

Department of Geography
University of Florida

GEO 2420: Introduction to Human Geography

Tuesday. 1:55 PM - 3:50 PM; Thursday. 1:55 PM – 2:45 PM
Face-to-Face or Synchronous Online Hy-Flex Class

Instructor: Neha Kohli

Email: n.kohli@ufl.edu, Office: Turlington Hall 1215

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM; or online by appointment.

Response to COVID-19

All UF community members are expected to follow the policy of healthy and protective behaviors: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/health-guidance/>

Student Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations are required to register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://dso.ufl.edu>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students with disabilities are strongly advised to follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Counseling and Wellness Center if you feel you may need their services: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, 392-1575; or to the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Online Participation and Audio-Visual Recording Policy

If opting for online participation, it is expected that it be communicated in the first week of class and its status sustained throughout the course. If your return to campus status is not cleared, you may attend the class online provided the instructor is given advance notice. In the event the instructor is required to quarantine, the course will be online for everyone in the 14-day period.

Since the pedagogical approach of this course relies on student interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is strongly encouraged. Given that classes require participation and the lecture and reading materials will be made available on Canvas, classes are not going to be recorded. Unauthorized recording is prohibited.

In-Person Participation:

It is expected that seating in face-to-face classrooms follow physical distancing, and mask or cloth face covering rules. Given that class activities may require interaction with students enrolled in the online class, please bring with you your laptop or tablet. Class presence requires that your return to campus status should be cleared.

Class Attendance and Behavior Policy

Class attendance is essential. Excused absences are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. If you are unable to attend class due to extenuating circumstances it is required that you inform the instructor by email in advance.

Students should avoid extraneous activities such as texting and chatting that do not contribute to and disturb the class lectures, discussions, and activities. Use of cell phones is not allowed in class and laptops may be used only to view class-related materials and activities. Students should respect each other's opinions and contributions in class and maintain a congenial learning environment.

The instructor will use University of Florida email and the class Canvas platform to communicate with students about the course. Students are expected to check Canvas for any updates and information. Professional language should be used in all communication.

Course Description

Humans are in constant interaction with the environment they inhabit. In a world that has become interconnected in more ways than one, these interactions have changed over time to produce effects everywhere, like the pandemic we are experiencing now. The discipline of Human Geography provides an analytical lens to critically examine these changes and effects across the globe. The course is designed to make us think geographically about these changes using key concepts like place, space, scale and nature, while engaging with select topics such as creation of nation-states, migration, culture, and urbanization. We will together ask questions relationally about *who, what, where, when, how and why*. Tuesday of each week will be lecture based and students are expected to complete the assigned readings before we meet for class. Thursdays will be dedicated to discussion and activities that require participation. There will be no exams for this course. Instead, students are asked to work on a project.



Lo Manthang, Nepal. Photo by Instructor

Course Objectives

1. Articulate what Human Geography is and what its role is as a social science discipline.
2. Understand key concepts in Human Geography and relate the key concepts to real-life situations across states, cultures and landscapes around the world.

3. Gain awareness of how human and more-than-human forms interact spatially and develop an appreciation for the complexity of processes that shape these interactions.
4. Learn to communicate a well conceptualized, analytical and critical reflection.
5. Gain appreciation for working and learning in groups.

Required Texts:

1. *Knox, P. and Marston, S. 2016. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*, 7th Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780321984241.
*Book available at UF Bookstore and at the Publisher's website for rent or to buy.
2. Other articles, book chapters etc. will be made available as PDF via Canvas

Assignments

The final course grade will be evaluated upon completion of the following tasks.

1. **Weekly deliverables:** 250 points
 - On Tuesdays, at the start of the class, a quiz based on the course book will be posted on Canvas. You will have the first 25 minutes in class to complete the quiz and you will have the option to work in groups. In case you are unable to finish the quiz in class you will have the chance to finish it by 8:00 PM on that same day. Late submissions will not be considered. Each quiz will be worth either 10 or 20 points depending on the weekly topic.
 - On Thursdays, by 12:00 PM, each student is expected to post on the discussion board a response to the case study assigned for the week. The response should be no more than 300 words and should be a critical reflection of the reading and lecture material. Each response entry is worth 10 points and will be assessed based on critical reflection, clear writing, probes provided in class and application of knowledge acquired from the lecture and textbook. A more detailed rubric for grading is provided on Canvas.
2. **Term Project:** 150 points
 - The project asks you to engage with a particular issue, which could include questions about discourse, patterns of behavior, events, beliefs or attitudes that shape interactions. The issue must be related to a topic discussed in class and must incorporate at least two key concepts which include space, place, scale and nature.
 - The project can be done in a group of two students or individually. The idea for the project, worth 20 points, needs to be sent in an email or canvas message to the instructor by 5:00 PM on October 15. Students are advised to start thinking about the project from the start of the semester.
 - In preparation for the project, data needs to be determined to generate geographic information. Data may be primary in nature, such as from conducting an online survey; or secondary in nature, such as from the census or published literature. It can also be based on visual imagery like films, GIS or remote sensing. You may also use both primary and secondary data. This part of the grade is worth 40 points.
 - The findings of the project need to be communicated through a presentation, which is worth 30 points. The presentation will be assessed on the basis of clarity, structure, creativity and keeping within the time limit. The presentation can be in the form of a PowerPoint, a Prezi, VoiceThread or through other creative mediums such as film.
 - Finally, the findings of the project need to be submitted through an essay of 2000-2500 words in a format that includes an introduction, main body (methods, analysis & results) and a conclusion.; or alternatively through other creative mediums such as a photo-essay, a film or a comic book. In case of the latter, there should be an accompanying text providing

evidence of use of literature and concepts used to guide the project. To list references in the essay you can use any style, as long as it is consistent. The final submission, worth 60 points, will be assessed on the basis of clarity and structure, use of key concepts, engagement with class material, critical reflection and originality of project idea. The submission should be uploaded on Canvas by 5:00 PM on December 13, 2021. All written assignments will be evaluated using Turnitin.com originality-checking software.

3. **Participation:** 100 points

The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated based on your attendance, and your participation in class on Tuesday and Thursday’s discussion and activities.

Evaluation of Grades

Summary of Assignments	Total points	Percent of Grade
Weekly deliverables	250	50%
Term Project	150	30%
Participation	100	20%
Total	500	100%

Grades will be awarded according to scores in percentage listed below

93-100: A 90-92.9: A- 87-89.9: B+ 83-86.9: B 80-82.9: B- 77-79.9: C+ 73-76.9: C
 70-72.9: C- 67-69.9: D+ 63-66.9: D 60-62.9: D- Less than 60: E

More information on grading policies can be found here:

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

Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ Activity*	
Week 1	Aug 24	Introductions Course overview Geographic thought	Short video and an activity on student perceptions of Human Geography
	Aug 26	Early writings: Humanistic and Marxist Geography <i>Discussion</i>	Tuan, Y.F. 1976. Humanistic geography Peet, R. 1985. An introduction to Marxist geography <i>Society structure and relations with nature</i>
Week 2	Aug 31	<u>Key concept: Place</u> On why <i>where</i> matters Place making	Knox & Marston, Chap 1 & 7 (p. 230-238)
		<u>Key concept: Space</u>	Thrift, N. 2009. Space: the fundamental stuff of geography

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ Activity*
	Sept 2	<i>Activity</i> <i>Mental map making activity</i>
Week 3	Sept 7	Colonialism, capitalism, core-periphery, divisions of labor, commodity chains Knox & Marston, Chap 2 & 8 Cook, I. 2004. Follow the thing: papaya Tsing, A. 2015. The Mushroom at the End of the World (p. 1-9)
	Sept 9	<i>Discussion</i> <i>Group response to a commodity of your choice</i>
Week 4	Sept 14	The 'Global' <u>Key concept: Scale</u> Global or local? Massey, D. 1994. A global sense of place Herod, A. 1999. Scale: The local and the global
	Sept 16	<i>Discussion</i> Sekula & Burch 2010. The forgotten space.
Week 5	Sept 21	Population, mobility migration and displacement Knox & Marston, Chap 3 Case 1: On China (Links to articles on Canvas) Case 2: Taub, B. 2017. Lake Chad: The world's most complex humanitarian disaster
	Sept 23	<i>Discussion</i> <i>Case study exchange</i>
Week 6	<i>Study break</i>	
Week 7	Oct 5	Boundaries, frontiers, nation-state citizenship What kind of nationalism? Knox & Marston, Chap 10 Anderson. 1983. Imagined communities (Chap 1) Koch, N. and Perreault, T. 2018. Resource nationalism
	Oct 7	<i>Discussion</i> <i>What kind of nationalism?</i>

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ Activity*	
Week 8	Oct 12	<p><u>Key concept: Nature</u></p> <p>Nature-society Anthropocene</p>	<p>Knox & Marston, Chap 4</p> <p>Ginn, F & Demeritt, D. 2009. Nature – a contested concept Case 1: Robbins, P. 2003. Producing and consuming chemicals: the moral economy of the American lawns Case 2: Myers, N. 2019. From Edenic apocalypse to gardens against Eden</p>
	Oct 14	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Case study exchange</i>
Week 9	Oct 19	<p>Agriculture, food and consumption</p> <p>More than human worlds, toxicity & health</p>	<p>Knox & Marston, Chap 9</p> <p>Correia, J. 2019. South America’s second-largest forest is also burning – and ‘environmentally friendly charcoal is subsidizing its destruction On Plastic: (Links provided on Canvas)</p> <p>Manes, C. 2020. The Bat, the pangolin and the city: The Tale of Covid-19 Callis, G et al. 2020. The case for degrowth in a time of pandemic</p>
	Oct 21	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Debate on degrowth</i>
Week 10	Oct 26	<p>Culture as a process and system</p> <p>Culture, art, politics and identity</p>	<p>Knox & Marston, Chap 5, 6</p> <p>Abaza, M. 2012. Intimidation and Resistance: Imagining Gender in Cairene Graffiti</p>
	Oct 28	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Reflections on art and culture in Gainesville</i>
Week 11	Nov 2	<p>Landscape, culture and consumption</p> <p>Music and culture</p>	<p>Knox & Marston, Chap 7</p> <p>Chang, J. 2005. Can’t stop won’t stop (p. 231-261) Bendjelloul, M. 2012. Searching for sugar man</p>
	Nov 4	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cultural meaning and significance of pop music</i>
Week 12	Nov 9	Geography of language and religion	Knox & Marston, Chap 6

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ Activity*
	Nov 11	<i>Holiday</i>
Week 13	Nov 16	Indigenous peoples Indigeneity and decolonization Niezen, R. 2003. The origins of the international movement of indigenous Peoples Ogden, L. 2011. The Florida Everglades: An Entangled Landscape. Clouthard, G. 2012. Place against empire: understanding indigenous anti-colonialism
	Nov 18	<i>Discussion</i> <i>What is indigeneity?</i>
Week 14	Nov 23	City processes and structures Knox & Marston, Chap 11 & 12
	Nov 25	<i>Holidays</i>
Week 15	Dec 2	An Island Human Geography Kincaid, J. 1988 A Small Place Taussig, M. 2004. My Cocaine Museum: (p. 271-297)
Week 16	Dec 7	<i>Project Presentations</i>
	Dec 9	<i>Course Ends</i> <i>Project Essay due Dec 13 by 5:00 PM</i>

*When required, instructions for activities will be shared on Canvas prior to class.

Assignment Make-Up Policy

Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material, if circumstances allow it; the student will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment. Students are expected to arrive to class prepared, on time and should demonstrate participation. Being late by 10 minutes or more will be counted as an absence, unless previously discussed with the instructor. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence during the semester. Students will begin to lose 10% of their participation score with each absence following the first one.

Students are expected to turn in assignments on time. Assignments will be subject to reduction of points if turned in late and no assignments will be accepted beyond 48 hours past the due date.

University of Florida Honesty Policy:

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 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, which can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu>. You will be notified when evaluations are open once in the middle of the semester and another time towards the end of the semester.

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course schedule may be subject to change if advantageous for learning. Students will be given advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor.