

GEO 3421

Cultural Geography

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2025

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

Professor Information

Roderick Neumann

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: neumannr@fiu.edu

Response Time: Within 48 Hours, excepting weekends & holidays

Phone: NA

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: By Appointment

Website: <http://sipa.fiu.edu/people/faculty/global-and-sociocultural-studies/neumann.roderick.html>

Department or Academic Unit: Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description and Purpose

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This course introduces students to the field of Cultural Geography, with an emphasis on culture-environment interactions in the context of global climate change. Culture and environment are intimately entangled. Now, global climate change is altering culture-environment relations in profound ways. How we acknowledge, experience, and respond to our changing environment will

depend as much—perhaps more—on cultural factors as on scientific and technological knowledge.

In Cultural Geography we will explore culture-environment interactions and ask:

- What is the latest scientific understanding of global climate change and the projected effects on human cultures in place?
- How is climate important to our sense of place and belonging?
- How are indigenous cultures being affected by and responding to global climate change?
- How does culture shape our understanding of global climate change?
- How is global climate change altering cultures of food production and consumption?
- How is cultural expression in the literary, visual, and performing arts reflecting global climate change?

Textbook and Course Materials

No Textbook Required for purchase

Subtitle: No Textbook Required for purchase

Required/Recommended: No Textbook Required for purchase

Authors: No Textbook Required for purchase

Publisher: No Textbook Required for purchase

Publication Date: No Textbook Required for purchase

Copyright Date: No Textbook Required for purchase

ISBN 10: No Textbook Required for purchase

ISBN 13: No Textbook Required for purchase

Panther Book Pack

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

Other Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER)

- This is an online course. Enrollment in the course requires:
 - A reliable internet connection.
 - A computer. The software used in this course does not support smartphones, iPads, or tablets.
 - A webcam.
 - MacBook, Chromebook, or Windows OS.
- All the readings are posted on CANVAS as URLs or PDFs. I recommend that you print them out. Though digital technology is great for some things, many people find they do best by having the physical texts in their hands, underlining it, and making their own marginal notes.
- There are required videos for every module, also posted on CANVAS.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC
Gordon Rule Writing: GRW
Global Learning: GL
Civic Literacy: CL

Use cultural geography's theories and methods to evaluate and the role of climate in human affairs.

Describe the scientific consensus on the causes and effects of global climate change.

Recognize how culture influences our perception of climate and climate change.

Explain why and how indigenous cultures are affected by and responding to global climate change.

Explain how global climate change is altering cultures of food production and consumption.

Recognize and describe the ways that global climate change is reflected culturally in the visual, literary, and performing arts.

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. **DO NOT CONTACT 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 be available within the modules;
- **log in** to the course a minimum **3 times** per week;
- **respond to emails** within **3 days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

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. Also consider posting your questions in the open forum discussion so classmates may benefit.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Core Principles of This Course
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Make-Up Policy

Absolutely NO make-up assignments. NO make-up exams without either 1) a valid, detailed note from a doctor that you were incapable of logging into Canvas 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.

AI Use Policy

Permitted Uses of AI Tools (e.g., ChatGPT)

Students may use AI tools in the following ways:

- Brainstorming ideas or refining topics
- Researching sources and cases
- Summarizing or comparing general views or narratives
- Identifying relevant cultural works, concepts, or case studies

These uses must be clearly documented and cited (see below).

Prohibited Uses

The following uses are considered academic dishonesty:

- Submitting AI-generated text as your own without attribution
- Using AI to write entire assignments, especially essays and exams.
- Allowing AI to summarize or interpret readings for you without reading and engaging with the material directly
- Relying on AI to fabricate citations or sources

Violations may be treated as plagiarism under the university's academic integrity policy.

Documentation and Transparency Requirements

Whenever you use AI in your work, you must:

- **Include an explanation** of which AI tool used and a description how you used it. (e.g., for research, clarification/explanation, citation searches).
- **Submit transcripts or screenshots** of any AI engagement conducted to complete assignments or AI-generated content used in your process, especially if it shaped your thinking or text.
- **Citation** of any AI-generated submitted as part of an assignment.
- **Critically assess AI output** rather than accepting it at face value. This includes identifying inaccuracies, cultural biases, and omissions.

Recommended Citation Format

Example:

OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com>.

Prompt: "Summarize how the Sámi are responding to climate change." Accessed June 12, 2025.

Assignments & Assessments

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

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.

Open Forum Discussions

Open 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.

Exams

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 exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- Exams are comprised of a mix of essay, multiple choice, and true/false questions. Exams will be time-limited and conducted through *Honorlock* on Canvas.
- There are 5 exams, one after each Module. They are not comprehensive. Each exam covers only the material in the Module being assessed. However, you will need to be familiar with concepts and terminology learned throughout the course.
- *Honorlock* software will be engaged for all exams. No notes, readings, smart phones, or webpages are allowed. *Honorlock* is designed to detect their use and other violations
- Finally, students are not allowed to take exams in teams or share any information about them with classmates or any other individual. *Honorlock* will detect such activities in any case. If you are in doubt, please read the [FIU Academic Honesty Policy](#)Links to an external site.

Essay Assignment: Cultural Expression and Climate Change

This assignment asks you to engage AI tools to research how the arts engage with the theme of climate change by analyzing a single case study. You will examine a specific artistic work, project, or initiative (e.g., a film, installation, painting, performance, novel, or exhibition) that addresses climate change and critically analyze how it communicates environmental issues, impacts audiences, and contributes to public understanding or discourse on climate change. **There are two components, documentation of the research process and a 400-500-word essay**, to be submitted separately.

Extra-Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities.

Key Terms Write Up. There is a key terms list posted for each module. Students may write, in their own words, the definitions for the key terms. **2 points extra credit awarded for each list of definitions submitted for a maximum of 8.**

Keeping Current on Climate Change and Culture. In the spirit of participatory learning, students should be alert to relevant news articles,

videos, podcasts, blogs, or other mass media source. Bring them to the class's attention by posting on the Open Forum Discussion. **1 point extra credit awarded for each valid post to a maximum of 5 points.** There are many sources to locate these, such as these two below. If you find other useful links, please share them in the discussion.

- Register to access the *New York Times* for free through [AccessNYT.com](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Then sign up for the NYT's "[Climate Fwd](#)[Links to an external site.](#)"
- Sign up to [Yale University's "Climate Connection"](#)[Links to an external site.](#) service.

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.

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 for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

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

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

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight (%)
Exams	5	25	125	76%
AI-Assisted Research	1	10	10	6%

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight (%)
Essay from AI-Assisted Research	1	30	30	18%
Total	7	N/A	165	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
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Schedule of Topics

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

Important Dates

Exam 1 September 12

Research Process/Essay Case Selection September 26

Exam 2 October 3

Exam 3 October 31

Last Day to Drop with a DR Grade November 3

Exam 4 November 14

Essay Due November 21

Exam 5 December 5

Module I: Getting the Lay of the Land

Week 1 through Week 3

Topics:

- Overview of cultural geography
- Current knowledge of climate change and its projected effects

Module II: How are indigenous cultures affected by and responding to climate change?

Week 4 through Week 6

Topics:

- Effects of climate change on indigenous cultures
- Indigenous cultures' responses to climate change

Module III: How does culture influence perceptions of climate change?

Week 7 through Week 10

Topics:

- Political culture and climate change
- Sense of place and climate change
- Religion and climate change

Module IV: How does climate change affect cultures of food production and consumption?

Week 11 through Week 12

Topics:

- Current and projected impacts of climate change on agriculture
- Changes in food consumption in relations to climate change

Module V: How are literary, visual, and performing arts reflecting global climate change?

Week 13 through Week 15

Topics:

- Climate change in literature
- Climate change in visual arts
- Climate change in Performing arts

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility** (CRCA) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through report.fiu.edu.