

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FALL 2008, GEA 1000_2285: GEOGRAPHY FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Please note that this course is equivalent to former GEO 1010. You need to drop the class if you took GEO 1010 before since you will not earn credits by taking the class.

COURSE: GEA 1000

SECTION: 2285

INSTRUCTOR: Kofi Adu-Brempong

LOCATION: Williamson 100

LECTURES: MWF 8th period (3.00pm – 3.50pm)

OFFICE: TUR 3120. Office hours: **Wed 4pm to 5pm; Fri 1pm to 2:30pm**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Disciplinary fragmentation and specializations sometimes give the impression that world problems could be packaged neatly and separately to be tackled by the relevant discipline (s). Thus, for example, economic development problems are ‘traditionally’ dissociated from their ecological contexts instead of taking an integrated approach. However, recent world problems such as global warming, climate change and adverse environmental consequences of economic growth, to mention a few; have made it imperative to re-think our ‘business as usual’ attitude regarding nature and humanity. This course seeks to help students understand the complex interrelationships between humans and socioeconomic processes on one hand, and the natural/physical environment on the other hand; from a geographic perspective. The approach emphasizes the ‘cyclical’ nature of the forces affecting the coupled socioeconomic -biophysical environment and how geographical analysis contributes to solving real-world problems resulting from these processes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Specific objectives of the course include:

- To help students gain a basic understanding of both socioeconomic and biophysical processes that interact to impact the earth and how humans respond to these challenges;
- To examine contemporary world problems in the context of their implications on human societies;
- To present the geographic/spatial perspective as a vital input for solving real world problems, irrespective of one's disciplinary background or training.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Class attendance is critical in this course since your participation in class is important. Whatever resources I give would be considered supplementary to class lectures and notes would not be made available anywhere else except in class. As a result course pack and /or any other materials do not substitute for lectures. If obtain material for this class from any other source (s) not based on my recommendation, I will stick to my recommended sources and lecture materials in the event of any eventualities

EVALUATION/GRADING:

Evaluation for this course comprises of 4 exams. One period of class time will be allotted to an exam. **Note that even though I have all the exams scheduled on the course outline changes may be necessary due to circumstances beyond my control.** However, should change (s) become necessary students will be notified in class or by email. Scores for the exams will be distributed as follows: **Each exam is worth 25% of your grade.**

Grades: A = 90% and above; B+ = 86%-89%; B = 80% - 85%; C+ = 76%-79%

C = 70%-75%; D+ = 66% -69%; D = 60% -65%; E = less than 60%

TEXTBOOK/READING: There is no textbook requirement for this course. Readings will be assigned when deemed necessary and at the appropriate times during the semester.

COURSE PACK: A supplementary material has been put together as course pack for the class and is available for purchase at **TARGET COPY:** 1412 W. Univ. Ave. OR 3422 SW Archer Rd.

Note: **GEA 1000 section 2285**

***Note!** Class Attendance will be handsomely rewarded and is critical if you expect to do very well in this class.*

***See below for course outline and topics

COURSE OUTLINE/TOPICS:

wk	month	Date	Day	Topic
1	Aug	25	Mon	Class Intro, syllabus, etc.
		27	Wed	Warming Up! What is Geography?
		29	Fri	Pop. Change & Implications
2		1	Mon	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
	Sept	3	Wed	Population Change & Implications
		5	Fri	Pop. Change & Implications
3		8	Mon	Pop. Change & Implications
3		10	Wed	Urbanization & Environment
		12	Fri	Urbanization & Environment
4		15	Mon	Urbanization & Environment
		17	Wed	Urbanization & Environment
		19	Fri	<i>Urb & Review for Exam 1</i>
5	<u>CHEERS!</u>	22	Mon	Exam 1
		24	Wed	Globalization & Implications
		26	Fri	Globalization & Implications
6		29	Mon	Globalization & Implications
	Oct	1	Wed	Globalization & Implications
		3	Fri	Deforestation
7		6	Mon	Deforestation
		8	Wed	Deforestation
		10	Fri	Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Man
8		13	Mon	Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Man
		15	Wed	Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Man
		17	Fri	<i>Earthquakes- Review for Exam2</i>
9	<u>CHEERS!!</u>	20	Mon	Exam2
		22	Wed	Climate Change and Humans
		24	Fri	NO CLASS - HOMECOMING
10		27	Mon	Climate Change and Humans
		29	Wed	Climate Change & Humans
		31	Fri	Climate Change & Humans
11	Nov	3	Mon	Climate Change & Humans
		5	Wed	Desertification & Impacts
		7	Fri	Desertification & Impacts

12		10 Mon	Desertification & Impacts
		12 Wed	Desertification & Impacts
		14 Fri	<i>Des. & Review for Exam3</i>
13	<u>CHEERS!!!</u>	17 Mon	<u>Exam 3</u>
		19 Wed	Fresh Water Resources
		21 Fri	Fresh Water Resources
14		24 Mon	Fresh Water Resources
		26 Wed	Fresh Water Resources
		28 Fri	NO CLASS –THANKS GIVING Introduction to GIS &
15		1 Mon	Applications
	Dec	3 Wed	Intro to GIS and Applications
		5 Fri	Intro to GIS and Applications
16		8 Mon	<i>GIS and Review for Exam 4</i>
		<u>CHEERS!!!!</u>	<u>10 Wed Exam 4</u>

Note: While every effort will be made to keep the above schedule circumstances may demand that some changes are made. I reserve the right, therefore, to make changes if deemed necessary. Students will be notified accordingly and on time.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: As a student of the University of Florida, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University's *Academic Honesty Guidelines*. For further information please visit: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>

THINGS TO AVOID:

- **Talking with friends in class**
- **Cheating in an exam**
- **Cell phone ringing during lectures**
- **Absenteeism**
- **Habitual lateness to class**