# GEO2200L- Dynamic Planet Earth Lab
# Course Syllabus

## 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 though 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 does build 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 main two 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. The class meets the General Education requirements of a Physical Science (P) course.

## Contact Information

### Instructors


- **Bewuket** Tefera, Email: bewukettefera@ufl.edu, Turlington Hall, 1215, 330 Newell Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611. **Office Hours**: Thursday 1:00-4:00 PM and by appointment.
- **Sabiha** Sabrina, Email s.sabrina@ufl.edu, Turlington Hall, 1215, 330 Newell Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611. **Office Hours**: Wednesday 12:00-3:00 PM and by appointment

For questions about course content, your grade, or other personal issues, use the Canvas mail tool. Expect a response within 48 hours.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will have developed an understanding in:

1. **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.
2. **Environmental Interplay**: Gaining insights into how different components of the physical environment are interrelated and how they collectively shape regional geographical patterns.
3. **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.
4. **Spatial Intelligence and Representation**: Cultivating a robust understanding of spatial concepts using maps and other geographic representations enhances your ability to effectively acquire, process, and communicate spatially relevant information.

## Course Requirements

### Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Instructional materials

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed and assigned by the instructors. The instructors are only responsible for these instructional materials.

### 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.

## Course Policies

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found on **UF's Attendance PoliciesLinks to an external site.** website.

As this is an online class, you are responsible for observing all posted due dates and are encouraged to be self-directed and take responsibility for your learning.

**Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be accepted at a cost of 10% per day late (up to a maximum of 50%). Students WILL GET A ZERO FOR MISSED LABS. If you have a problem, email me with sufficient time before the deadline (not 5 minutes before the deadline) and I may give an extension, provided you have documentation for the extenuating circumstance.

**Make-up Policy**

I understand that unexpected events occur. If such events (illness, personal problems, family, etc.) happen to you, please contact me ASAP. If you have a documented excuse for missing a lab, you will be permitted to turn in the lab later.

As this is an online class, you are responsible for observing all posted due dates and are encouraged to be self-directed and take responsibility for your learning.

## Course summary schedule

| No | Assignment details and deadlines | Date | Due by |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Quiz Course Orientation Quiz | Mon, May 12, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 2 | Assignment Scales of Weather and Climate: P1.7: Climatology Basics | Fri, May 16, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 3 | Assignment Module 1, Part 1 Climatology Basics: P1.8 | Tue May 20, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 4 | Assignment Module 1, Part 2 Regional Climate Drivers: P2.12 | Fri, May 23, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 5 | Assignment Module 1, Part 3 Local Weather Stories: P3.7 | Tue May 27, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 6 | Assignment Module 2, Part 1 Hurricanes: Earth's Meteorological Monsters: P1.5 | Fri, May 30, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 7 | Assignment Module 2, Part 2 Hurricane Anatomy: P2.6 | Tue Jun 3, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 8 | Assignment Module 2, Part 3 Putting Hurricanes on the Map: P3.5 | Fri, Jun 6, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 9 | Assignment Module 3, Part 1 Rising Concerns Over Rising Sea Levels: P1.4 | Tue Jun 10, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 10 | Assignment Module 3, Part 2 Temperature: A Global Trendsetter: P2.7 | Fri, Jun 13, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 11 | Assignment Module 3, Part 3 Warm With a Chance of Melting: P3.4 | Thu, Jun 19, 2025 | 11:59 pm |
| 12 | Assignment Extra Credit Assignment: Talking About the Weather: P3.5 | Fri, Jun 20, 2025 | 11:59 pm |

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

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved General Education learning outcomes as follows:

- **Content***: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline(s).*
    - Describe physical geography's central concepts and theories 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.

## Grading Policy

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

## Course Grading Policy

The course is divided into five modules, each representing a key aspect of geographical science. While students are encouraged to explore all modules for a comprehensive understanding, **grading will be based solely on completion and performance in Modules 1, 2, and 3**. These modules focus on fundamental concepts such as Climatology Basics, Hurricanes, and Ice Mass and Sea Level Changes. *Modules 4 and 5, which cover Corals, Hydrology and Drought, respectively, are available for self-study but will not be factored into the final grade.* This approach allows students to concentrate on mastering essential concepts while providing access to supplementary material for further exploration in **Summer A, 2025.**

| Assignment | Points |
|---|---|
| **Module 1: Climatology Basics** | 300 |
| **Module 2: Hurricanes – Meteorological Monsters** | 300 |
| **Module 3: Ice Mass and Sea Level Changes** | 300 |

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

**Grading Scale**

| Percent | Grade | Grade Points | | Percent | Grade | Grade Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **93-100** | A | 4 | | 73-76.9 | C | 2 |
| **90-92.9** | A- | 3.67 | | 70-72.9 | C- | 1.67 |
| **87-89.9** | B+ | 3.33 | | 67-69.9 | D+ | 1.33 |
| **83-86.9** | B | 3 | | 63-66.9 | D | 1 |
| **80-82.9** | B- | 2.67 | | 60-62.9 | D- | 0.67 |
| **77-79.9** | C+ | 2.33 | | <60 | E | 0 |

Please note that a minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: the current UF grading policiesLinks to an external site. for more information. https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

## UF Policies

### University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource CenterLinks to an external site. (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### University Policy on Academic Conduct

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 honesty 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 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct CodeLinks to an external site. 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Plagiarism

The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct CodeLinks to an external site. states that:

"A Student must not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.

- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the student did not author."

## Netiquette and Communication Courtesy

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.

- Security
- General Guidelines
- Email
- Discussion Boards
- Zoom

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone.
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it.
- Always log out when you are finished using the system.

## Getting Help

### Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- http://helpdesk.ufl.eduLinks to an external site.
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

### Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care**: If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We CareLinks to an external site. to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness CenterLinks to an external site. website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the UF Student Health Care CenterLinks to an external site. website.
- **University Police Department**: Visit the UF Police DepartmentLinks to an external site. website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma CenterLinks to an external site. website.

## Academic and Student Support

- **Career Connections Center:** For career assistance and counseling services, visit the UF Career Connections CenterLinks to an external site. website or call 352-392-1601.
- **Library Support:** For various ways to receive assistance concerning using the libraries or finding resources, visit the UF George A. Smathers Libraries Ask-A-LibrarianLinks to an external site. website.
- **Teaching Center:** For general study skills and tutoring, visit the UF Teaching CenterLinks to an external site. website or call 352-392-2010.
- **Writing Studio:** For help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers, visit the University Writing Program Writing StudioLinks to an external site. website or call 352-846-1138.

## Course Evaluations

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 on the GatorEvals Providing Constructive FeedbackLinks to an external site. FAQ page. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via the GatorEvalsLinks to an external site. website. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the GatorEvals Public ResultsLinks to an external site. page. More information about UF's

course evaluation system can be found at the GatorEvals Faculty EvaluationsLinks to an external site. website.

## Tips for Success

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive a reduction in points for work that is turned in late!
- Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- Print out the Course Summary located in the Course Syllabus and check things off as you go.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you'll need time to troubleshoot the problem.
- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.

### Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Adobe
    - Adobe Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.
    - Adobe AccessibilityLinks to an external site.
- Instructure (Canvas)
    - Instructure Privacy Policy
    - Instructure Accessibility
- Microsoft
    - Microsoft Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.
    - Microsoft AccessibilityLinks to an external site.
- YouTube (Google)
    - YouTube (Google) Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.
    - SUMMER YouTube (Google) AccessibilityLinks to an external site.

- Zoom
    - Zoom Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.
    - Zoom AccessibilityLinks to an external site.