

# **Geography 2351: Geographical Sciences and Sustainability**

## **Instructors:**

Carly Muir: <a href="mailto:carlysmuir@ufl.edu">carlysmuir@ufl.edu</a>
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Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm ( <i>Online office hours through zoom conference in Canvas</i> )
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## **1 Course Overview & Objectives**

### **Thursdays: Period 3-5 (9:35am-12:35pm)**

#### **Room: Turlington Hall 3018**

**Overview:** Examines the most critical environmental issues facing the world today; emphasizes the sustainability of both human and physical systems in the 21st century utilizing cutting edge geographic technologies: spatial analysis, GIS and satellite imagery.

Prereq: any Biological Sciences or Physical Sciences general education course.

**Objectives:** The most critical issue facing the world today is the sustainability of both human and physical systems in the 21st century. The importance of geographical and sustainability sciences is rooted in the complexity of social and environmental problems. We live on a dynamic planet, one that is constantly changing in response to human and natural processes that are highly interconnected. Geographers study the interactions of people and their environment to better understand these intricately related processes. This course will address the human and natural systems and how interactions between these systems shape the world we live in. Cutting edge technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS), satellite imagery, and Global Positioning System (GPS), are used to help inform decision making at geographic scales and to analyze and visualize geographic processes.

#### **Learning outcomes**

- Students will be able to identify how sustainability, both of societies and the environment, is one of the most significant issues in the world today.
- Students will be able to describe the sources experts use to explore the relationship between society and sustainability, including geographic methods, techniques and theories.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and approaches of sustainability of societies on different scales, examining local, regional and worldwide issues.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the dimensions sustainability, including cultural, environmental, economic, and political systems
- Students will communicate major ideas and issues on society and sustainability through class activities, an individual project, and weekly discussions.

# **Geography 2351: Geographical Sciences and Sustainability**

## **2 Instructors**

**Carly Muir** ([carlysmuir@ufl.edu](mailto:carlysmuir@ufl.edu))

Carly is a PhD candidate in Geography with a B.A. in Geography (specialization in Environmental Geosciences) and an M.Sc. in Geography. Her academic background includes climatology, geology, soil & water science, agricultural & land systems, and remote sensing. Her current research is focused on land system science with a regional focus in Africa.

## **3 Office Hours**

Office hours will be held on Tuesdays. Please note that Tuesday office hours will be held in the Zoom conference tool on Canvas. Thursday's office hours will be held after class in the Geography Graduate Lab on the first floor of Turlington. If you need to meet with me outside of office hour times, please email to set up an appointment.

## **4 Emailing**

I do my best to answer e-mail questions promptly (by the next school day ~24 hours). If you do not receive a response within 36 hours, please follow up with me because I may not have received the e-mail for various reasons.

Please note that any inquiries about your grade can only be done through the Canvas messaging system, as per UF's guidelines.

## **5 Texts**

Textbook required is listed below, along with a link to get a free copy. In addition, readings and other items will be posted in canvas as needed in advance of weekly activities and assignments.

TITLE: Global Change and the Earth System: A Planet under Pressure

Series: Global Change - The IGBP Series

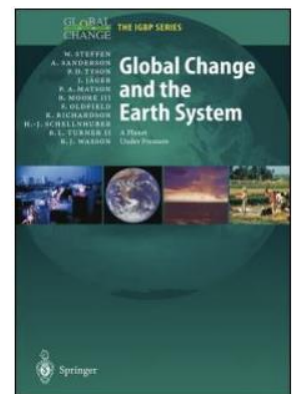
AUTHORS: Steffen, W., Sanderson, R.A., Tyson, P.D., Jäger, J., Matson, P.A., Moore III, B., Oldfield, F., Richardson, K., Schellnhuber, H.-J., Turner, B.L., Wasson, R.J.

1st ed. 2004. 2nd printing, 2004, XII, 332 p. 258 illus., 145 in color. With CDROM.

Hardcover, ISBN 978-3-540-26594-8

Available free online:

<http://www.igbp.net/publications/igbpbookseries/igbpbookseries/globalchangeandtheearthsystem2004.5.1b8ae20512db692f2a680007462.html>



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## 6 Assessments

**Country Profiles (10%)** – Each student will sign up for a day where they will briefly (7-10 minutes) present a country profile regarding their selected countries current sustainability issues, management practices, and adaptation. More information will be provided in class and on Canvas.

**Academic Article Presentation & Discussion (10%)** – Each student will select a peer-reviewed journal article and make a 10 minute presentation summarizing the article to the class. Every student is responsible for reading the articles selected by their peers and will be required to ask questions to presenters throughout the semester.

**In-class Activities/Participation (45%)**– You will have various class activities throughout the semester that will be completed either in in groups or as individuals. Activities not finished in class will be assigned as homework

**Final paper (15%)** - For your term paper you are tasked with selecting one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and completing a 1,000 - 1,500 word research paper on how geographical sciences are used to 1) provide solutions to issues relating to the SDG and/or 2) monitor the success or progress in achieving the selected goal.

**Final exam (15%)** – You will have a cumulative final exam taken the last day of class.

**Attendance (5%)** – Attendance will be required and taken at random. You are allowed 1 unexcused absence.

## 7 Grading

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-57	<57

**It is your responsibility to know how well you are doing in the class.**

There will be a Grades tab 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>

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### 8 Late Policy

Late assignments will only be accepted 48hrs after they are due (including weekends) and there will be a 20% penalty.

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.

### 9 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.

### 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

## Geography 2351: Geographical Sciences and Sustainability

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](#)

## Geography 2351: Geographical Sciences and Sustainability

Tentative Schedule (subject to change as instructor deems necessary):

Week	Date	Topic / Assignment To Do
1	August 25	Introductions; Defining Geography lecture To Do: Module 1 Readings (Geography & Interdisciplinarity); Set up Canvas profile
2	September 1	Geographic Tools of Inquiry lecture To Do: <a href="#">Documentary</a> + Activity
3	September 8	Scientific Method for Geoscience To Do: Submit Applying the Scientific Method activity
4	September 15	<a href="#">Documentary</a> (Life From Above Ep 3) + Class Discussion To Do: Select paper to lead for <a href="#">class discussions</a>
5	September 22	An Integrated Earth System (pg 1-9) To Do: Google Earth group activity
6	September 29	Planetary Machinery (pg 11-73) + <a href="#">Clip</a> + Outdoor Activity To Do: Submit ESS Outdoor Activity
7	October 6	Class Discussion #1; Assign Term Paper To Do: Textbook Readings
8	October 13	The Anthropocene Era (pg 81-135) To Do: Readings & Reading Questions
9	October 20	Class Discussion #2 + <a href="#">Country Profile Presentations</a> To Do: Textbook Readings
10	October 27	Reverberations of Change (pg 143-196) To Do: Readings & Reading Questions; Submit Term Paper Rough Draft
11	November 3	Class Discussion #3 + Outdoor Activity To Do: Textbook Readings
12	November 10	Living with Global Change (pg 203-249) To Do: Readings (in Canvas module)
13	November 17	<b>Guest Speaker and/or Class Discussion #4</b> To Do: Review Term Paper Feedback
14	November 24	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break Enjoy your break!
15	December 1	<b>Presentations or Guest Speaker</b> To Do: Take Home Exam!