UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Department of Geography
GEO2200L: Dynamic Planet Earth Laboratory
Fall 2025 | 1 credits

NOTE: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "Academic Policies and Resources" web page.

I. General Information

Instructor Information:

Name: Bewuket Tefera

Office Building/Number: Turlington Hall, 1215, 330 Newell Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611

Email: bewukettefera@ufl.edu/ Canvas Inbox

Zoom Meeting: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/7297050442

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-4:00 PM, also by appointment

Course Information:

Class location: This course is offered online via Canvas

https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/544175

II. Course Description

Welcome to GEO2200 Lab. This course will provide hands-on experiences and data analysis related to our dynamic planet Earth. This course will be different than a traditional class, as you will be engaging with the materials directly through activities and projects, mostly through this Canvas shell. This course is a lab, which means we want you to play with data, experience, and engage with real-world systems, and better understand the scientific process of analysis to understand the world around us.

The structure of the labs are such that you must complete all items on the page before the lab will allow you to continue. As such, you can review the lab tabs at the bottom of each lab module for completion. Each lab is composed of many shorter pages to break down the content into steps and not overwhelm you upfront. Content in each lab builds across the module, and as your comprehension grows, you will be asked to complete more advanced tasks.

In addition, each lab page has different types of questions within it. The two main types are 'Checking In' questions, which you should review as you progress through the lab content. These are quick checks for you to read, answer out loud, and then confirm you are correct by revealing the correct answers by clicking on them. These are simple check-ins with yourself to make sure you are following along. The second type of questions are the 'Stop and Think' questions, which are the questions you are answering

for a grade and must be turned in. Please make sure that you have answered and turned in ALL the Stop and Think Questions at the end of the lab (they are numbered sequentially throughout each lab).
This is a study of some of the basic elements of the physical world in which climates, water, and landforms are examined in terms of their natural occurrences, distribution, and interrelationships. Through practical, hands-on lab activities and data analysis, students will explore these elements to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic nature of Earth.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

General Education Designation: Physical Sciences (P)

Natural Science courses afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena. **Physical Science (P)** is a sub-designation of Natural Science courses at the University of Florida. These courses provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the physical sciences. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern physical systems. Students will formulate empirically testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments.
All General Education area objectives can be found here.

III. Course Materials

- Canvas. The materials are accessible directly through Canvas shell.

Materials will be available through the following means:

This course will be different than a traditional class, as you will be engaging with the materials directly through activities and projects, mainly through this Canvas shell.
This course is a lab, which means you will want to play with data, experience and engage with real-world systems, and better understand the scientific process of analysis to understand the world around us. Each lab is composed of many shorter pages to break down the content into steps and not overwhelm you upfront. Content in each lab builds across the module, and as your comprehension grows, you will be asked to complete more advanced tasks.
Each module is divided into three parts. There are different ways you may navigate through the module content. First, you may use the module or tabs to navigate through the pages for each part of the module. Another option is to use the Previous and Next buttons at the bottom of each page. You may also use the

Modules link in the left-hand navigation bar in Canvas. Please look at the course orientation.

Materials Fee: N/A

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

IV. Course Objectives

In this course, we will develop an understanding of:

- **Climate Dynamics and Natural Phenomena:** Comprehending the genesis and distribution patterns of various climatic conditions, hurricanes, coral reefs, hydrology, and drought scenarios, as well as changes in ice mass and sea levels.
- **Environmental Interplay:** Gaining insights into how different components of the physical environment are interrelated and how they collectively shape regional geographical patterns.
- **Technological Application in Geography:** Applying tools like Google Earth to explore and answer complex geographical questions, bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and practical technological applications.
- **Spatial Intelligence and Representation:** Cultivating a robust understanding of spatial concepts using maps and other geographic representations enhances your ability to acquire, process, and communicate spatially relevant information effectively.

V. Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- **Content***: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline(s)*.
    - Describe the central concepts and theories of physical geography that guide our scientific understanding of our natural world—assessment based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.
    - Describe and explain how the Earth's different spheres interact. Assessment: assessment based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.

- **Critical Thinking**: *Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the discipline(s).*
    - Identify and analyze differences in hurricanes, ice mass, sea level changes, and corals, and explain their history and formation. Assessment will be based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.
    - Analyze and give examples of ice mass and sea level changes that impact natural systems. Assessment: based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.
    - Analyze and give examples of how natural systems can impact society in different geographic settings. Assessment: based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.

- **Communication**: *Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline(s).*

- Sketch and describe geographic processes such as global circulation, scales of weather, the hydrological cycle, and hurricanes. Assessment: based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.
- Reason around different ways humans interact with the natural resources and landscape around them and the associated opportunities and threats. Assessment: based on individual assignments, questions, and reports.

- **Connection**: *Students connect course content with meaningful critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond.*
  - List some examples of information used by physical geographers and reflect on how these types of information could influence our lives. Assessment: Homework, exercises.

VI. Graded Policy

I will make every effort to have each assignment graded and posted within one week of the due date.

Course Grading Policy

Assignment	Points
Module 1: Climatology Basics	300
Module 2: Hurricanes – Meteorological Monsters	300
Module 3: Ice Mass and Sea Level Changes	300
Module 4: Corals	300
Module 5: Hydrology and Drought	300

Total semester points: 1500

***Course schedule and points subject to change**

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades

http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html

VII. Course schedule

NOTE: the syllabus is a guideline and there may be changes to the class schedule.

Module	Date	Details	Due
	Thu Aug 21, 2025	Quiz Course Orientation Quiz	11:59 PM
Module 1	Aug 24, 2025	Scales of Weather and Climate: P1.7	11:59 PM
	Aug 25, 2025	Module 1, Part 1 Climatology Basics: P1.8	11:59 PM
	Aug 29, 2025	Climate Study: P2.11	11:59 PM
	Aug 29, 2026	Module 1, Part 2 Regional Climate Drivers: P2.12	11:59 PM
	Sep 5, 2025	Module 1, Part 3 Local Weather Stories: P3.7	11:59 PM
Module 2	Sep 12, 2025	Module 2, Part 1 Earth's Meteorological Monsters: P1.5	11:59 PM
	Sep 19, 2025	Module 2, Part 2 Hurricane Anatomy: P2.6	11:59 PM
	Sep 26, 2025	Module 2, Part 3 Putting Hurricanes on the Map: P3.5	11:59 PM
Module 3	Oct 3, 2025	Module 3, Part 1 Rising Concerns Over Rising Sea Levels: P1.4	11:59 PM
	Oct 10, 2025	Module 3, Part 2 Temperature: A Global Trendsetter: P2.7	11:59 PM
	Oct 16, 2025	Module 3, Part 3 Warm With a Chance of Melting: P3.4	11:59 PM
Module 4	Oct 24, 2025	Module 4, Part 1 Finding Coral's Ideal Environment: P1.6	11:59 PM
	Oct 31, 2025	Module 4, Part 2 Factors That Impact Coral Health: P2.10	11:59 PM
	Nov 7, 2025	Module 4, Part 3 Predict Bleaching : P3.6	11:59 PM
Module 5	Nov 14, 2025	Module 5, Part 1 Worldwide Water Distribution: P1.6	11:59 PM
	Nov 21, 2025	Module 5, Part 2 Normal Climate Patterns: P2.6	11:59 PM
	Nov 28, 2025	Module 5, Part 3 Maps That Describe Climate: P3.6	11:59 PM
	Dec 3, 2025	Assignment Extra Credit Assignment: Talking About the Weather: P3.5	11:59 PM

Minimum Technology Requirements

The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam

- Microphone
- Broadband connection to the internet and related equipment (cable/DSL modem)
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review before starting their program.

Minimum Technical Skills

To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of operating a computer and using word processing software.

Materials/Supply Fees

There is no supply fee for this course.

Zoom

Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants.

You can find resources and help using Zoom at the University of Florida's ZoomLinks to an external site. website.

VIII. Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr. Gabriela Hamerlinck (ghamerlinck@ufl.edu, 352.294.9051). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu; 352-392-1261).

IX. Course Policies & Class Environment

Meeting Policy

If you need help with any aspect of the course, you are encouraged to come to office hours (see the details on Page 1 of this syllabus). Alternatively, you can schedule a 1-on-1 meeting with the instructor. Please email Bewuket Tefera to arrange a meeting time. Outside of office hours, email is the preferred method of contact. I will do my best to respond to messages within 72 hours (not including weekends or holidays).

As a courtesy, please check the syllabus and Canvas before reaching out; answers to many of your questions can be found there.

Canvas

Important announcements and updates will be regularly posted to the course Canvas website, so be sure to check Canvas frequently. To ensure that you do not miss anything, please make sure that your Canvas profile is set to receive notifications.

Email Accounts

It is UF policy that you use your GatorLink account or Canvas when emailing your instructors; we will not answer emails sent from other accounts (e.g., personal Gmail, etc.).

Professional Conduct

All members of the class are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times. Please use appropriate etiquette when interacting with your peers and instructors, including on Canvas and via email. Students who behave disrespectfully or disruptively will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments may be posted at the instructors' discretion only. Any other extra work submitted in order to raise a grade will not be accepted and requests for additional extra credit will not be considered.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted electronically via Canvas unless otherwise noted. Emailed or paper submissions for Canvas assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for ensuring that all your work is uploaded correctly and completely by the deadline. Corrupted files will be treated as missing work (= 0 grade) until they are re-uploaded correctly and late penalties will apply if your resubmission is past the deadline. So, please always double check your files right after you upload them. If you experience technical problems when submitting your work in Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: https://helpdesk.ufl.edu .

Disputing a Grade

If you wish to dispute a grade for any assignment, you must contact the instructor in writing within two business days (48 hours) after the assignment has been returned. In your message, you must include a specific explanation for why you think the grade is incorrect and how you think it should be changed. An instructor will then arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issue and determine whether or not to the grade should be changed. The grade assigned following this meeting will be final.

Late Work & Make-Up Assignments

All assignments must be submitted by the due date and time indicated on Canvas. If an assignment is submitted late, 10% of its total point value will be deducted for every day that it is late. Credit cannot be earned for assignments that are turned in 10+ days past the due date. Late work will not be accepted after the deadline for the final assignment in the course.

Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis (at the instructor's discretion) only in the event of unforeseen emergencies. In such a case, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the situation; note that the instructor may request documentation. No extensions will be granted for students who miss the due date for any other reason.

A note about deadlines: Remember, the due date does not have to be the "do" date. In other words, it is highly encouraged to work on your assignments in advance– do not wait until right before the deadline to submit your work. Last-minute computer problems or other non-emergency situations that arise right before the deadline are not valid reasons for requesting an extension; such requests will not be considered and late penalties will be applied to your work if it is not submitted before the deadline.

Academic Honesty

Instructors' note: Any action that subverts the learning goals of the course (or a particular course activity) will be treated as academic misconduct and reported to the Dean of Students Office. This includes– but is not limited to– cheating or assisting others in cheating, plagiarism (i.e., misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, whether it is copied directly or paraphrased), self-plagiarism (i.e., copying/reusing work that you have submitted previously), collaborating with others when it is not permitted, fabricating data, lying to an instructor, and bad faith attempts to undermine the intent of an learning activity. If found responsible by the Dean of Students Office, a grade adjustment will be applied, typically resulting in a score of zero on the assignment.

Accommodations

Instructors' note: We want you to succeed in this course! To ensure your accommodations are in place when you need them, please be sure to have your DRC accommodation letter sent to us as early as possible– ideally at the beginning of the semester.

Artificial Intelligence & Large Language Model (LLM) use policy

In this course, the use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT or Adobe Firefly) is not permitted during the completion of any assigned work. Use of a generative AI tool to complete assigned work in whole or in part may be referred under the Code of Student Conduct academic dishonesty provisions for further action by the Dean of Students Office. Students may use generative AI tools to support their independent study of course topics but should do so with the understanding that generative AI tools may not be trustworthy.

Understanding This Syllabus

It is your responsibility to ensure that you fully understand the policies outlined in this syllabus as well as the policies of the university as they relate to this course. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree that you have read and understood all of these policies and that you will be held accountable to them.

At their discretion, the instructor may change aspects of the course during the semester to accommodate new opportunities, unforeseen disruptions, or other circumstances. These changes will be communicated clearly in class and through Canvas. The current version of the syllabus will always be available on our course's Canvas website. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are following the most recent version of the syllabus.

If you have any questions, please contact the instructors as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of the course)!