



GEA 2270: GEOGRAPHY OF FLORIDA

Department of Geography
University of Florida
Course Syllabus, Spring 2023
[3 Credits]

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Class Meeting Times and location</u></p> <p>Tuesday: Periods 7-8 (1:55 – 3:50pm) - MAT0002 [Matherly Hall]</p> <p>Thursday: Period 7 (1:55 – 2:45pm) - TUR3018 [Turlington Hall]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Instructor: Zainab Ali</u></p> <p>Email: Zainabali@ufl.edu (or through canvas) Office Hours: Thursday: 10:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment Office Location: TUR 1215 or Zoom</p>
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Course Description

The course will emphasize the significance of Florida’s physical and cultural environments, and economic and political affairs in a globalizing world. This course presents the Geography of Florida in a comprehensive and systematic survey of Florida’s demographics, natural resources, and regional characteristics. The class will incorporate lectures, reading, various media and exercises.

Rather than lazy, beach dwelling, flamboyant and privileged populations impacted by immigration, corruption, and environmental degradation, we will consider the diverse and resilient landscapes and people. Media stereotypes and contemporary questions will be addressed in geographical context and evaluated. Students will be asked to address their preconceptions and work to understand contemporary Florida.

This course will enhance student awareness of how geographic concepts apply to and have influenced their lives specific to the state of Florida. Students should anticipate the requirement to develop an understanding of the approaches used by geographers to identify and analyze physical and cultural landscapes, and human-environment relationships of Florida.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is the development of an understanding of the importance of the geography of the State of Florida and provide an academic and practical foundation to evaluate the historical, current, and future issues and events in Florida. The relationships between physical environment and human systems are the basic tenant of geography. The physical and human landscapes of Florida will be evaluated in relation to current events, politics, and challenges, while considering the historical perspective.

The course is constructed to incorporate writing and research in the examination of the origin and evolution of the physical and human landscape of Florida. Assignments will emphasize all scales of geography from global economic dimensions to grains of sand, using original research, design, and writing. The course will provide essential background material and concepts will be considered systematically. While the course will be divided into sections, students should anticipate the interconnectedness of the discipline of Geography.

Before beginning with the Florida-centric content, you must first discover what the field of geography is truly all about! This will help as we go through the modules, as each lecture will touch on fundamental concepts to subfields of geography. The class will follow include general sections:

- **Physical Geography of Florida** (tectonic history, climate & weather, natural resources)
- **Human-Environmental Interactions** (drainage and deforestation, pollution, impact of conservation, environmental problems, natural hazards)
- **Economic/Political Geography** (political territory, power, geospatial technology, commodities, and economic sectors)
- **Cultural & Human Geography** (indigenous populations, population geography/demographics - birth and death rates, immigration, age cohorts)
- **Development** (urbanization, city structures, globalization, economic development, transportation)
- **Social Geography** (education, popular culture, tourism)

This class will NOT be about geography trivia. The goal for this course is to instill an ability to write and think geographically, rather than the requirement to memorize information. While this course is by its nature fact based, the assignments are designed to develop the following important skills: (1) written and verbal communication; (2) research and critical thinking; (3) problem evaluation and analysis; and (4) application of knowledge. Each assignment will provide the opportunity for a student to demonstrate creativity in applied geography.

Course Expectations

You are expected to follow the syllabus closely, attend/watch lectures, attend office hours when needed, and communicate with your instructor and fellow students.

Each member of this class will be participating in a presentation and support from your peers is essential. While I understand that the requirement to make a presentation to the class may be daunting, every student will participate and I expect demonstrated effort and creativity, and respect for each other.

Course Assignments

- There will be no assigned textbook in this class. You will be provided with all required reading materials on Canvas. You will be expected to be prepared by reading the materials and each of you will be assigned/choose a topic which will engender considerable outside research in preparation of a paper and a presentation to your peers.
- Proficient use of the library databases for research of scholarly materials for assignments. We will review the steps of accessing the library database from home within the first few weeks of the course.
- Good written and oral communications skills. This class will include written assignments and an expectation for college level writing in the discipline of geography. References to scholarly material must be made in a professional format, as shown below. All work should be well structured, clear, and concise.

Discussion Techniques

- Listen to each other and learn a variety of perspectives upon which you can build your opinions in favor or against an issue.
- Discussions should be focused. Connections between the various sub-disciplines of Geography will enhance your ability to evaluate issues.
- Insight from readings, supplemented by awareness of current events and connections to your personal interests or other classes will enhance your discussion skills.

Reading and Literature Citation

In your assignments and presentations, you are expected to cite all sources using proper standards (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago). For more information about citing sources check the UF Libraries website for more information about proper guidelines for proper citation formats:

<https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/libraryresearch/citingsources#s-lg-box-18406855>

Canvas E-learning

This class will be conducted using the Canvas e-Learning System. The syllabus, course calendar, reading materials and resources will be available through Canvas. I will communicate with the class regularly through Canvas announcements, so be sure to check regularly for updates. All assignments must be posted through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Grades will be posted on Canvas. The best method of contact for the instructor is through Canvas email. Please note that private discussions about grades are ONLY allowed through canvas or during offices hours, as this is the University standard for security and privacy reasons, we cannot discuss your grades through UFL email.

If you experience problems with the e-Learning system, such as log-in issues, please contact the **UF Computing Help Desk** at the Hub. You can also call the help desk at **352-392-4357** or send them an email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94-100	90- 93	87- 89	84- 86	80- 83	77- 79	74- 76	70- 73	67- 69	64- 66	61- 63	< 61

Note: All final grades will be rounded up 2 decimal places, i.e., a grade of 93.45% is rounded to 93.5%, which will then be rounded to 94%.

To perform well in this class, you will need to: (1) Attend all lectures (2) take lecture notes and set aside time to review your notes (3) participate in class exercises (4) Check Canvas announcements regularly. If you are not doing well and have studied, read, and attended class, please e-mail me – do not wait until the end of the semester. All assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the due date or as indicated on the Calendar. Late assignments will be marked down 20% each day they are late.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including a link to the appropriate undergraduate catalog web page:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	10-Jan	Course Introduction	Discussion 1: Ethnocentricity (25 words)
	12-Jan	Course Introduction	Discussion 2: Accents (25 words)
2	17-Jan	Defining Florida; What is Geography?	
	19-Jan	Physical Geography of Florida	
3	24-Jan	Florida Geological History	Discussion 3: Peer Interviews (250 words)
	26-Jan	Florida Weather & Climate	
4	31-Jan	Florida Weather & Climate - Cont'd	Favorite Florida Place Essay (1000 words)
	2-Feb	Natural Resources of Florida	
5	7-Feb	Natural Resources of Florida - Cont'd	Discussion 4: Hurricanes (250 words)
	9-Feb	Forgotten Coast-Wildlife Corridor	
6	14-Feb	Land-use & Land Cover of Florida	Forgotten Coast Essay (500 words)
	16-Feb	Conservation in Florida	
7	21-Feb	GIS Activity	Submit Field Trip Site Selection
	23-Feb	Historical Geography of Florida	
8	28-Feb	Field Trip	The Everglades Essay (500 words)
	2-Mar	Demographics/Population Geography	Field Trip Essay (1000 words)
9	7-Mar	Urban Geography of Florida	Submit your Florida Issue Topic
	9-Mar	Urban Geography of Florida - Cont'd	Discussion 5: FL Tourist Guide (250 words)
10	14-Mar	Spring Break	
	16-Mar	Spring Break	
11	21-Mar	Political Geography of Florida	Discussion 6: Politics in FL (250 words)
	23-Mar	Political Geography of Florida - Cont'd	
12	28-Mar	Imagining a New Florida	Famous Floridian Essay (500 words)
	30-Mar	Economic Geography of Florida	
13	4-Apr	Scavenger hunt trip: Florida Museum	Discussion 7: NASA Space Program (250 words)
	6-Apr	Energy Sources & Use in Florida	
14	11-Apr	Weird Florida & Future of Florida	Discussion 8: Gator Country (50 words)
	13-Apr	In-Class Activity	
15	18-Apr	Florida Issues	Final Presentations
	20-Apr	Florida Issues	Final Presentations
16	25-Apr	Final Exam Review	Florida Issues Report Essay (1200 words)
	27-Apr	Reading Day	
17	5-May	Final Exam (10:00 am-12:00 pm)	

*Assignments & due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. However, any changes will be made a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of initial assignment structure & due date, and due dates will never be moved up to an earlier date.

Course Policies: Attendance, Deadlines, and Grades

- Attendance will be taken at random. Students have 1 unexcused absence before points are deducted. If you miss a day without an excused absence, you are responsible for obtaining the material from a classmate. Please note that there are several days that I expect everyone to be present at the scheduled time (see schedule below).
- Acceptable reasons for absence or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, court-imposed legal obligations, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate.
- Meeting deadlines is important! However, life happens sometimes, and unexpected events can pop up. Please ensure that you communicate with your instructor if you feel that you will not be able to meet a certain deadline. All assignments are due at 11:59pm on the due date or as indicated on the course calendar. All assignments must be turned in through Canvas unless otherwise instructed.
- The participation grade will consist of attendance in class, willingness to participate in class discussions (including the instructor or during small group activities), attempt to answer questions posed by the instructor, and engagement in promoting a friendly learning environment.

Academic Honesty, Regulations and the Honor Code

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Details on student responsibilities and academic regulations can be viewed at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/>

Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not accepted in any class at the University of Florida. The Honor code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. The practice of any type of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the entire course. You will find me to be a flexible instructor in all aspects except academic honesty.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Campus Resources for Students

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via email at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services at <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Health and Wellness Resources

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; <https://ufhealth.org/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center>

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.