

# **GEO3352: The Human Footprint on Landscape**

## **Fall 2025 | 3 credits**

**NOTE:** This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "[Academic Policies and Resources](#)" web page.

### **I. General Information**

**Format:** Online, Asynchronous (via Canvas/UF e-learning)

**Instructor(s):**

**Name:** Gavriella Hecht

**Office Building/Number:** Dept of Geography, Turlington Hall 330

**Phone:** (352) 392-0494 – Main Office

**Email:** [ghecht@ufl.edu](mailto:ghecht@ufl.edu) (\*\*Please use Canvas “Inbox” Tool)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 2-4pm EST (<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97797582023>) and By Appointment (send canvas inbox to request)

### **Course Description**

Studies human-environment relationships from a primarily geographic perspective, focusing on the human forces that shape landscapes.

### **Prerequisites**

Prereq: Sophomore standing or higher.

### **Course Materials**

- No textbooks required.

### **Materials will be available through the following means:**

- Readings embedded in Canvas, e-learning.

**Materials Fee:** N/A

### **II. Course Goals**

#### **Course Objectives**

In this course we will:

- Identify basic terms and concepts related to human impacts on earth
- Understand the interdisciplinary and complex nature of the human imprint on the landscape through multiple case studies

- Retrieve, analyze, and integrate environmental data from multiple reliable sources
- Communicate scientific information regarding human impacts on earth using graphs, maps, and comparative synthesis
- Synthesize scientific and social information about human impacts

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Conduct Critical Thinking through article reviews and evaluating human impacts in readings, movies, and data analysis of real-world data.
- Develop graphical Communication Skills through assignments involving data analysis.
- Develop oral communication skills through writing and presenting article reviews, exhibiting a poster that synthesizes several studies relating to human impacts.

## **III. Graded Work**

### **Graded Components**

**MINI ASSIGNMENTS (30%):** Activities designed to engage you with course material. These assignments consist of short quizzes, Google Earth-based explorations, and discussion posts or presentations. Each task is designed to reinforce your understanding of human impacts on specific environmental areas such as vegetation, animals, soil, water, and climate, while encouraging exploration and application of concepts.

**CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS (20%):** Tasks that engage with real-world examples. These include creating brief photo essays, developing animations, reviewing articles, crafting storybooks, and working on simple data preparation or analysis. These assignments provide an opportunity to explore human impacts in a hands-on, practical way while building your understanding of course topics.

**VIDEO WORKSHEETS (30%):** Worksheets to be completed while watching videos or documentaries that illustrate key course concepts. These worksheets guide your viewing by highlighting important points and ensuring engagement with topics such as biodiversity loss, climate change, water use, and soil management. They are designed to supplement lectures and make learning interactive and accessible.

**FINAL PROJECT (20%):** You will create a research poster about a human impact topic of your choice. The project is completed in three parts: a proposal outlining your topic and resources, a draft poster for peer and instructor review, peer reviews of drafts submitted by fellow students, and a final edited poster incorporating feedback. The project will culminate in a presentation of your poster in a format similar to that of a virtual conference poster presentation. Details on requirements and deadlines for each stage will be provided in Canvas.

**TOTAL: 100%**

## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
<b>A</b>	100-92.5
<b>A-</b>	92.4-89.5
<b>B+</b>	89.4-86.5
<b>B</b>	86.4-82.5
<b>B-</b>	82.4-79.5
<b>C+</b>	79.4-76.5
<b>C</b>	76.4-72.5
<b>C-</b>	72.4-69.5
<b>D+</b>	69.4-66.5
<b>D</b>	66.4-62.5
<b>D-</b>	62.4-59.5
<b>E</b>	59.4-0

*Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.*

## IV. Calendar

Module	Topic	Due Date
<b>M1</b>	Overview & Background	<b>09/08/2025</b>
<b>M2</b>	Human Footprint on Vegetation	<b>09/15/2025</b>
<b>M3</b>	Human Footprint on Animals	<b>09/22/2025</b>
<b>M4</b>	Human Footprint on Soils	<b>09/29/2025</b>
<b>M5</b>	Human Footprint on Water	<b>10/06/2025</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>PART 1: Proposal</b>	<b>10/13/2025</b>
<b>M6</b>	Human Footprint on Land	<b>10/20/2025</b>
<b>M7</b>	Human Footprint on Climate	<b>10/27/2025</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>PART 2: Draft Poster</b>	<b>11/03/2025</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>Poster Peer Review</b>	<b>11/10/2025</b>
<b>M8</b>	The Future	<b>11/17/2025</b>
<b><i>THANKSGIVING BREAK (November 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>)</i></b>		
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>PART 3: Edited Poster &amp; Presentation</b>	<b>12/01/2025</b>

## V. Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr. Gabriela Hamerlinck – Department of Geography Associate Chair ([ghamerlinck@ufl.edu](mailto:ghamerlinck@ufl.edu), [3122 Turlington Hall](tel:352-392-1261)). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1308](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1261](tel:352-392-1261)).

## VI. Additional Course Information & Policies

**Late Work:** Assignments submitted past their deadline will receive a 10% penalty per day late. For example, if an assignment worth 10 points is three days late it will receive a 3-point penalty. The new total possible points for the assignment will be 7 points. If an assignment is late by 10 days or more, an automatic zero will be given for the assignment. If you anticipate having any difficulty meeting a deadline, please contact me by canvas inbox prior to that deadline. If you miss a deadline due to extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options. **Please note that ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 12/03/2025. Late work submitted beyond this date will not be considered for grading.**

**Assignment submission:** Note that all work must be submitted within the canvas assignment itself. Submissions will not be accepted by GatorMail, canvas inbox, or physical mail (except by written approval of the instructor). You are responsible for ensuring that all your work is uploaded correctly by the deadline and completely by the deadline. Corrupted files will be treated as missing work until they are reuploaded correctly. So, I urge you to check your files immediately after you upload them.

**Welcome to the course!** My goal as your instructor is to create a supportive and engaging learning experience. I am available during office hours, by appointment, and through email, and I encourage you to reach out whenever you need clarification or support. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, are struggling, or just want to talk more about the course. I look forward to learning with you this semester.