

GEO 3001 Geographies of Global Change Section RVC

Instructor: Prof. Rod Neumann, PhD

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- Office Hours: By Zoom Appointment
- About Me: [Faculty Webpage](#)

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

Course Calendar

Course Description and Purpose

We modern humans have rapidly transformed the global environment. In this course, you will develop the skills and knowledge to investigate how culture shapes our experiences with, understandings of, and responses to global environmental changes. We will explore how different cultures and subcultures understand and experience environmental changes differently. The goal here is to recognize how one's cultural background shapes how one thinks about relations with nature and shapes one's experiences with global environmental change. To further complicate our ideas of nature/culture, animal behaviorists are finding evidence of cultures in animals ranging from insects to birds to mammals. Therefore, we will explore how this new scientific information might alter established relationships between humans and non-humans, including in the area of biodiversity conservation.

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

Global Learning Course Outcomes

1. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of contemporary global changes, including their historical geographies and dynamics. (*Global Awareness*)
2. Students will be able to analyze issues from multiple cultural perspectives on global change. (*Global Perspective*)
3. Students will be critical assessors of information about global conservation and environment issues. (*Global Engagement*)

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the geohistorical origins of global environmental thought.

2. Explain the concepts of nature and culture and the philosophical divide between them in Western thought.
3. Compare and contrast ideas of nature and environmental change among different cultures and subcultures.
4. Explain the conflicts between local cultures and global-scale nature conservation practices.
5. Recognize how new scientific findings of animal cognition are challenging the nature/culture divide.

Course Calendar

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Copyright Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

Textbook and Course Materials

Students are responsible for all required readings posted on CANVAS.

I strongly recommend that you print them out. Digital technology is great for some things, but not so much for learning and retention. You will do best by having the physical texts in your hands, underlying it, and making your own marginal notes. If paper is not your cup of tea, use the annotation and highlight functions in PDFs. The bottom line is, passive reading does not lead to retention. You'll need to actively interact with the text in some fashion.

Additionally, there are required videos posted on CANVAS. Further explanation follows below.

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 as 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.

If you have computer problems while taking a quiz or exam, you must contact FIU Online Support Services **IMMEDIATELY** by calling FIU Online at **(305) 348-3630** or by clicking on the **“Technical Support”** link in the Course Menu, **NOT THE PROFESSOR OR YOUR CLASSMATES**. If you do have technical trouble, **gather as much evidence of the issue as you can** (e.g. take screenshots or photos) and include it in the message sent to Technical Support, otherwise, unfortunately, we will be unable to provide you with the opportunity to retake the missing or incomplete assignment.

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;
- **watch** the instructor's pre-recorded lectures that will available within the modules
- **log in** to the course **3 times** per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond to emails** within **3 days;**
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course at least **5 times** per week;
- respond to discussion postings within **5 days of the deadline;**
- respond to **emails** within **24 hours** (excluding weekends and holidays);
- grade assignments within **10 days** of the assignment deadline.

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Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within **48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays)**.

Users must log on to CANVAS to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in CANVAS to inform users when a new message has been received. Therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

In addition, I will send “Announcements” through CANVAS, alerting students of important course deadlines, feedback on assignments, and other important information. Please make sure to read them carefully and get back to me immediately if you have any questions or concerns. Please be clear and precise when phrasing your questions or concerns to allow me to respond efficiently.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct **office hours by appointment**.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. If you are not familiar with using Zoom:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](#)Links to an external site. to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](#)Links to an external site. to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#)Links to an external site.. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Make-Up Policy

Absolutely NO make-up quizzes. NO make-up exams without either 1) a note from a doctor that you were incapable of logging on for medical reasons or 2) documentation of a death in the immediate family. Flat tires, bad internet connections, missing pets, etc. **are not valid reasons for missing an exam** and do not qualify for make ups.

Assignments

Students are responsible for all information, materials, and instructions disseminated online. In addition to the readings, there will be required recorded lectures and films posted on CANVAS. All of this material is subject to assessment through various assignments.

Prof. Neumann's Periodic Zoom Lectures

Throughout the course there will be pre-recorded lectures that supplement the other course materials. These lectures are intended to clarify or elaborate on concepts, provide additional illustrative content, and help students draw connections between abstract concepts and real world examples.

Discussion Forums

We will use two types of online discussion forums, one graded, one not graded.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

1. We will have 10 **Directed Class Discussions**, which are graded using a rubric. Each discussion is worth 4 points toward the final grade. For these discussions, you will be prompted with questions to reflect upon, draw connections among, and otherwise react to the required readings and films. Everyone is required to post answers to the questions at least once for each discussion to receive credit. In addition, you will be required to respond to at least one other student's post.
2. We will also have an **Open Forum Discussions** in which anyone can post with questions or comments related to the course. For example, you and your classmates can use it to prepare for quizzes and exams, seek clarification regarding assignment requirements, and seek advice navigating the demands and logistics of an online course. I will monitor the discussions and join in as needed. This will not be graded.

Courtesy and respect in all communications is expected. I will remove posts that do not meet that standard.

Quizzes/Exams

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- Quizzes are comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions.
- Exams are comprised of essay questions. Essay exams will be open (notes and readings may be referenced), timed, and submitted through Canvas.
- The first exam covers the first half of the course. The second exam is not comprehensive. It covers only the second half of the course, though you will need to know standard terminology learned in the first half.
- Note that while the exams allow open notes and readings, they are timed. They are impossible to complete within the time window if you need to constantly reference your materials. In other words, you will need to study and prepare for exams as if they were closed.
- Finally, students are not allowed to take the quizzes and exams in teams or share any information about them with classmates or any other individual. If you are in doubt, please read the [FIU Academic Honesty Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Student Generated Questions

In the spirit of participatory learning, everyone will write and submit 2 essay questions for each of the 2 exams. I will review submissions for possible inclusion in the exams. This exercise is useful for reviewing the course material in preparation for the exam and reflecting on key ideas and core content.

Extra-Credit

- There will be extra credit opportunities, some announced in advance, others announced on an ad hoc basis. The announced extra credit involves the write up of definitions of the Key Terms posted for each module. Ad hoc extra credit will include, among other activities, attending a virtual campus talk or conference or viewing a relevant film or listening to a podcast. In all cases, students will submit a brief written synopsis.

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Course Requirements and Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Directed Class Discussion	10	4	40	17%
Quizzes	10	10	100	43%
Exams	2	40	80	35%
Student-generated exam questions	2	5	10	5%
Total		N/A	230	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

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

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

**Dates subject to change with prior notice. Reading and assignment deadlines and details are presented in the individual learning modules online in CANVAS.*

SCHEDULE

Important Dates

Exam 1	October 23
Last Day to Drop with a DR Grade	November 4
Exam 2	December 11

Module I: What do global, local, nature, and culture mean and how are they linked?

Week 1 (August 26) through Week 4 (September 16)

Topics:

- Defining nature and culture
- The origins of modern global thought
- Glocalization: tracing local-global interactions
- The nature-culture divide in Western thought

Module II: How do different cultures and subcultures understand and relate to global nature?

Week 5 (September 23) through Week 7 (October 7)

Topics:

- Nature as wilderness
- Nature as resource
- Indigenous cultural views of nature

Module III: What is the global biodiversity conservation movement and how does it affect local cultures?

Week 8 (October 14) through Week 11 (November 4)

Topics:

- The myth of pristine wilderness
- Origins of the global system of nature protection
- European colonialism, expansionism, and fortress conservation
- Global conservation/local conflict

Module IV: Do animals have culture?

Week 12 (November 11) through Week 15 (December 2)

Topics:

- Recognizing and accounting for animal agency
- Evolution and origins of consciousness
- The animal cultures debate
- Revisiting the nature-culture divide