This course introduces students to the field of geography. The class will offer you the basic knowledge of physical and human geography. But much of geographical information cannot be contained in any textbook, or covered by any length of lectures. In this class, you will be introduced to some tools for geographical exploration that range from searching for information to critically processing it using real-world examples. Students will be challenged to critically reflect upon the way human society shapes and is shaped by the physical world. You will not be required to memorize trivial facts. Instead, I expect you to understand important concepts and explain processes and ideas.

**Textbook**

**Requirements**
- **Read the assigned chapters in your textbook before coming to class.** Assignments from the text are listed below for each class session. The lectures will often presume knowledge that the textbook provides.
- **Attend class meetings.** You are expected to attend class and participate. Please, **don’t be late for class.**
- We will have **three exams** (non-cumulative).

**Grading**
- Attendance and Participation 50 points
- Exam # 1 300 points
- Exam # 2 300 points
- Exam # 3 350 points
- **TOTAL 1000 points**
Class participation:
It is expected that interactive learning and teaching will enrich the learning experience of all students, and that each student will work in partnership with the professor to create a positive learning experience for all. Student engagement is a necessary condition for an effective learning experience, and includes contributions to debate and discussion (if any), positive interactive learning with others, and an enthusiastic attitude towards inquiry. Everyone is expected to be a positive contributor to the class learning community, and students are expected to share the responsibility of teaching each other. Every student must respect the right of everyone to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow classmates, and the educational mission of the University.

Class conduct:
Students and instructor in this class are bound by Florida International University policies on conduct and academic rights and freedoms. Please make sure that you are familiar with the rules and regulations of our campus community. In order to ensure a positive learning environment, the following behaviors are unacceptable:

- talking out of turn
- carrying out side conversations in class
- chronic tardiness/early departures
- sleeping, reading non-class material
- internet cruising/email/text messaging

Cell phones must be off during class. No talking on the phone or texting. Laptop use is permitted for note-taking ONLY; violating the laptop policy means that you will not be allowed to use your laptop in class.

Lectures:
Class notes or other materials will be posted on Moodle (ecampus.fiu.edu).

Make-ups:
All make-up exams will be given on the last day of classes. No make-ups will be given for the last exam (Exam # 3).

Class communication:
This is a large lecture class and it is important to establish a protocol for student-instructor interaction in order for you to receive timely advice. For questions you can contact the instructor or the teaching assistant. You are welcome to communicate with us through e-mail or to visit us by previously setting an appointment - call the GSS Department to make an appointment (305-348-2247). To make sure that your e-mail does not get buried in the pile of other e-mails I usually receive, on your subject line, please write: “GEO 2000:” to precede your email purpose. I will respond to inquiries within 48 hours.

Please let the instructor know if you have any special needs. If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Upon contact, the DRC will review your request and contact your professors or other personnel to make arrangements for appropriate modification and/or assistance.
Weekly outline (subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 9-11-13): Introduction
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2 (Jan 18-20): Maps
Reading: Chapter 2

Week 3 (Jan 23-25-27): Physical Geography: Landforms
Reading: Chapter 3

Week 4 (Jan 30-Feb 1-3): Physical Geography: Weather and Climate
Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5 (Feb 8-10): The Geography of Natural Resources
Reading: Chapter 5

*MONDAY, FEB. 6th: EXAM #1*

Week 6 (Feb 13-15-17): The Geography of Natural Resources
Reading: Chapter 5

Week 7 (Feb 20-22-24): Population Geography
Reading: Chapter 6

Week 8 (Feb 27-29-Mar 2): Cultural Geography
Reading: Chapter 7

Week 9 (Mar 7-9): Spatial Interaction
Reading: Chapter 8

*MONDAY, MAR. 5th: EXAM #2*

Week 10 (Mar 12-14-16): SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (Mar 19-21-23): Political Geography
Reading: Chapter 9

Week 12 (Mar 26-28-30): Economic Geography
Reading: Chapter 10

Week 13 (Apr 2-4-6): An Urban World
Reading: Chapter 11

Reading: Chapter 12

Week 15 (Apr 16-18): The Regional Concept
Reading: Chapter 13

*FRIDAY, APRIL 20th: EXAM #3*