



GEO 2000 Introduction to Geography

Section: RVBB

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2024

Professor Information

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Office Hours:

11:00 to 12:00 Fridays, or by appointment

Course Description and Purpose

At the undergraduate level, every other course at FIU with GEA or GEO prefix covers some topic from the geographic perspective. Urban Geography covers cities from a geographic perspective; Geography of Global Change covers globalization and climate change from a geographic perspective; Lands and Peoples of the Middle East covers the Southwest Asia and North Africa from a geographic perspective. The list goes on.

At the start of all these courses, there are a few slides, or perhaps a whole lecture, that tries to rather quickly explain what the “geographic perspective” is. All of us instructors mention thinking spatially; most of us say the word “scale”; and we all probably show some maps. Then throughout the rest of the semester, we introduce the basic geographic concepts most applicable to the topic at hand. I bet, if you took every other

geography course at FIU, you would eventually learn almost all the foundational concepts of geography.

But – hear me out – what if you could learn all the foundational geographic concepts in one convenient course, so that you could be ahead when you took an upper-division geography course? What if there was a single course where you can learn how geographers approach issues so that you can apply a geographic perspective to your non-geography courses and to whatever career you ultimately pursue? And what if, as it turns out, that approach is pretty cool to learn about (or at least that your teacher thinks it is pretty cool to learn about)?

Well friends, this is it! This is the course that goes in depth on what the geographic perspective actually is and how geographers use it in the real world. As the above title says, let me introduce you to geography!

This course covers a lot of topics, and you have to put in work every week. This is especially true of this particular section because this is a half semester course.

The one downside to learning most of the basic geographic concepts, developed over the course of 150 years by thousands of geographers in a few weeks is that there are a lot of concepts. Besides the very basic core topics (like location, region, diffusion, scale), this course also introduces the foundational concepts of geographic techniques (ie maps and GIS), physical geography, population geography, cultural/social geography, political geography, economic geography, urban geography, and cultural/political ecology.

The theme of this course is that you have to know “a little bit about a lot”. While (good news) none of the concepts we cover are extraordinarily complicated to understand, there is going to be a steady stream of concepts to learn about. That means, multiple times a week, you will need to set aside time to read/watch the lectures and use them, along with the book as backup, to complete the study guides. You'll also have one activity to complete every week of the course. You won't be able to start reviewing a few hours before the tests and expect to do well – the only way to keep from getting buried is take some time at least twice each week to learn the material.

Course Goals

This course is part of the University Core Curriculum, as a Social Science, Group 2 course. The way this course approaches the goals of Social Science Group 2 is by examining how the geographic perspective sheds light on a wide array of social and ecological formations.

UCC Category Description

This course satisfies the University Core Curriculum (Category + Group) requirement.

According to this category:

(Paste description from [FIU UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS AND COURSE LIST](#). To find your course, use the “Ctrl F” Function and type the number or name of the course.)

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

- Understand what makes the geographic perspective different from that of other disciplines. While geography is very open to borrowing ideas from many other disciplines (such as anthropology, sociology, economics, environmental studies, history, geology, physics and psychology), it is not equivalent to any of those disciplines, nor is it just the sum of every other disciplines' ideas. In this course, we will emphasize how thinking spatially makes the geographic approach unique

from other possible ways of knowing the world, and by the end of this course, you will be able to articulate the difference thinking spatially makes.

- Gain exposure to, and basic understanding of, a broad spectrum of geographic concepts. All the other GEO courses FIU offers at the undergraduate level are about conceptual depth – getting to know how geographers approach a single area of study in detail. This course is about breadth – about understanding, comparing, making connections between and sometimes applying concepts from all of geography’s subfields.
- Apply these concepts to better understanding, and possibly changing, the geographies of your world. The point of learning all of these concepts is because geography provides a tool kit to gaining a better integrated, contextual understanding of the world we live in: from the spaces of our family, friends and neighborhood; through those of the cities and environments of South Florida; to the connections that make our country, hemisphere and world the way it is. Furthermore, by understanding these spaces better, it allows you as a student and citizen to learn more in the future about what changes you consider to be most urgent and most possible.

Expectations of the Course

This is a fully online course, which means all of the course work will be conducted online. All lecture PowerPoints and videos will be on Canvas; you will take your exam through Canvas; and you will submit all of your individual assignments through Canvas. You must visit and engage with the Canvas page multiple times per week to succeed in the course.

For my part, I will respond to messages within a few days (almost always much sooner); grade individual assignments within one week of the deadline.

Assignments

You earn points two ways in this class: through exams and assignments. Each of these sources of points are described below:

Lectures, Study Guides and the Exams

There are three exams in this course. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and two short essays, drawn from weekly lectures/readings and material from our in-person meetings.

The PowerPoint slides and videos for the lecture(s) for the entire course are already up. The lectures follow along the book pretty closely. Consider them mutually reinforcing: the video can help explain the slides and the book; the book will provide more detail on the lectures.

Each lecture is accompanied by a study guide. Each exam covers only material covered since the previous exam. This includes the final. That does not mean major concepts should be completely forgotten after first tested – indeed many concepts will be built upon throughout the course of the semester. But each test reflects the study guide for it, so you do not need to go back to earlier study guides. You do not turn in the study guides for a grade; but if you want to do well on the exam, you absolutely must complete them and study them. In fact, the best way to study is to fill them out yourself, even if you work with others to figure out the answers.

Exams will be open note, on Canvas, and require Lockdown Browser. They will be 85 minutes long – which is plenty of time, as long as you have actually studied.

Assignments: Possibly Including, 90-Second Physical Geography Video, Geography in My Neighborhood, and Comparing Research Approaches Assignments.

More information on these will be posted under the assignments tab later in the semester, but the point of these assignments is twofold. First, they are relatively short

writing/presentation assignments that, like attendance, provide a big point cushion. Second, they give you a chance to apply the concepts you are learning, link them to what you are learning in other classes (as well as what you see in your own neighborhood) and demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes listed on the syllabus.

Assessments

All assignments and exams in the course will be submitted and completed on Canvas.

- 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. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.
- All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, whichever happens first. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.
 - List all assessments (i.e. graded or practice)
 - Provide the dates and times when assessments will become available (i.e. From Monday 10:00 am – Tuesday 11:59 pm)
 - Provide assessment duration (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour)
 - Provide details for results
 - When will students be able to see the results (i.e. Immediately after the exam, after the availability period has ended, or not at all)
 - What will they be able to see the results (i.e. Total score only, all of the questions and answers, etc.)
 - The expected turn-around time for feedback or grade.
- Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please

contact FIU Canvas Help Team.

Grading

The grading scale is A = 100-93%, A- = 92.9-90%, B+ = 89.9-87%, B = 86.9-83%, B- = 82.9%-80%, C+ = 79.9-77%, C = 76.9-73%, C- = 72.9-70%, D+ = 69.9-67%, D = 66.9-63%, D- = 62-60% F = 59-0%, which translates to, in points:

Textbook and Course Materials

Introduction to Geography, 16th Edition

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Mark Bjelland, David Kaplan, Jon Malinowski, Arthur Getis, Judith Getis, Jerome Fellmann and Victoria Getis

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Publication Date: 2022

Copyright Date: 2022

ISBN 10: 1260364135

ISBN 13: 9781260364132

Panther Book Pack

FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack rental program, which 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. The Panther Book Pack program applies to all undergraduate credit hours per academic session. I

recommend that you review the pricing for all materials across your classes this session compared 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. You may opt back into the Panther Book Pack up to 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 credit hour and the course materials will be reserved for you for the undergraduate courses for which you are registered. For more details, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

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 24 hours.

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Technical Requirements and Skills

One of the greatest barriers to student success is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy, we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course, but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency in using a computer. Please go to the [What's Required webpage](#) to find out more information on this subject

Privacy Policy Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements webpage](#) for additional information.

Accessibility and Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact [FIU's Disability Resource Center](#).

Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)

- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit accessibility.fiu.edu for additional information about accessibility at FIU.

Academic Integrity

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Conduct and Honor Code.

Academic Misconduct includes:

Cheating

- The unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids or assistance from another person on any academic assignment or exercise, unless explicitly authorized by the course Instructor;

- Assisting another student in the unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids, unless explicitly authorized by the Instructor; and
- Having a substitute complete any academic assignment or completing an academic assignment for someone else, either paid or unpaid;

Plagiarism

- The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the Student's own.
- Assisting another student in the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.