

GEO4391: Marine Geography; Section RVAA (18201)

Instructor Information

Dr. Young Rae Choi

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- Zoom Meeting ID: 946 8855 0977 (Passcode: GEO4391)
- [Zoom Meeting Direct Link](#)
- [Links to an external site.](#)
- [Instructor Biography](#)

Teaching Assistant Information

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- [Links to an external site.](#)
- [TA Biography](#)

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST).
Course due dates are according to this time zone.**

General Information

Course Description and Purpose

Geography—a long-time ‘de facto terrestrial study’ (Anderson & Peters, 2014)—is extending its interest to the sea. On one hand, this has to do with the fact that more human activities take place in the sea today. As a discipline that inquires how nature and society interact and shape each other, geography explores how humans change the sea and vice versa. On the other hand, geographers are recognizing how the logics of the sea are radically different from those of land. As a discipline that seeks to critically understand the relationships between space and power, geography is expanding its theoretical horizon by learning from the marine spaces.

This course will explore this emerging field of marine geography. From coastal reclamation to ocean plastics and to deep sea mining, you will learn how geographers are approaching the marine worlds. You will learn to apply critical geographical lenses to understand the

complexities of marine issues. The Anthropocene is a key concept in this course. We will define and characterize the recent changes made in the sea using this concept. As the course proceeds, we will ask what marine geography can offer for us to make more sustainable and just relations with the sea.

This is a fully online Spring A course. There are no scheduled meeting times. It runs from January 8 to February 25.

This is a Discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement.

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students are expected to meet the performance standards for an upper-level undergraduate course.

Global Learning Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- CO1. Global Awareness - Students will identify major issues with regards to the development, management, and conservation of marine spaces and resources and explain their complexities.
- CO2. Global Perspective - Students will discuss specific sea-related issues in the local contexts and compare them with those in the contexts of other localities.
- CO3. Global Engagement - Students will engage in problem-solving processes of several pressing issues with regards to the world's seas.

Important Information

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

Course Policies

Late submission

Late work will be accepted up to 20 days with the penalty of -5%/day. All assignments must be submitted by the end date of the course.

Communication

Announcements will be posted on Canvas, which will also be automatically sent to your FIU email address. If you have any questions or concerns, **send me an email (raechoi@fiu.edu)** or use the message function on Canvas. I will respond to all correspondences within a day or two. Be polite and responsible when you communicate with your professor, TA, and classmates.

Academic misconduct

Do not cheat, plagiarize or act dishonestly in order to gain an advantage. If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Academic Integrity Committee. Refer to the Academic Misconduct Statement below for more information.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students are expected to meet the performance standards for an upper-level undergraduate course.

Textbook and Course Resources

This class does not use a textbook. Refer to the list of readings in the course schedule for key readings.

Class materials consist of readings, videos, and lectures (videos + powerpoint slides). Class materials for each module will be announced and posted on Canvas in advance.

You are expected to read/watch required class materials thoroughly, including lecture videos. Assignments will assess your comprehension of the required materials.

Optional materials are for your own learning. They do not need to be cited in the assignments.

Other useful resources

US & Global News media:

NPR <http://www.npr.org/sections/news> [Links to an external site](#) (Also, listen to NPR Radio on WLRN 91.3 FM)

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com> [Links to an external site](#) (Go to www.nytimes.com/FIU [Links to an external site](#), for free one-year access)

The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/us> [Links to an external site](#).

Le Monde Diplomatique <https://mondediplo.com> [Links to an external site](#).

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk> Links to an external site.
Al Jazeera <https://www.aljazeera.com> Links to an external site.

World Data:

Our World in Data (Oxford) <https://ourworldindata.org> Links to an external site.--

Software:

Google Earth <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html> Links to an external site.
Google Maps <https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces> Links to an external site.
QGIS <http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html> Links to an external site.
Microsoft PowerPoint & Word (available for free to all FIU students)

Film/documentary:

- Rachel Carson Council's list of environmental film festivals
<https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/environmental-film-festivals/> Links to an external site.
- Culture unplugged <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/festival/films.php#view=thumb>

Center for Excellence in Writing

As an upper-level course in geography, you will be required to make your arguments clearly and coherently. The FIU Center for Excellence in Writing offers various services that will help improve your writing skills. If you feel you need assistance, visit their [website](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) to make an appointment.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course at least 1 time per week;

- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified;
- **respond** to **emails** within 5 days;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course at least 2 times per week;
- respond to discussion postings within 5 days of the deadline;
- respond to **emails** within 2 days;
- grade assignments within 10 days of the assignment deadline.

Course Detail

Assignments/Discussions & Grading

Grading

<i>Graded Item</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Due date</i>
1. Weekly class activities	7	7.14	50%	Every Sunday (11:59 PM)
2. Weekly discussion/debate posts	7	7.14	50%	Every Sunday (11:59 PM)

1. Weekly class activities (7): Class activities consist of a combination of mapping/plotting, virtual fieldwork, scenario-making, and/or other types of exercises. They are designed for you to gain an in-depth understanding of major topics in marine geography.
2. Weekly discussion/debate posts (7): For each module, you will write a concise, specific, and coherent discussion/debate post that delivers a critical geographical perspective on the module's theme. The post should contain your own opinion/argument. Specific prompts will be given in advance and posted on Canvas.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less