

INSTRUCTOR: Mohammad Safaei

CONTACT INFORMATION: safaei.mo@ufl.edu
Messages/Emails: Please use Canvas "Inbox" Tool

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

OFFICE HOURS: TBD and by appointment
Virtual meetings using Zoom (link will be provided on Canvas)

REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS: *No textbooks required. Readings embedded in Canvas, e-learning.*

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES: *None*

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: None. Helps to have some background in earth or environmental science, geography, or sustainability. Be willing to read, reflect, analyze, discuss, write, and present.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The study of human-environment relationships from a primarily geographic perspective, focusing on the human forces that shape landscapes.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:

- *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 environment 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*

COURSE RELATION TO THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN THE GEOGRAPHY MAJOR:

Human Footprint is a course that provides content learning in environmental geography for our majors' Student Learning Outcomes. We conduct Critical Thinking through article reviews and evaluating human impacts in readings, movies, and data analysis of real-world data. We develop graphical Communication Skills through assignments involving data analysis. We develop oral communication skills through writing and presenting article reviews, exhibiting a poster that synthesizes several studies relating to human impacts.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown Summary

Assignment Type	Points or percentage
Mini assignments Data interpretation, mini-quizzes (open note), Google Earth, discussion comments in Canvas	30%
Critical Thinking Assignments Short presentations, spreadsheets, news or journal article reviews, graphics evaluation, etc.	20%
Video Worksheets	30%
Final Project - 3 Parts	20%
Total	100%

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, and a final edited poster incorporating feedback. The project will culminate in a presentation of your poster. Peer reviews will be mandatory, with opportunities for additional participation to earn extra credit. Details on requirements and deadlines for each stage will be provided in Canvas.

INFORMATION ON CURRENT UF GRADING POLICIES FOR ASSIGNING GRADE POINTS:

Grading policies follow the UF Undergraduate Catalog [Grades and Grading Policies page](#).

Grading Scale & GPA Equivalent

Grade	%	Grade Points	Grade	%	Grade Points
A	≥ 92.5	4.0	C	< 76.5 to 69.5	2.0
A-	< 92.5 to 89.5	3.67	C-	< 69.5 to 67.5	1.67
B+	< 89.5 to 86.5	3.33	D+	< 67.5 to 65.5	1.33
B	< 86.5 to 82.5	3.0	D	< 65.6 to 59.5	1.0
B-	< 82.5 to 79.5	2.67	D-	< 59.5 to 55.5	0.67
C+	< 79.5 to 76.5	2.33	E	< 55.5	0

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit.

GENERAL OUTLINE: COURSE TOPICS

Overview and Background
 Human Impacts on Vegetation
 Human Impacts on the Animals
 Human Footprint on Soils
 Human Footprint on Water
 Human Footprint on Land
 Human Footprint on Climate
 The Future
 Student Projects

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Please note this syllabus is a working document and may change. For most-current assignments and class discussion topics, always refer to the course's Canvas site. You will submit all your assignments there.

POLICIES and RESOURCES

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH: Please take care of your health and be aware that the University Counseling Center the Student Health Care Center (392-1161) and Student Mental Health (392-1171) can assist students as they work through personal, academic and social issues. Provide advance notice and obtain documentation for excused absences where possible. If needed, University Police Department can be contacted at 392-1111 or Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (352-392-8565). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge as follows: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty 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 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 of this class.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: As this is a 100% online course, students are expected to be responsible for their own learning and for ensuring that coursework is completed in a timely manner. Reading course announcements frequently and watching the module videos will assist in meeting these expectations. As this is an online course, attendance won't be a factor in grading, and students are expected to be self-motivated and have completed all required assignments.

COURSE TECHNOLOGY: Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required although the instructor will provide help with spreadsheet work. For additional information on UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences policy regarding computer requirements you can visit:

<http://it.clas.ufl.edu/policies/studentcomputer-requirement/>

Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted electronically via Canvas unless otherwise noted. Emailed or paper submissions for Canvas assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for ensuring that all your work is uploaded correctly and completely by the deadline. Corrupted files will be treated as missing work (= 0 grade) until they are re-uploaded correctly and late penalties will apply if your resubmission is past the deadline. So, please always double check your files right after you upload them. If you experience technical problems when submitting your work in Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>.

EMAIL ACCOUNTS: It is UF policy that students use their GatorLink account or Canvas when emailing instructors; we will not answer emails sent from other accounts (e.g., personal Gmail).

NETIQUETTE: Class members must follow rules of common courtesy in all discussions/electronic communication. Consequences for violating UF netiquette guidelines include zeroes or reporting. See info at <https://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>.

Discussion/Peer Review

Students should adhere to professional netiquette standards in all posts and engage in *constructive* dialogue. Posts should be thoughtful, detailed responses in full sentences with specificity. In most cases, discussions require some research prior to their initial post. Follow-up posts are typically required. Please check the course Calendar for the specific due dates.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Meeting due dates and times is crucial to your future success and relationship with collaborators, whatever your field. Please finish and submit deliverables in a timely manner. All assignments submitted after their respective deadlines are subject to a penalty. Late assignments will be evaluated with a lower rate of -10% per day late. Credit cannot be earned for assignments that are turned in 5+ days past the due date or for those that are submitted after the instructor has graded and returned the assignment to the class. Late work will not be accepted after the deadline for the final assignment in the course. If you feel you may have difficulty meeting a deadline, please contact your instructor as soon as possible; note that the instructor may request documentation.

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS: Finally, please provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last weeks of the semester; you'll be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available for students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>