

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LAB
(GEO 2200L-Section 1539)
Spring 2008

Instructor: Andrea Wolf

Office Hours: Thursday 11:45-1:45, and by appointment. Ask for me if you do not see me.

Office: 3014 Turlington Hall (Geography Grad Lab)

Phone: (352) 392-0494 ext. 213

E-mail: acwolf@ufl.edu, allow 24-48 hours for a response.

Required Course Material:

Department of Geography UFL Physical Geography Lab Manual –
GEO 2200L available for purchase at either **Target Copy** location

1412 W. University Avenue phone (352) 376-3826

or

3422 SW Archer Road phone (352) 372-1171

Course Objective:

Physical Geography is the science that studies the spatial distribution and relationships between the different physical elements that form the environment. Elements such as energy, air, water, weather, climate, landforms, soils, animals, and plants are examples of topics that will be examined during the course. The main purpose of this course is to introduce to the student the basic elements and processes that control the physical environment through computer laboratory type exercises. GEO 2200 lecture is not a prerequisite. The Lab exercises will be completed using a combination of web based research and Geographic Information Systems applications.

Class Meeting:

Lab class is on Monday during Periods 3 and 4 (9:35-11:30) in room 3006 in Turlington Hall. Instructions for the lab are often given at the beginning of class; you are responsible for getting the instructions from another student if you miss them because you are late.

Lab Schedule:

By the end of the semester all the students will be expected to have completed all 12 labs in the manual. One lab will be completed per class period. The labs will not necessarily be completed in the same order as in the manual so bring the entire lab manual to every class. It is possible that another activity will be substituted for a lab during the semester.

Lab Policies:

The instructor or a guest lecturer will give a brief presentation (about 20 minutes) at the beginning of the class. The rest of the time will be spent finishing the lab. Labs will be collected at the end of each class period. Please sign the attendance sheet when you turn your lab in. Do not sign the attendance sheet if you do not turn your lab in during the class period. A grade of zero will be given to any labs not turned in at the end of class, unless the instructor grants approval **beforehand**. If you are given approval to turn a lab in late, it should be handed to the receptionist in the Geography Office (3141 Turlington), with the instructors name on the top. Attendance is not required, **BUT** you will not be able to make up missed labs. If you do miss a lab, notify the instructor immediately by email. The only way to make up a missed lab is with a valid documented excuse. The door to the lab will be shut 15 minutes after class begins, and you will not be permitted to arrive to complete your lab assignment after this time without a valid documented excuse.

It is a good idea to meet and exchange contact information with another student in the class in case you have questions about instructions or information that you may miss (e.g. extra credit). Collaboration for difficult portions of the lab is acceptable, however, **DO NOT** hand in labs that have **identical answers to another lab turned in** or are **copied directly from the internet**. This is considered plagiarism. All submitted labs and assignments must be your own original work. Labs or assignments that show signs of copying will result in a zero for all parties associated. Plagiarism is a serious university offense and can have results including failure of a lab exercise, failure of the whole lab class, and possible expulsion from the University of Florida.

Grading:

12 Labs @ 40 pts each (one lab score will be dropped) - 440 pts

1 Article Assignment @ 60 pts

Total possible points – 500

Grading Scale:

A 92-100%	C 70-75%
B+ 88-91%	D+ 66-69%
B 80-87%	D 60-65%
C+ 76-79%	E <60%

General Policies:

Please turn off your cell phones and do not answer them during the lab period if you put them on silent. Do not text message during class. This is distracting to the rest of the class. The computers in the lab are for course related research and exercises exclusively. During lab periods **DO NOT** use the computer for anything other than course work. Surfing the web, downloading, text messaging, or emailing is prohibited and will not be tolerated. One warning will be issued for such behavior as listed above. A second infraction within one class period will result in a zero for that particular lab.

Please do not eat around the computers.

Academic Honesty

By registering as a student at the University of Florida, every student has agreed to the following statement, "I understand that the University of Florida expects their students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to the commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with the commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

Special Consideration

If you require special classroom accommodations, you must first register with the Dean of Student Office and then bring the necessary documentation to the instructor.

Article Assignment

During the semester you will be expected to submit a written research assignment on a popular topic related to Physical Geography. You will need three sources from contemporary publications; text from each source must be **two** pages or longer in length. 8 points will be taken off for each missing or inadequate article. One article should be from a peer-reviewed journal, one from a magazine or newspaper, and one may be from the internet, but may **not** be from Wikipedia or any other non-scientific source. Please submit the abstract from the peer-reviewed article, a hard copy or photocopy of an actual newspaper/magazine article, and a print-out of the article from the internet (**DO NOT PRINT IN COLOR**). The articles should be recently published - within the last 5 years.

Example Peer-Reviewed Journals

Science
Earth Island Journal
Conservation Biology
GeoForum
Nature
Earth Surface Processes and Landforms
Geomorphology
GeoJournal
Environment and Development
International Journal of Climatology
South African Journal of Wildlife Research
Journal of Applied Ecology
Journal of Wildlife Management

Example Newspapers/Magazines

The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
National Geographic
The Economist
Time
Newsweek

General Format:

The paper must be 1000 words and contain an introduction, science section, a discussion section (your personal ideas/opinions/solutions to the issue) and a conclusion. Formal MLA or APA bibliography format is required on a separate page. Include a copy of the articles stapled to your assignment. Do not print in color. The article assignment is **due March 31st, 2008**.

The article assignment must be turned in on the due date in class; late assignments will receive a 10-point deduction for every 24 hours beyond the due date. Again, the only exception would be a valid, documented excuse provided for and approved by the instructor.

Example Topics (but you can choose any topic you want)

Desertification
Coral Bleaching
Global Warming
Air, Water Pollution
GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing
Red tides
Sink holes
Hurricanes

