

**Social Geography**  
**Geography (GEO) 2410: 3 Credits**  
**Class Number: 14007 Section SGDL (Regular Online Section)**  
**Class Number 24063 Section SGUF (UFO Section)**  
**Sections COMBINED**  
**Fall 2021**

Course Meeting Times:

\*Online Sections: 100% online in an *asynchronous mode*

Instructor: Matthew G. McKay, Department of Geography

**Contact Information:**

***Phone: (860) 690-6192 (direct/voice mail)***

***Email: [mmckay1@ufl.edu](mailto:mmckay1@ufl.edu)***

**Office Location:** Turlington Hall (TUR) 1215

\*\*\*In-person availability for holding office hours is unknown at the moment due to potential COVID-19 restrictions in the Department of Geography, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences [CLAS], etc., which, if resumed, will lead to the prospect of large numbers of people in shared office spaces. Consequently, office hours will be mostly online this semester, unless circumstances change with regard to policies that UF Health/Shands adhere to the United States' (U.S.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

**Office Hours:**

Thursday: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

\*(Other times *by appointment*)

Location of the Department of Geography:

3141 Turlington Hall

330 Newell Drive

Gainesville, FL 32611-7315

Mailing Address:

Department of Geography, University of Florida

3141 Turlington Hall, P.O. Box 117315

Gainesville, FL 32611-7315

Department of Geography: (352) 392-0494

Fax: (352) 392-8855

Department of Geography: Main Office's Hours of Operation:

COVID-19 restrictions -- modified hours: Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
(*subject to change if COVID-19 restrictions are modified*)

\*Office Location: TUR 3141

Geographic Coordinates: 29° 38' 58" North Latitude, 82° 20' 37" West Longitude  
***For questions or to inquire about majoring in Geography, please contact the following professor:***

Dr. Mao, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Email: [liangmao@ufl.edu](mailto:liangmao@ufl.edu)

Telephone: Dr. Mao: (352) 294-7516

Web site information: <http://geog.ufl.edu/programs/undergrad/>

**\*\*\*General Education Requirement (GE): (D) Diversity & (S) Social and Behavioral Sciences**

### **University Catalog Description of Course:**

“Introduces geography as a social science. Various social concepts presented from a spatial perspective.”

\*Source: University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog 2021-22,

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/courses/geography/>

### **Course Description:**

The *discipline* of **Geography** includes two branches --*physical* and *human*, respectively, and this course focuses exclusively on the latter. This course will entail a process of engaging in concepts and themes that have spatial and social relevance. Contemporary and historical themes pertaining to social geography that are relevant to this course include theories, methodologies, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives pertaining to individuals and groups that include, but are not limited to, the following: race; ethnicity; class; sexuality; and the environment. Through engaging in the readings and the class lectures (which will be posted online via PowerPoint [PPT] presentations) as well participating in class discussions (via posting discussion posts), students should make sense of the spatial relevance and meanings of people’s lives that are continuously produced and reproduced in urban environments (and beyond). While the *subdiscipline* of “**Social Geography**” fits neatly into the *branch* of **Human Geography**, topics of concern among scholars, as well as output in the form of publications, are relevant toward geographical and sociological concerns in the Western world’s context (in particular). Topics of relevance will emphasize the urban environment; however, suburban, exurban, and rural environments certainly have relevance in a survey course such as this, which incorporates a focus on breadth of topical material pertaining to “social geography.”

**OBJECTIVE:** This course will provide students with the contextual perspective and awareness of the spatial *distribution* and *interaction*, respectively, of contemporary urban environments by working toward understanding historical, social, economic, and political decision-making that has had various outcomes on patterns and processes on the current human landscape. Various political and economic processes have led to various outcomes that affect individuals as well as groups on a daily and otherwise regular basis. Political, economic, cultural, and more broadly,

social aspects of society influence the “how and why” of spatial patterns of society that shape urban landscapes historically and contemporaneously. What is of relevance includes social activities that entail spatial outcomes on the built environment, both among residential and non-residential areas and environments. Social activities that have spatialized patterns and complex spatial processes help explain the geographies of difference, poverty, and affluence existing in our contemporary society that is greatly influenced by, and that contributes toward, globalization.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the completion of this course, students should be able to: 1) understand and communicate the geographic language of spatial relationships and spatial organization with regard to human activities; 2) relate theoretical spatial applications to real-life situations; 3) gain awareness of human-environment interactions; and 4) be able to articulate the definition of geography and its role as a social science.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Knox, Paul, and Stephen Pinch. 2010. *Urban Social Geography, An Introduction (6<sup>th</sup>. Ed.)*. Essex, England, United Kingdom: Pearson Education Limited.

**\*REQUIRED SUBSCRIPTION FOR FILM REVIEW & ARTICLE REACTION PAPER**

Kritik Scholar: \$24

<https://www.kritik.io/>

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** The instructor will submit additional readings digitally as deemed necessary throughout the semester to reinforce the learning objectives, in addition to aid students in completing written assignments to be completed and submitted for evaluation. Please check E-Learning (i.e., Canvas) periodically for updates in this regard, and ***be ready to DISCUSS these readings via Discussion Posts, as such readings and discussions will affect the students’ “Participation” component of their final grade, accordingly.***

**GRADING:**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1) Participation (via Discussion Posts): | 50%        |
| 2) Film Review:                          | 25%        |
| 3) <u>Article Reaction Paper:</u>        | <u>25%</u> |

100% - **TOTAL COURSE EVALUATION**

**PARTICIPATION:**

Regular participation is a key component toward student success. Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor in the form of discussion posts. If this agreement and arrangement is not to your liking, please drop the course IMMEDIATELY. It is not fair to your instructor nor to fellow students to deal with the prospects of a disharmonious learning environment. I will not be offended if you drop within the Add/Drop time-frame.

**ARTICLE REACTION PAPER:**

**Article Reaction Paper:** Draft due 9/17/21 at 11:59 p.m. to Kritik; final draft due 10/1/21

## **FILM REVIEW:**

One documentary will be assigned (and available for free to students, via an online streaming service at Smathers' Libraries), in which there will be a required written component to it for evaluation. This Film Review will relate to the spatial effects of social geography and thus, links to this specific course (even if one has seen such a documentary in another course or even outside the academic environment). The film review will require a written summary and answers to a set of questions (with the film review requiring over 1,000 words of original text as a minimum), and will be due one week after the conclusion of viewing the documentary.

Please NOTE: It is important to stress that it is good practice to read your work (once you are ready to submit each assignment to your instructor) and to read your work aloud (such as at home) before submitting it for evaluation (including discussion posts). This will facilitate picking up any minor spelling, syntax, grammatical, various mechanical errors, etc., in writing, in which one may overlook when engaging in the composing and reviewing of written documents.

**Film Review:** Draft due 10/22/21 at 11:59 p.m. to Kritik; final draft due 11/5/21

## **FINAL GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:**

- A = 94.0-100
- A- = 90.0-93.9
- B+ = 87.0-89.9
- B = 84.0-86.9
- B- = 80.0-83.9
- C+ = 77.0-79.9
- C = 74.0-76.9
- C- = 70.0-73.9
- D+ = 67.0-69.9
- D = 64.0-66.9
- D- = 60.0-63.9
- E = < 60.00

**NO CLASS MEETING:** Monday, September 6, 2021 (Labor Day); Friday, October 8 (Homecoming); Thursday, November 11 (Veterans' Day); Wednesday, November 24 through Friday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Break)

**LAST DAY OF CLASS:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021

**READING DAYS:** Thursday, December 9 and Friday, December 10, 2021

**GRADING POLICY:** This course will adhere to the University of Florida's policies on grading, as found at the following Web link.

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

**ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a documented disability, and/or if you have emergency medical information that you need to share with me, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

If students need adaptations/accommodations, then they must begin the process by registering with the Dean of Students Office.

Additionally, please see the Disability Resource Center for arrangements in this regard (if you have not done so already) in 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

Contact information for this center can be found at <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

**OTHER KEY INFORMATION FOR SHORT-TERM/LONG-TERM SERVICES RELATED TO ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, OR PERSONAL ISSUES:**

The University Counseling & Wellness Center: (352) 392-1575 <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

The Student Health Care Center (352) 392-1161

The University Police Department can be contacted at (352) 392-1111 or dial 911 for emergencies.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If I have indicated that you have problems with grammar and writing style with respect to any contributions toward discussion comments and/or other assignments submitted to Canvas as part of course requirements, I will encourage you to take evidence of your writing to the Writing Studio and work with the consultants there to assist in strengthening your writing submission for credit. Anyone is eligible to utilize their services, which are FREE of charge, so take advantage of what they are able to assist you with in the process. Even students who earn A and B grades are welcome make an appointment at the Writing Studio. One-on-one assistance and consultation are available.

Contact Information:

The Writing Studio (within the University Writing Program)

2215 Turlington Hall

(352) 846-1138

<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>

## **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CITATIONS AND REFERENCES:**

Using others' words, ideas, images, graphics, illustrations, maps, diagrams or other intellectual property requires proper citations and documentation. One's own words describing information gathered from elsewhere (in addition to direct quotations) requires proper citation and documentation to avoid plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing the rules of referencing sources for your writing. The following Web link will provide you with the citation style used in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, which is a top-tiered, peer-reviewed, scholarly journal published by the American Association of Geographers. I recommend that you use the following guide as a reference to maintain consistency with your proper citations/documentations that is in accordance with academic scholarship.

**[http://www.aag.org/galleries/publications-files/Annals\\_of\\_the\\_AAG\\_Style\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.aag.org/galleries/publications-files/Annals_of_the_AAG_Style_Sheet.pdf)**

## **ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION:**

Students are encouraged to evaluate the quality of instruction in this course based upon several criteria. Evaluations can be completed online at this site:

**<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>**

Evaluations can typically be completed during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students shall be made aware of when the evaluations will be accessible online. The summary results of these evaluations will be available at the following site:

**<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>**

## **POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “(W)e, 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/process/honor-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. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

## **OTHER COURSE POLICY ISSUES:**

### **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**

University courses are professional environments and you are expected and required to act accordingly. It is okay to disagree with others about their opinions, but please show due respect accordingly. You are all in this together and my job is to best facilitate the learning environment equally amongst all students. Civility is expected at all times.

### **CLASS CANCELTION:**

In the event that there is an unforeseen circumstance in which the university is closed and teaching (plus learning) must be postponed, then that class meeting's itinerary is moved to the next scheduled class session. However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any changes that might occur with adjustments to the class schedule and with respect to due dates.

**THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR MODIFY THE CONTENT COVERED AND THE SCHEDULE FOR DUE DATES AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEMESTER.**

I look forward to working with you all during the Fall 2021 semester. Good luck, learn geography, and have fun in this class too! Much of your education is what you make of it, so do your part to make this experience go as well as it possibly can while you earn credits toward your university degree. Have a great semester!

**IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR PROGRESS DURING THE SEMESTER, PLEASE SEE ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.** PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO ADDRESS CONCERNS. ADDITIONALLY, IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE AND THIS MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNICATING IN WRITING IN THIS COURSE, PLEASE SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH MOVING FORWARD. Welcome to "Social Geography" at this time. I look forward to being your instructor.

**Topics to Address (Time-Permitting) This Semester:**

- 1) Introduction of *Geography* as a Discipline
- 2) *Human Geography*: Major Branch of the Discipline
- 3) Social Geography: How it fits into Human Geography as a subfield
- 4) Social Geography and the Sociospatial Dialectic
- 5) Changing Economic Context of City Life
- 6) Cultures of Cities
- 7) Patterns of Sociospatial Differentiation
- 8) Spatial and Institutional Frameworks: Citizens, the State, and Civil Society
- 9) Structures of Building Provision and the Social Production of the Urban Environment
- 10) The Social Dimensions of Modern Urbanism
- 11) Segregation and Congregation
- 12) Neighborhood, Community, and the Social Construction of Place
- 13) Environment and Behavior in Urban Settings
- 14) Bodies, Sexuality, and the City
- 15) Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change
- 16) Urban Change and Conflict
- 17) Recent Developments in Urban Social Geography



## **Accessing GEO 2410: Social Geography for this semester:**

- 1) <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> (Please log into Canvas)

You are required to have the University of Florida's (UF) "Virtual Private Network" (VPN) client installed onto your computer to access course materials away from campus. You will need to log into your VPN to access materials from Smathers' Libraries throughout the semester, if you are off-campus. This will facilitate your ability to access library resources accordingly.

**<https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/>**

You may contact the UF Computing Help Desk via telephone at (352) 392-4357 or via email at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) if you have any problems at any time during the semester with respect to utilizing E-Learning (i.e., Canvas).

**\*\*\*NEW as of Fall 2020: Syllabus statements relating to online learning with COVID-19 precautions having been implemented at UF:**

### **1) QUOTED VERBATIM from the Disability Resource Center (DRC):**

"A student with an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, as determined by the CDC, can register with the Disability Resource Center to request a temporary course modification and/or academic accommodation. The student will need to provide medical documentation that identifies their diagnosis and their medical provider's concerns related to possible COVID-19 exposure. Students should be mindful that remote course access is not always a feasible modification for every course. The DRC will work in partnership with the student's instructor to determine a reasonable modification that meets the course requirements while considering the student's concerns for exposure. Students can begin the process to register with the DRC by completing the form located on the DRC website. For questions, please contact the DRC at 352-392-8565 or [drc@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:drc@ufsa.ufl.edu)."

### **2) QUOTED VERBATIM from UF personnel:**

"Virtual classes in which class meetings are recorded should publish a statement informing students of privacy-related issues, such as:

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited."

*SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)*

<b><u>Module: *WILL FOLLOW COURSE TOPICS AS OUTLINED PREVIOUSLY</u></b>	<b><u>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>	<b><u>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>
<b><u>Introduction:</u></b> Introduction of instructor and meeting of students; discussion of syllabus, course policies and procedures, etc. Pre-assessment; Introduction to subfield with important introductory module	<b>8/25/21: Read Syllabus &amp; Obtain Course Textbook</b>	*NOTE: There will a total of 10 discussion posts due this semester as part of each student's "Participation" component of their final grade
<b>REQUIRED SUBSCRIPTION FOR FILM REVIEW &amp; ARTICLE REACTION PAPER</b>  Kritik Scholar: \$24  <a href="https://www.kritik.io/">https://www.kritik.io/</a>		<b><u>Discussion Post #1: Due 8/31/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>9/3/21: Chapter 1</b>	
		<b><u>Discussion Post #2: Due 9/7/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>9/10/21: Chapters 2 and 3</b>	
		<b><u>Draft Due Friday, 9/17/21 @ 11:59 p.m. to Kritik; Article Reaction Paper</u></b>
		<b><u>Discussion Post #3: Due 9/24/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
		<b><u>Final Draft Due Friday, 10/1/21 @ 11:59 p.m.; Article Reaction Paper</u></b>
	<b>10/8/21: Chapter 4</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #4: Due 10/8/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>10/15/21: Chapter 5</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #5: Due 10/15/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
<b><u>Documentary for Film Review Assignment Posted &amp; Accessible by 10/15/21</u></b>	<b>10/22/21: Chapter 6</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #6: Due 10/22/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
		<b><u>Draft Due Friday, 10/29/21 @ 11:59 p.m.: Film Review</u></b>
	<b>11/5/21: Chapter 7</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #7: Due 11/5/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>11/12/21: Chapters 8 &amp; 9</b>	<b><u>Final Draft Due Friday, 11/12/21, Film Review</u></b>
	<b>11/19/21:</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #8: Due 11/19/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>12/3/21: Chapters 10 &amp; 11</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #9: Due 12/3/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>
	<b>12/8/21: Chapters 12, 13, &amp; 14</b>	<b><u>Discussion Post #10: Due 12/8/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</u></b>