

## Geography 2200: Physical Geography – Online Sections

### Instructors:

Hongsheng Wang: <a href="mailto:ho.wang@ufl.edu">ho.wang@ufl.edu</a>
<i>Office hours: Monday 12 -2 pm; Wednesday 1-2 pm</i>
<i>via zoom</i>

### 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 Canvas. See [Recommended Browsers](#) FAQs.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Please read through the e-Learning [FAQs](#) and [best test practices](#).

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## **2 Course Objectives**

The textbook and supplemental course lectures (videos) 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. You should be able to explain why we have seasons.
- 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:***

**Teaching Assistants are to be your point of contact for questions and concerns.**

**Hongsheng Wang** ([ho.wang@ufl.edu](mailto:ho.wang@ufl.edu))

Hongsheng is a graduate student in Geography Department with an MRes in Climate and Atmospheric Science and a B.S. in Applied Mathematics and Meteorology in China. Her research interests focus on weather, extreme precipitation and natural variability.

***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.

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### 4 Office Hours

During office hours, I will be available to answer questions via email, Canvas Conference (like a chat room). Under the current circumstance, the personal meeting in a scheduled room is unavailable. Canvas Conference is a tool of your Canvas class, found as a tab on the left side of the course website, with chatting and file sharing features. See the top of the first page for times.

There is also a discussion page open to students to post questions all day. This can be found on the Discussion tab and is called the “Physical Geography Lounge”. The instructor or other students will be able to post answers or have a discussion about the course, but I will not check this frequently.

### 5 Emailing

I will try my 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 me because I may not have received the e-mail for various reasons. I typically do not check emails on weekends.

Also: I cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an assignment/examination deadline. Contact me early so that questions do not accumulate!

### 6 Texts

There is a *required* textbook for this class. You can purchase the hard copy or electronic version. You may also get the first or second edition, as they are ultimately the same.

<p><i>Exploring Physical Geography</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Stephen Reynolds and Robert Rohli and Julia Johnson and <b>Peter Waylen</b> and Mark Francek. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2020.</p>
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### 7 Lecture Video Supplements

In addition to the textbook, there will be **optional video lectures** on some similar material. With these videos, 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 pack includes slides from a much larger selection of videos, so only some of the slides are relevant. They do not follow along perfectly with the supplemental videos. The videos and accompanying files are meant to supplement the textbook. *The main source of information for this class is the textbook.*

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### 8 Evaluations and Grading

Assessment Item	Number of Assignments	Points Per Assignment	Percent
Syllabus Quiz	1	20	4%
Quiz	11	20-30	32%
Current Event	1	60	12%
Article Review	1	60	12%
Exam (Part I)	1	100	20%
Exam (Part II)	1	100	20%
<b>Total</b>			100%

#### ***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. You must take this quiz to continue with the rest of the course.

#### ***QUIZZES (11)***

Each of the quizzes will consist of a series of questions to evaluate knowledge of each week's readings. These quizzes will be taken through canvas. There is no time limited and you are allowed to use any resources you have (book, internet, notes and classmates). You **only** have one chance.

#### ***CURRENT EVENT (1) 60 points***

This task requires you to find a current event and relate it back to what you have learned in physical geography. You will have two options for this assignment (1) you can find a newspaper/magazine article of an even that occurred within the last year and write a 300+ word summary of what the event is, explain the physical geography concept involved, and how this event relates to physical geography. (2) You can watch a movie documentary and summarize the film in a 300+ word write up, explain the physical geography concepts, and how this film relates to physical geography. This assignment is meant to show you the link between what we learn in class to events happening around the world every day.

#### ***ACADEMIC ARTICLE REVIEW (1) 60 points***

This assignment will involve reviewing an article found from an academic journal. More information on how to find articles, cite references, and expectations for this assignment will be provided later in the semester. This assignment is meant to familiarize you with scientific writing and finding articles through online databases. It will include a 300 word write up summarizing the article and how it relates to physical geography. You will be expected to use properly formatted citations.

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### *EXAMS (2)*

Examinations are open note and will consist of individual multiple choice questions and short response (3-7 sentences)

- Two hours (2 hours) is 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.

## **9 Extra Credit**

There MIGHT 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 determined by the overall class average, and if offered, it will be  $\leq 5\%$  of the total course grade. Since there MIGHT be extra credit, do *not* plan on having it available. Focus on the other assigned tasks.

## **10 Grading Scheme**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-95	94-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-75	74-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-57	<57

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.**

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There will be a Grades tab in Canvas 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. **Late assignments will only be accepted 24hrs after they are due and there will be a 20% penalty.** 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 me 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 the documents will be handled at the time I am 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 me beforehand and let me know. I 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, Canvas 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.

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### 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/>.
- For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: <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](#)

### 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.

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### **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>.