

Geography for the Changing World (GEA 1000)

Fall 2008

***** Prior to Fall 2007, this course was numbered GEO1010. Please check your transcript to ensure you are not repeating this course. *****

GEA 1000, Section 2284

Room CSE A101 (Computer Science Engineering Building)
MWF, 4th period (10:40 am – 11:30 am)

Instructor: Risa Patarasuk

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++ E-mail is the best way to contact me. Please allow me 24-48 hours to respond back to you. Just remember, I won't response to annoying questions such as 'When is the exam?', 'What will be covered for the next exam?', and 'Can you please e-mail the power point notes?'

Office Hours:

Right after class or by appointment.
++ If I'm not in my office, please look for me in room #3014.

Course Description:

This course meets the general education requirements for the international and social science credits.

The course seeks to give students a regional perspective on issues pertaining to important urban, economic, environmental, geomorphologic and climatic issues in the world. The causes of problems associated with these issues and the possible solutions will be discussed. Students will be expected to use map interpretation skills to analyze data and draw inferences and conclusions about real world phenomena. Topics covered are such as an overview in geography discipline, population change, GIS and remote sensing, deforestation, globalization, etc.

Course Objectives:

- To gain a basic understanding of some of the contemporary challenges of the different world regions.
- Learn a geographer's approach to understanding processes such as "climate" and "globalization".

Course structure:

This course consists of lectures, exams, Videos/DVDs, and extra readings. Maps will form a central part of our exploration of the course content. A basic understanding of map reading is presumed, but should you need any help with interpretation, please ask me.

Course requirements:

You are adults and are responsible for your own education. Therefore, students are expected to attend all lectures and read all supporting materials from the text. **Text readings are a supplement to the course and cannot be substituted for lecture materials. No lecture notes will be available from the instructor if a student misses class.** I advise you not to be tempted by the large size of the class to think your absence will not be missed. Experience shows that those who fail to “attend class” also fail to do well in or “even to pass” the class. For your own sake, I hope you won’t be tempted to try to be the exception that proves the rule!

Text:

- No textbook is required.
- Extra readings will be assigned throughout the semester.

Coursepack:

- Available at the University Copy across from the campus. **MAKE SURE YOU BUY THE COURSEPACK FOR GEA1000 SECTION 2284.** There are other professors/instructors who teach GEA1000 and their coursepacks are different.
- The coursepack is not required. It’s up to you if you want to buy one.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date dd/mm	Topic/Activity
1	25/8	M: What’s Geography?
	27/8	W: What’s Geography?
	29/8	F: Population Change
2	1/9	M: <i>No class – Labor Day</i>
	3/9	W: Population Change
	5/9	F: Population Change
3	8/9	M: Population Change
	10/9	W: Urbanization
	12/9	F: Urbanization
4	15/9	M: Urbanization
	17/9	W: Urbanization
	19/9	F: Urbanization

5	22/9 24/9 26/9	M: Exam 01 W: GIS & Remote Sensing F: GIS & Remote Sensing
6	29/9 1/10 3/10	M: Deforestation W: Deforestation F: Deforestation
7	6/10 8/10 10/10	M: Deforestation W: Climate Change F: Climate Change
8	13/10 15/10 17/10	M: Climate Change W: Climate Change F: Climate Change
9	20/10 22/10 24/10	M: Exam 02 W: Desertification F: No class - Homecoming
10	27/10 29/10 31/10	M: Desertification W: Desertification F: Desertification
11	3/11 5/11 7/11	M: Globalization & Economic Geography W: Globalization & Economic Geography F: Globalization & Economic Geography
12	10/11 12/11 14/11	M: Exam 03 W: Energy resources & Petroleum issues F: Energy resources & Petroleum issues
13	17/11 19/11 21/11	M: Energy resources & Petroleum issues W: Energy resources & Petroleum issues F: Energy resources & Petroleum issues
14	24/11 26/11 28/11	M: No class - Thanksgiving W: No class - Thanksgiving F: No class - Thanksgiving
15	1/12 3/12 5/12	Fresh water resources Fresh water resources Fresh water resources
16	8/12	M: Fresh water resources

*I reserve the rights to make changes to the syllabus during the course of the semester.

Course Evaluation:

Exam 1 = 25%

Exam 2 = 25%

Exam 3 = 25%

Exam 4 = 25%

There are 40-50 multiple choice questions for each exam. The exams are non-cumulative.

Grades:

A > 90%

B+ 86%-89.9%

B 80%-85.9%

C+ 76%-79.9%

C 70%-75.9%

D+ 66%-69.9%

D 60%-65.9%

E < 60%

Rules:

- You are responsible to come to class. If you miss class without a proper excuse, do not ask me for missed materials. If a known conflict preventing you from coming to class, make arrangements with me ahead of time.
- **No extra credit will be given.** Therefore, it is important to begin the semester with the knowledge that exams will constitute your entire grade.
- There will be **NO make up exams given.** However, if an unavoidable event arises and causes you to miss, or anticipate missing an exam please come and see me. Bring any formal documentation that supports the absence. You **must** have some written form validating your absence, for example a doctor's receipt. At that time it will be totally up to my discretion to decide if any credit can be gained for the missed exam.
- **Don't be late for exams!!** You will have only the normal class time for your exams. Being late refers to when the first person walks out of the door during the exam time.
- **Cheating will not be tolerated** according to the University rules.
- I have lots of e-mails to read per day so **please e-mail me when necessary.** I won't reply your e-mail if you asked annoying questions such as 'What will be included in the exam?', 'When is the exam?'

Three things that really annoy me:

1. Cell phones - turn them off! I will embarrass you if your cell phone rings.

2. Talking in class - if you don't want to hear what I have to say, don't show up, and let those who do want to hear, hear more clearly.

3. Reading the newspaper in class - go and have a coffee, sit in a comfy chair and/or enjoy the sunshine while you read.

The Commercial Notes Warning:

In the eventuality of a discussion over grading I will recognize my notes and any textbook as being an authoritative source. However, I will not recognize any commercially reproduced course notes, as these have been drafted by undergraduate students, and have in the past proved to be erroneous. This course will undoubtedly be targeted by a commercial note company because of the number of students enrolled. It is your choice which, if any, notes you buy.

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 this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the university."

Web pages:

1) For class materials and grades, please visit Vista Web CT at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> . You will need your Gatorlink ID and password to log in.