

**Conservation of Resources  
Geography 3372: 3 Credits  
Section: 4D53  
Computer Sciences & Engineering Building (CSE): Room E121  
Summer B 2017**

Course Meeting Times: (Period 3 MTWRF: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

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) 3108B

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Thursday: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

\*(Other times *by appointment*)

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's Main Office's Hours of Operation:

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Location: TUR 3141

Geographic Coordinates: 82.34312 West Longitude, 29.64990 North Latitude

For questions or to inquire about majoring in Geography, please contact the following professor(s):

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Mossa, Ph.D., Professor & Dr. Mao, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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

Telephone: Dr. Mossa: (352) 294-7510; Dr. Mao: (352) 294-7516

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

## University Catalog Description of Course:

*\*Prereq: sophomore standing or instructor permission.*

“Surveys natural resources and a study of wise and wasteful practices of these resources. Satisfies resource certification for social studies teachers.”

.”

(Source: University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog 2017-18,  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/courses/descriptions/geography.aspx>)

## Course Description:

The discipline of geography includes two branches --physical and human, and this course focuses on the relationship between humans and their natural environment, thus being at the intersection between the two branches. Course content will entail engaging with the context in which humans modify, shape, and alter the natural landscape for human needs and desires. This course provides a geographical perspective of contemporary natural resource issues in an era of rapidly increased globalization. The objectives of the course entail engaging with content pertaining to nature-society interactions, while examining ways to conserve natural resources (which have significant demand on a global scale). Numerous complexities are involved between humans and the natural environment, as history has demonstrated how humans have caused environmental degradation. Conversely, nature has caused destruction toward human settlements and lives, accordingly, as well. Efforts have been made to control, improve, and/or to accept nature as it is. With such varied perspectives, environmental degradation and environmental conservation issues entail myriad challenges for policy makers and the public at large. Solutions to environmental problems can be multifaceted in scope, given that such problems are debated among various stakeholders who sometimes have competing and even conflicting interests.

Discussions in this course will focus on issues related to the following scholarly modes of inquiry toward conservation of resources: unprecedented human population growth and demand for land and resources; commodities and markets; institutions and common property resources; ethical issues related to the environment; natural hazards; political economy perspectives; and nature as a social construct. After engaging in such issues, it will be important to apply these modes of inquiry toward consumer-related resources (broadly speaking). This structure of the course will entail utilizing a varying format, including, but not limited to, lectures, class discussions, viewing of documentaries and short videos, as well as having guest lectures present on relevant topics (when possible) for instructional and learning purposes.

**OBJECTIVE:** This course will provide students with the contextual information and awareness of spatial interaction of natural resources with human activities in order to facilitate placing this relationship into the context of broader social, political, and economic institutions and dynamics.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the completion of this course, students should be able to:  
1).develop an understanding of concepts and issues related to space and place at various geographical scales that are at the interface of human environment interactions; 2) develop an understanding of how increasing globalization affects these interactions; and 3) develop the ability to critically analyze relevant issues pertaining to the conservation of natural resources.

## REQUIRED TEXT:

Robbins, Paul, Hintz, John, and Sarah A. Moore. 2014. *Environment and society: A critical introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** The instructor will submit additional readings digitally or in hard copy as deemed necessary throughout the semester to reinforce the learning objectives. Please check E-Learning (Canvas) periodically for updates in this regard, and **be ready to DISCUSS these readings in class, as such readings and discussions will affect the students' Attendance and Participation component of their final grade.**

## GRADING:

- 1) Attendance and Participation: 15%
- 2) In-class Writing Assignments: 5%
- 3) Midterm Examination: 20%
- 4) Film Review: 30%
- 5) Two Article Reaction Papers: 30% (15% each)

100% - TOTAL COURSE EVALUATION

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Regular classroom attendance and participation are key components of student success; however, for full credit toward attendance and participation, students are expected to be at every class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials (including laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, etc.). Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and by participating in peer-initiated discussions as well.

## TWO ARTICLE REACTION PAPERS:

**Article Reaction Paper 1:** To Be Determined (TBD): (Written Analysis of over 1,000 words)

**Article Reaction Paper 2:** TBD: (Written Analysis of over 1,000 words)

## FILM REVIEW:

One documentary will be shown during the summer session that has a required written component to it, and will relate to the spatial effects of natural resource utilization 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 at least 1,000 words of original text), and will be due one week after the conclusion of showing the documentary.

Please NOTE: It is important to stress that it is good practice to read your work (once you are ready to submit it to your instructor) and to read your work aloud (such as at home) before submitting it for evaluation. This will facilitate picking up any minor spelling, syntax, grammatical, and other errors in writing that one can overlook when engaging in a writing assignment itself.

## **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:** Tuesday, July 4: Independence Day

**LAST DAY OF CLASS:** Friday, 8/4/17

**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>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

This is *not a correspondence course* and thus your physical presence in the classroom is required. You are expected to attend class regularly, and as such, I will take attendance every class session to get to know everyone's name and to learn more about the students in the beginning of the course. Punctuality and regular attendance are essential components toward student success (given the amount of material discussed during class time), however, you are responsible for all the material covered in class, whether you are present or absent.

NOTE: Please see the following link for more information on attendance, as this course will adhere to the University of Florida's regulations in this regard.

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

**ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a documented disability, if you have emergency medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

If students need classroom 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 [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

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

The University Counseling & Wellness Center: (352) 392-1575  
(<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>)

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, I will encourage you to take your drafts to the Writing Studio and work with the consultants there to assist in strengthening your papers. 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 is available.

Contact Information:

The Writing Studio (within the University Writing Program)  
302 Tigert 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 (AAG), 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 throughout the course with your proper citations/parenthetical 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 will be expected to evaluate the quality of instruction in this course based upon 10 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

(**<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-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 classrooms are professional environments and you are expected and required to act accordingly. Class attendance is more than a mere physical presence in the classroom – it means the following rules are expected and required: no reading of novels, magazines, newspapers, notebooks, or anything else during class. Playing of games, passing notes, having side conversations with neighbors, or using laptops are not permitted. **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS TIME!** You should set your cell phones to mute or vibrate and put them away for class. As the instructor, I reserve the right to interrupt class to ask that the offending student(s) to STOP with whatever activity that it is that disrupts the teaching/learning process, and if necessary, require that they leave the class if said activity continues during a class session or in subsequent sessions. Lastly, 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 CANCELATION:**

In the event that the university is closed due to inclement weather or for some other unforeseen circumstance, 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 this summer session. 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 the best of this experience 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 "Conservation of Resources"! I look forward to being your instructor.

SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<b><u>Module:</u></b>	<b><u>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>	<b><u>WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>
<b><u>Introduction:</u></b>	<b>6/27/17: Read Syllabus &amp; Purchase Textbook</b>	<b>NOTE: Periodic in-class (short) writing assignments will occur during Summer B</b>
Introduction of instructor and meeting of students; discussion of syllabus, course policies and procedures, etc. Pre-assessment; Relevance of environment and society relations	<b>6/29/17: Chapter 1</b>	
<b><u>Population and Scarcity:</u></b>	<b>6/30/17: Chapter 2</b>	
<b><u>Markets and Commodities:</u></b>	<b>6/30/17 Chapter 3</b>	
<b><u>Institutions and Common Property Resources:</u></b>	<b>7/7/17: Chapter 4</b>	
<b>Film 1: 7/5, 7/6, &amp; 7/7</b>		<b>Due Friday, 7/7/17 @ 11:59 p.m.: <u>Article Reaction Paper #1</u></b>
<b><u>Environmental Ethics:</u></b>	<b>7/14/17: Chapter 5</b>	
<b><u>Risks and Environmental Hazards:</u></b>	<b>7/14/17: Chapter 6</b>	
<b><u>Political Economy:</u></b>	<b>7/14/17: Chapter 7</b>	
		<b>Due Friday, 7/14/17 @ 11:59 p.m.: <u>Film Review</u></b>
<b><u>Social Construction of Nature:</u></b>	<b>Thursday, 7/20/17: Chapter 8</b>	
<b><u>MIDTERM EXAMINATION:</u></b>		<b>Friday, 7/21/17 IN-CLASS: Closed note, closed textbook, and individually worked upon examination (i.e., no collaboration of any kind)</b>



<b><u>Module:</u></b>	<b><u>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>	<b><u>WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u></b>
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Carbon Dioxide:</u></b>	<i>7/28/17: Chapter 9</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Trees:</u></b>	<i>7/28/17: Chapter 10</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Wolves:</u></b>	<i>7/28/17: Chapter 11</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Uranium:</u></b>	<i>7/28/17: Chapter 12</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Tuna:</u></b>	<i>Thursday, 8/3/17: Chapter 13</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Lawns:</u></b>	<i>Thursday, 8/3/17: Chapter 14</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – Bottled Water:</u></b>	<i>Thursday, 8/3/17: Chapter 15</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern – French Fries:</u></b>	<i>Thursday, 8/3/17: Chapter 16</i>	
<b><u>Objects of Concern: -- E-Waste:</u></b>	<i>Thursday, 8/3/17: Chapter 17</i>	
		<b><i>Due Friday, 8/4/17 @ 11:59 p.m.: Article Reaction Paper #2</i></b>