

Department of Geography
University of Florida

**Introduction to Human Geography
GEO 2420**

Mon; Wed; Friday. 10:40-11:30
Turlington Hall 3012

Instructor: Neha Kohli

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM after class, or by appointment



Sundarban, West Bengal. Photo: Neha Kohli

Course Description

Humans and the systems they construct are in constant interaction with the environment they inhabit. In a world that has become inter-connected in more ways than one, these interactions have changed over time to produce effects everywhere. The discipline of Human Geography provides an analytical lens to critically examine these changes and effects across the globe. The course is designed to make us think geographically about these changes using key concepts like place, space and scale while engaging with select topics such as creation of nation-states, migration, culture, and politics. We will together ask questions relationally about *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *when* and *how*. Monday and Wednesday of each week will be lecture based and students are expected to complete the assigned readings before we meet for class. Friday will be dedicated to discussion based on the readings and lectures of the week and activities that require participation. There will be no exams for this course. Instead, students are asked to work on a project based on which presentations need to be made and an essay needs to be submitted towards the end of the semester.

Course Objectives

1. Articulate what Human Geography is and its role as a social science discipline.
2. Understand key concepts in Human Geography and learn the geographic language of place and spatial relationships with regards to human activities.
3. Relate concepts to real-life situations across cultures and landscapes around the world.
4. Gain awareness of how human and non-human forms interact spatially and develop an appreciation for the complexity of processes that shape these interactions.
5. Learn to construct a well conceptualized, analytical and critical piece of writing in an essay format.

Required Texts:

1. *Knox, P. and Marston, S. 2016. *Human Geography: Place and Regions in Global Context*, 7th Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780321984241.
*Book available at UF Bookstore and at the Publisher's website for rent or to buy.
2. Other articles, book chapters etc. will be made available as PDF via Canvas

Assignments

The final course grade will be evaluated upon completion of the following assignments and tasks

1. **Weekly deliverables:** 50 points
 - Every Thursday, by 5:00 pm, each student is expected to post a response to the reading and lecture material on the discussion board on Canvas. The response should be no more than 300 words and should be a critical reflection of the reading and lecture material. The reflection can include questions and doubts. Each response entry is worth 2 points. If a response is less than 250 words or exceeds 300 words 1 point will be deducted. A response exceeding 400 words will not be considered for a grade. The entry will be assessed on the basis of critical reflection and clear writing.
 - On the Friday of each week, students will be assessed for participation in the discussion and activities during class. These activities may include quizzes and take-home assignments. Regardless of the nature of the activity, each week's participation in the activity is worth 2 points. For quizzes and take-home assignments, participation is considered complete if the assignment has a score of at least 85%. Students with a full score will receive bonus points should they fall short in any other assignment.
2. **Project:** 50 points
 - The project asks you to engage with a particular issue that must be related to any topic discussed in class and must incorporate at least two key concepts. This can be done in a group (no more than three students) or individually. The idea for the project, worth 5 points, needs to be sent in an email to the instructor by 5:00 pm on February 27. Students are advised to start thinking about the project from the start of the semester.
 - In preparation for the project field work is required to generate geographic information. Additional guidance about field work will be provided on Canvas. This part of the grade is worth 10 points.
 - The findings of the project need to be communicated through a presentation. The presentation qualifies for a maximum of 15 points. The criteria for assessment of the presentation will be provided on Canvas. Students are required to provide feedback to each other on completion of their presentations.
 - Based on the findings of the project, an essay of 2000-2500 words, worth 20 points, needs to be submitted by 5:00 pm on the April 26. The essay should follow the format of an introduction, main body and conclusion and should be in conversation with the class materials and topics. To list references used in the essay consider the style sheet of the peer-reviewed journal, *Annals*

of the Association of American Geographers: http://www.aag.org/galleries/publications-files/Annals_of_the_AAG_Style_Sheet.pdf. The essay will be assessed on the basis of clear writing and structure, engagement with class material, critical reflection and originality of project idea.

All written assignments will be evaluated using Turnitin.com originality-checking software.

Summary of Assignments and Grade Values

- Weekly deliverables: 50 points
- Project: 50 points
- Total: 100 points

Grades will be awarded according to scores in percentage listed below

94-100: A 90-93.5: A- 87-89.5: B+ 83-86.5: B 80-82.5: B- 77-79.5: C+ 73-76.5: C
 70-72.5: C- 67-69.5: D+ 64-66.5: D 60-63.5: D- 0-59.5: E

More information on grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Schedule

Date		Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity*
Week 1	Jan 6	Introductions Course overview	Short video and an activity on student perceptions of Human Geography
	Jan 8	Early writings: Humanistic and Marxist Geography	Tuan, Y.F. 1976. Humanistic geography Peet, R. 1985. An introduction to marxist geography
	Jan10	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Activity to identify 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'how' in a newspaper article</i>
Week 2	Jan 13	Key concept: Place On why <i>where</i> matters Place making	Knox & Marston, Chap 1 (p. 3-12) Chap 7 (p. 230-238)
	Jan 15	Key concept: Space	Knox & Marston, Chap 1 (p. 13-27) Castree, N. 2009. Space: the fundamental stuff of geography
	Jan 17	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Mental map making activity</i>
Week 3	Jan 20	Holiday	
	Jan 22	Colonialism, capitalism, the nation-state, core- periphery, divisions of labor, commodity chains	Knox & Marston, Chap 2 & 8 Cook. I. 2004. Follow the thing: papaya
	Jan 24	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Activity to follow 'your' thing</i>
Week 4	Jan 27	The 'Global'	Massey, D. 1994. A global sense of place

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity*
	Jan 29	Key concept: Scale Global or local?
	Jan 31	<i>Discussion</i>
		<i>Short videos on the 'global' nature of things, Take home review of "The Forgotten Space"</i> http://icarusfilms.com/if-fs
Week 5	Feb 3	Population, mobility and migration
	Feb 5	Displacement
	Feb 7	<i>Discussion</i>
		Knox & Marston, Chap 3 (p. 66-89) On China: (Links to articles on Canvas)
		Knox & Marston, Chap 3 (p. 90-104) Taub, B. 2017. Lake Chad: The world's most complex humanitarian disaster
		<i>Quiz based activity</i>
Week 6	Feb 10	Boundaries, frontiers, states, nations and citizenship
	Feb 12	What kind of nationalism?
	Feb 14	<i>Discussion</i>
		Knox & Marston, Chap 10
		Anderson. 1991. Imagined communities Koch, N. and Perreault, T. 2018. Resource nationalism
		<i>Activity to identify 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'how' in a newspaper article</i>
Week 7	Feb 17	Key concept: Nature Nature-society
	Feb 19	Anthropocene
	Feb 21	<i>Discussion</i>
		Ginn, F & Demeritt, D. 2009. Nature – a contested concept Knox & Marston, Chap 4 (p. 111-117) Nightingale, A. 2014. Nature-society Robbins, P. 2003. Producing and consuming chemicals: the moral economy of the American lawns
		Knox & Marston Chap 4 (p. 118-148) Myers, N. 2019. From edenic apocalypse to gardens against Eden
		<i>Conceptual map making of 'nature'/Guest Lecture</i>
Week 8	Feb 24	More than human worlds, toxicity & health
		Van Doreen, T. 2010. Vultures and their people in India: equity and entanglement in a time of extinctions On Plastic: (Links provided on Canvas)

Date		Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity*
			Schmid, B. 2019. Degrowth and post-capitalism: transformative geographies beyond accumulation and growth.
	Feb 26	Agriculture, food and consumption	Knox & Marston, Chap 9 (p. 299 – 323) Correia, J. 2019. South America’s second-largest forest is also burning – and ‘environmentally friendly charcoal is subsidizing its destruction
	Feb 28	Project abstract due on Feb 27	
Week 9	Spring break		
Week 10	Mar 9	Culture as a process and system	Knox & Marston, Chap 5 (153 – 161)
	Mar 11	Culture, art and identity	Knox & Marston, Chap 5 (p. 162-176)
	Mar 13	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Activity based on reflections on art and culture in Gainesville</i>
Week 11	Mar 16	Music and culture	Chang, J. 2005. Can’t stop won’t stop (p. 231-261)
	Mar 18	Landscape, culture and consumption	Knox & Marston, Chap 7 (p. 239- 254) Bendjelloul, M. 2012. Searching for sugar man
	Mar 20	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Activity to reflect on cultural meaning and significance through pop music</i>
Week 12	Mar 23	Geography of language	Knox & Marston, Chap 6 (p. 188-205)
	Mar 25	Religious geographies	Knox & Marston, Chap 6. (p. 206-223)
	Mar 27	<i>Discussion</i>	Activity reflecting on intersections of politics with communication/Guest lecture
Week 13	Apr 13	Indigenous Peoples & Decolonization	Niezen, R. 2003 The origins of the international movement of indigenous Peoples Clouthard (2012) Place against empire: understanding indigenous anti-colonialism
	Apr 15	Indigenous geographies	Yeh, E. and Bryan, J. 2015. Indigeneity Li, T.M. 2014. Land’s end: capitalist relations on an indigenous frontier (p. 1-29).
	Apr 17	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Documentary followed by assignment.</i>
Week 14	Study break (Instructor away on conference) Work on Project		
Week 15	Mar 30	City processes	Knox & Marston, Chap 11

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity*
Apr 1	City structures	Knox & Marston, Chap 12 Winner. 1980. Do artifacts have politics?
Apr 2	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Activity conceptualizing city infrastructure</i>
Week 16	Apr 20	<i>Project Presentations</i>
	Apr 22	<i>Project Presentations</i>
	Apr 24	Course Ends Project Essay due April 26 by 5:00 pm

*Instructions for the activity will be shared on Canvas prior to class.

Class Attendance & Make-Up Policy: Class attendance is essential and important for completing assignments. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material, if circumstances allow it; the student will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment.

Students are expected to arrive to class prepared, on time and should demonstrate participation. Being late by 10 minutes or more will be counted as an absence, unless previously arranged. Every student is allowed one unexcused absence during the semester. Students will begin to lose 10% of their participation score with each absence following the first one.

Students are expected to turn in assignments on time. Late assignments will be subject to reduction of points if turned in late and no assignments will be accepted beyond 48 hours past the due date. The final paper will not be accepted late.

Classroom Behavior Policy

Students should avoid extraneous activities such as texting and chatting that do not contribute to and disturb the class lectures, discussions, and activities. Use of cell phones is not allowed in class and laptops may be used only to view class-related materials relevant to the class schedule. Students are expected to respect each other's opinions and contributions in class and maintain a congenial learning environment.

The instructor will use University of Florida email and the class Canvas platform to communicate with students about the course. Students are expected to check Canvas for any updates and information. Professional language should be used in all communication.

University of Florida Honesty Policy:

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 by abiding by the Honor Code. 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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of 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.

Student Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://dso.ufl.edu>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu>. You will be notified when evaluations are open once in the middle of the semester and another time towards the end of the semester.

Counselling and Wellness Center

Please reach out to the Counseling and Wellness Center if you need their services: <https://counseling.ufl.edu> , 392-1575; and if need be, to the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course schedule may be subject to change if advantageous for learning. Students will be given advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor.