

Department of Geography
University of Florida

**Introduction to Human Geography
GEO 2420**

Mon; Wed; Friday. 10:40-11:30 AM
Synchronous Hy-Flex class: In-person and Online

Instructor: Neha Kohli

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

Office hours: Mondays and Fridays 11:30 AM-12:45 PM, or by appointment

Response to COVID-19

All UF community members are expected to follow the policy of healthy and protective behaviors: <https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/student-behavioral-expectations-in-response-to-covid-19/>

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

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 required that seating in face to face classrooms follow the 6 feet physical distancing, and mask or cloth face covering rules (<https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/masking-and-physical-distancing/>). 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*. Wednesday of each week will be lecture based and students are expected to complete the assigned readings before we meet for class. Friday 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.



Sundarban, West Bengal. 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 write a well conceptualized, analytical and critical reflection or essay.
5. Gain appreciation for working and learning in groups.

Required Texts:

1. *Knox, P. and Marston, S. 2016. *Human Geography: Place 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
 - Mondays will be reading days. At the start of the class, a quiz based on the course book will be posted on Canvas and it will be available till 8:00 PM. Each quiz will be worth either 10 points or 20 points, depending on the number of chapters covered in that week.
 - Every Thursday, by 8:00 pm, each student is expected to post a response to the case study on the discussion board on Canvas. 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. If a response is less than 250 words or exceeds 300 words 2 points will be deducted. A response exceeding 400 words will not be considered for a grade. The entry will be assessed on the basis of critical reflection and clear writing.
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 February 26. 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, 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 April 26, 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 on the basis of your attendance, and your participation in class on Wednesday and Friday'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

94-100: A 90-93.5: A- 87-89.5: B+ 83-86.5: B 80-82.5: B- 77-79.5: C+ 73-76.5: C
 70-72.5: C- 67-69.5: D+ 64-66.5: D 60-63.5: D- 0-59.5: E

More information on grading policies can be found here:

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

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity/discussion*	
Week 1	Jan 11	Introductions Course overview	Short video and an activity on student perceptions of Human Geography
	Jan 13	Early writings: Humanistic and Marxist Geography	Tuan, Y.F. 1976. Humanistic Geography Peet, R. 1985. An Introduction to Marxist Geography
	Jan 15	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Society structure and relations with nature</i>
Week 2	Jan 20	Key concept: Place Why where matters Place making Key concept: Space	Knox & Marston, Chap 1 & 7 (p. 230-238) Thrift, N. 2009. Space: the fundamental stuff of geography
	Jan 22	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Mental map making activity</i>
	Week 3	Jan 27	Colonialism, capitalism, core-periphery, divisions of labor, commodity chains
Jan 29		<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Group response to a commodity of your choice</i>

Date		Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity/discussion*
Week 4	Feb 3	The 'Global' Key concept: Scale Global or local?	Massey, D. 1994. A global sense of place Herod, A. 1999. Scale: The local and the global
	Feb 5	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Review of "The Forgotten Space"</i> http://icarusfilms.com/if-fs
Week 5	Feb 10	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
	Feb 12	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Case study exchange</i>
Week 6	Feb 17	Boundaries, frontiers, nation-state and citizenship	Knox & Marston, Chap 10 Anderson. 1983. Imagined communities Koch, N. and Perreault, T. 2018. Resource nationalism
	Feb 19	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>What kind of nationalism?</i>
Week 7	Feb 24	Key concept: Nature Nature-society Anthropocene	Knox & Marston, Chap 4 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
	Feb 26	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Case study exchange</i>
Week 8	Mar 3	Agriculture, food and consumption More than human worlds, toxicity & health	Knox & Marston, Chap 9 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)

Date	Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity/discussion*
		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
	Mar 5	<i>Activity</i> <i>Debate on degrowth</i>
Week 9	Mar 10	Culture as a process and system Culture, art and identity
		Knox & Marston, Chap 5, 6 Abaza, M. 2012. Intimidation and Resistance: Imagining Gender in Cairene Graffiti
	Mar 12	<i>Activity</i> <i>Reflections on art and culture in Gainesville</i>
Week 10	Mar 17	Landscape, culture and consumption Culture, and music
		Knox & Marston, Chap 7 Chang, J. 2005. Can't stop won't stop (p. 231-261) Bendjelloul, M. 2012. Searching for sugar man
	Mar 19	<i>Activity</i> <i>Cultural meaning and significance of pop music</i>
Week 11	Mar 24	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
	Mar 26	<i>Discussion</i> <i>What is indigeneity?</i>
Week 12	Mar 31	City processes and structures
		Knox & Marston, Chap 11, 12 Winner, L. 1980. Do artifacts have politics?
	Apr 2	<i>Activity</i> <i>Thinking with infrastructure</i>
Week 13	Study break	
Week 14	Apr 14	An Island Human Geography
		Kincaid, J. 1988 A Small Place Taussig, M. My Cocaine Museum (p. 271-297)
	Apr 16	<i>Discussion</i> <i>What makes an island an island?</i>

Date		Topic	Reading (before class)/ In class activity/discussion*
Week 15	Apr 19	<i>Project Presentations</i>	<i>Group 1</i>
	Apr 21	<i>Project Presentations</i>	<i>Group 2</i>
	Apr 23	Course Ends Project Essay due April 26 by 5:00 pm	

*Instructions for the activity 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.