

GEA1000: Geography for a Changing World

Course Syllabus

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

Meeting days and times: Online

Class location:

Instructor(s):

Name: Torit Chakraborty

Office Building/Number:

Phone:

Email: toritchakraborty@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday (12.00 PM -2.00 PM) via Zoom

Course Description

The spatial organization of society. Emphasizes the political regions of the world. (N) Welcome to the "Geography of a Changing World" course. This course provides an understanding of the dynamic interplay of physical, human, and environmental forces shaping our planet. The complexity of the world's Geography is simplified with the knowledge and understanding that "*everything is related to everything else, but **near things** are more related than distant **things***"- Waldo Tobler.

Course Overview

This course offers a geographic perspective on key urban, economic, environmental, geomorphologic, and climatic issues globally. Geography, as a discipline, provides the frameworks and tools necessary for exploring, understanding, and potentially solving these complex issues. Students will utilize map interpretation skills to analyze data and deduce conclusions about real-world phenomena. As most events occur in space, understanding these spatial interactions, both absolute (specific location) and relative (proximity to other events), aids in making inferences about real-world phenomena.

This course meets the general education requirements for the social and behavioral sciences (S) and international (N) credits.

Prerequisites: N/A

General Education Designation:

Secondary General Education Designation: International (N)

International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

All General Education area objectives can be found [here](#).

Course Materials

Course Structure and Content:

These are the current content and structures, but they may be updated during the semester. The first half of the semester is going to be looking at different aspects of geography on a global scale. The second half of the semester will be specific to geography and the focus areas here at UF.

Module 1: Introduction to Geography

Module 2: Demography, Population, and Overpopulation

Module 3: Development and Urbanization

Module 4: Globalization and Diversity

Module 5: Focus Area - Earth System Science

Module 6: Focus Area - Medical Geography in Global Health (MGGH)

Module 7: Final Paper Introduction and Midterm Exam Review

Module 8: Mid-Term Exam

Module 9: Focus Area -Places, Networks, and Flows

Module 10: Focus Area Catastrophes, Conservation, and Conflict

Module 11: Focus Area Sustainability and the Global Environment

Module 12: Focus Area Geospatial Analysis and Techniques

Materials will be available through the following means:

- *PowerPoint lectures*
- *Potential Podcasts*
- *Web Pages*
- *Videos/Readings (supplemental or substitutions for class lectures)*
- *Assignments, quizzes, and discussion posts*
- *Exams (Midterm)*
- *Final Paper*

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

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

In this course we will:

- Gain an overview of the field and multiple subfields of geography.
- Learn a geographer's approach to understanding complex processes, such as globalization, environment, and climate change.
- Learn about geographic frameworks and specialized tools for dealing with spatial phenomena.
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Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify major subfields within geography and summarize their scope and contributions to the discipline.
- Analyze complex processes such as globalization, environmental change, and climate dynamics using a geographer's perspective.
- Apply geographic frameworks and specialized spatial tools to interpret and solve problems involving spatial phenomena.

III. Graded Work

Graded Components

(%):

Syllabus Quiz (5 points – 5%)

- A syllabus quiz will be administered via Canvas.

Discussion Posts (5 points each – 15%)

- Discussion posts will be administered throughout the course via Canvas. These will pertain to various topics covered each week—4 points for writing your own post (Due Fridays) and 1 point for replying to at least one classmate (Due Mondays).

Assignments (10 points each – 20%)

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- Homework assignments will be given to help students further explore lecture materials. One week to complete each assignment (Due Mondays).
- Number of assignments and discussions can vary.

Mid-term exam (30%)

- The exam will comprise a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay responses.

Final paper or project (100 points – 30%)

- Students will complete a research paper about a special course topic. The length is three pages (1500 words) and must have proper references. Students will select topics, if you are unsure your topic is appropriate or meets the requirements please ask via Canvas email. Additional information is available on the assignment page.
100 Points.

TOTAL: 100%

Grading Scale

Letter	Range	GPA
A	100% to 94%	4.00
A-	< 94% to 90%	3.67
B+	< 90% to 87%	3.33
B	< 87% to 84%	3.00
B-	< 84% to 80%	2.67
C+	< 80% to 77%	2.33
C	< 77% to 74%	2.00

C-	< 74% to 70%	1.67
D+	< 70% to 67%	1.33
D	< 67% to 64%	1.00
D-	< 64% to 61%	0.67
E	< 61% to 0%	0.00

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit. The extra credit offered for this course is worth 2% on the final grade, due to this there will be NO rounding grades.

IV. Calendar

Week	Module Name	Work Due
1	Module 1: Introduction to Geography	Discussion 1- 08/29/ Assignment 1- 09/02
2	Module 2: Demography, Population, and Overpopulation	Discussion 2- 09/12 Assignment 2- 09/15
3	Module 3: Development and Urbanization	Discussion 3- 09/19 Assignment 3-09/22
4	Module 4: Globalization and Diversity	Discussion 4- 09/26 Assignment 4- 09/29
5	Module 5: Focus Area - Earth System Science	Discussion 5- 10/03 Assignment 5- 10/06
6	Module 6: Focus Area - Medical Geography in Global Health (MGGH)	Discussion 6- 10/ 10 Assignment 6- 10/13
7	Module 7: Final Paper or Final Project Introduction and Midterm Exam Review	--
8	Module 8: Mid-Term Exam	24th October 2025
9	Module 9: Focus Area -Places, Networks, and Flows	Discussion 7- 10/31 Assignment 7- 11/03
10	Module 10: Focus Area Catastrophes, Conservation, and Conflict	Discussion 8- 11/07 Assignment 8- 11/10
11	Module 11: Focus Area Sustainability and the Global Environment	Discussion 9-11/14 Assignment 9- 11/17

Due date can be changed but will be announced via Canvas.

Additional Information

COURSE POLICIES

Midterm Make-up Policy: A midterm exam missed due to excused reasons can be made up. The instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule upon receipt of appropriate evidence.

Late submissions: Late submissions of mid-term exam assignments and discussion posts can be accepted but for 10% off each day. Once the assignment closes it will not be reopened. If something arises that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time please let me know ASAP to come up with a solution.

When it comes to the final paper, late submissions will be accepted, but they will incur a 25% point reduction. The final paper due date will be announced later. Papers can be submitted up to 1 day after the due date until 11:59 PM. Any submissions received after this grace period will be assigned a zero score, and no exceptions will be granted. Please be diligent in observing the final paper's due date.

Grade disputes: Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why they believe they should have received such a grade.

Contacting the instructor: Students needing to contact the course instructor should do so using Canvas' messaging platform.

Required Technology: Students need to have access to a personal computer or laptop with a working webcam and microphone to access all features of the course Canvas site, and to participate in online office hours and optional live Q&A sessions. Broadband internet access is required.

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 (ghamerlinck@ufl.edu, [352.294.9051](tel:352.294.9051)). 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 (ombuds.ufl.edu; [352-392-1308](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (dso.ufl.edu; [352-392-1261](tel:352-392-1261)).