

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA - COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

GEO 1010 – GEOGRAPHY FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Summer B, 2007

Little Hall 109

Monday to Friday: 3rd Period (11:00 am - 12:15 pm)

Instructor: Keith Yearwood. **Email:** kaywhy@ufl.edu
Please do not use AOL to email the instructor

Office Hours: Flexible.

Room: 431D Architecture Building. **Tel:** 352-392-0997 ext. 424

Course Description: This course focuses on human interaction with the natural elements and features of the environment. The emphasis is on how the actions of man have affected natural systems and how natural systems have forced man to modify its behavior as it adapts to life on the planet. The issues covered reflect many of the concepts covered by the suite of courses offered by the Department of Geography.

This course fulfills the following **General Education Requirements:** International Studies and Diversity and Social and Behavioral Sciences (S, I).

Text: There is no required text for this course.

Course Objectives. To provide students with:

- An appreciation of and for the vulnerability of the environment and naturally occurring systems and the responses of those systems to anthropogenic influences
- The knowledge of how man-made factors influence and change the characteristic features of the natural environment
- The knowledge of how problems associated with human-natural interactions may be alleviated
- An appreciation of the difficulties involved with efforts at reducing conflict between natural and physical systems and human existence
- The knowledge of the techniques and methods that may be used to combat and solve many of the concomitant issues associated with interactions of man and his environment
- A knowledge of the fundamental issues associated with resource use and resource allocation due to increasing population pressures and how policies have shaped the decisions that have influenced the actions of man and his environment.

General information. The instructor will follow the topics outlined below but these topics are by no means binding as a topic may be changed at any time according to the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance policy: While a record of students' attendance will not be kept, students are expected to attend classes. Lecture notes will not be placed on the web and students who miss classes may acquire notes from the instructor at a time which is convenient for the instructor.

Make up exams: Students will be allowed to take exams at times other than the set dates only if extenuating circumstances occur and prevent students from being present in class during the time of the exam. Students must provide proof of this.

Classroom etiquette: Talking by students while a lecture is being given is not tolerated in this class. If a student must say something to another person or persons besides the instructor, that student is free to leave the room. Students need to be considerate that others have paid for this course and must be able to hear the instructor clearly without being disturbed by unnecessary chatter. Cell phones and all noise making devices must be turned off during class times as well.

Students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

Honesty policy: The website <http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf> provides information about University of Florida policy on honesty. Students are advised to read this document carefully.

Grading. Below is a breakdown of how letter grades are assigned

A:	90 – 100%
B+:	85 – 89%
B:	80 – 84%
C+:	75 – 79%
C:	70 – 74%
D+:	65 – 69%
D:	60 – 64%
E:	59% and below

Evaluation. This course has three multiple choice exams each of which consists of 40 questions. Each question is worth 1 point.

Dates for these exams are:

Tuesday July 17th (Exam 1)
 Monday July 30th (Exam 2)
 Wednesday August 8th (Exam 3)

There will be an exam review before each of the three exams. The exams are non-cumulative.

Extra credit. Each exam will have an assignment which will give students an opportunity to receive 4 extra credit points per exam. Details of this will be provided later.

Detailed topics for semester (Topics are subject to change and should be used only as a rough guide). Some of these topics will be presented not only in lecture format, but documentaries in the form of videos will be shown and students may be required to take notes on specific items during those presentations.

Tropical deforestation with emphasis on Brazil. The causes, consequences and possible solutions for reducing the rate of deforestation. Methods of detection for rates of deforestation

Fresh water as a resource. Examples will be taken from Mexico City with a focus on population pressures and the overuse of this resource and the consequent problems associated with this factor. The

solutions – both long- and short-term will be discussed. There will be a focus on how the Colorado River in the USA has been utilized and the environmental consequences of its use. Methods used to conserve water in Las Vegas will be discussed. There will be discussions on the distribution and allocation of fresh water in Lagos Nigeria and the political, economic and infrastructural problems associated with potable water use and distribution in that city. Regional disputes of water rights and water use between Israel, Iraq, Turkey and Syria will be discussed with a look at the construction of dams (namely the Ataturk) on the Euphrates River and the consequent problems faced by communities downstream of the dam. China's Three Gorges Dam will be studied and the discussion will focus on the potential benefits and possible costs associated with the existence of that dam. The negative environmental consequences of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt upon the Nile Delta region.

Desertification. The causes of desertification and the best management practices that are currently used to combat the problems associated with its existence. The Sub-Sahara region will be used as an example in the discussions. There will be a brief discussion on climate change as a naturally occurring phenomena.

Global warming. There will be a general overview of global warming, its causes, both natural and anthropogenic, evidence for this and subsequent consequences. The role and importance of petroleum as a primary source of fuel and the future of petroleum as a major global resource. Discussions on the following issues associated with global warming will be limited to global sea level rise and the natural and human response. The Bangladesh region and territories of Micronesia will be used as examples of this with an attempt to define a growing occurrence of environmental refugees.

Earthquakes, tsunamis and expanding urbanization. The risks involved with living in an earthquake prone zone and coastal areas that have the propensity to experience tsunamis. Population pressures and how the ever increasing urban growth, (spatially and numerically) have increased the possibility of greater exposure of more persons to earthquakes and tsunamis. Factors responsible for increasing populations along coastal regions. Examples of this will be drawn from the Japan archipelago. Methods used to reduce loss of life and destruction to property through tsunamis and earthquakes will be discussed.

Population policies trends. Policies related to curbing population growth are discussed with examples being taken from China, India, Mexico and Western Europe. There will be a discussion of the impact of the disease AIDS and Malaria and how these affect population dynamics in Africa.