes
- Group Presentation project
- Exams

5.2 Content

The following will be covered. However, the order may significantly change. More information will be given as the semester progresses.

5.2.1 Module 1:

- What is Geography?
- Human Geography: Population Change, Urbanization, Globalization
- Development

5.2.2 Module 2:

- Physical Geography: Introduction, Atmosphere & Terrestrial systems
- Human-Environment Interactions: Deforestation, Desertification, Water Resources, Energy, and Climate Change (droughts and floods)
- Geographical Tools: GIS & Remote Sensing

6 Evaluations and Grading

6.1 Graded Assignments and Exams

Grading will be from several items and formats. There will be multiple small assignments, two exams, and one group presentation project, etc. See the table below for the full list:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 4 assignments worth 5% each | 20 % |
| 1 st Exam (Module 1) | 20 % |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2 nd Exam (Module 2) | 20 % |
| 1 group presentation project | 25 % |
| Contribution to group work | 5% |
| Class participation and Discussion | 10 % |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100%</i> |

- Details on the assignments and project will be released later.
- Please do not start the exams late. You will have only the standard allotted time for your exams.

6.2 Important Dates

6.2.1 Exams

Exam 1 will be Friday Oct/09

Exam 2 will be Thur 12/16

There are 40-50 multiple choice questions for each exam.

6.2.2 Assignments

There will be 2 assignments during Module 1, and 2 during Module 2 (total of 4). Exact dates will depend on when we cover specific material, but in general, you will have one week to do the assignment.

6.2.3 Group Project

Group project details will be released during the semester. Presentations will occur at the end of the semester, roughly 12/02 – 12/09 (depending on the number of groups, and other guest speakers).

6.3 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.

There will be **NO makeup exams** given. If an unavoidable event arises and causes you to miss, or anticipate missing an exam, please inform the Instructor. Bring any formal documentation that supports the absence. You *must* have some written form validating your absence, for example, a doctor's receipt. 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).

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.

6.4 Grading scale

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| 100-94 | 93-90 | 89-87 | 86-83 | 82-80 | 79-75 | 74-70 | 69-67 | 66-63 | 62-60 | 59-57 | <57 |

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 me 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 Emailing

I will try my best to answer email 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 email for various reasons.

8 Virtual Class Policy

Be informed that class sessions will be audio-visually recorded for you to refer back and for others who are unable to attend live. Those who participate with their camera engaged or utilized a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials are prohibited. Be informed that this information was curled precisely from the new school policy release as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

9 Academic Honesty

You are all bound by the student academic honour 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 honour, 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 fraud 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 for providing the DSO request to the Instructor.

I will honour all requests. Please contact me by email to make an appointment so that we can go through these accommodations and sign the form.

11 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: **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.

12 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.*

Contributing Authors and Editors

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