

Course Syllabus

Edit



GEO4391: Marine Geography; Section RVAA (16872)

Instructor Information



Dr. Young Rae Choi

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- **Office:** SIPA I 308
- **Zoom Office Hours:** Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 pm or by Appointment
- **Zoom Meeting ID:** 819 8096 9766
- **Zoom Meeting Direct Link** 
(<https://fiu.zoom.us/j/81980969766>)
- **Instructor Biography**
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/217092/pages/instructor-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 Discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement.

This is a fully online Spring A course without any scheduled synchronous meetings, but you are more than welcome to attend office hours if you have any questions about the class material. This course runs from January 6 to February 23.

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 sections on the [Policies](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/217092/pages/policies-2) (<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/217092/pages/policies-2>) page.

- University Policies
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Required Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Academic Misconduct
- Copyright Statement

- Inclusivity Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

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 or act dishonestly in order to gain an advantage. Any more-than-a-sentence-long texts directly copied and pasted from external sources (i.e. not from your brain) are considered plagiarism, which is a serious academic offense that I must report to the FIU Academic Integrity Committee. Using AI (e.g., Chat GPT) for research is allowed but you should never copy and paste the texts generated by AI for written assignments, which will also be considered plagiarism. To avoid this, **always paraphrase in your own words. If you need to cite others' words, use quotation marks and add reference(s).** **Both in-text and full citations are required.** Visit <https://library.fiu.edu/plagiarism>  (<https://library.fiu.edu/plagiarism>) for more resources.

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. Class materials consist of readings, videos, and lectures (videos + pdf). 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. The assignments will assess your comprehension of the required materials.

Optional materials are for your self-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> (<https://www.npr.org/sections/news/>)

(<https://www.npr.org/sections/news/>) (Also, listen to NPR Radio on WLRN 91.3 FM)

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com> (<http://www.nytimes.com/>) (<http://www.nytimes.com/>) (Go to www.nytimes.com/FIU (<http://www.nytimes.com/FIU>) (<http://www.nytimes.com/FIU>) for free one-year access)

The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/us> (<https://theconversation.com/us>) (<https://theconversation.com/us>)

Le Monde Diplomatique <https://mondediplo.com> (<https://mondediplo.com/>) (<https://mondediplo.com/>)

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk> (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>) (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>)

Al Jazeera <https://www.aljazeera.com> (<https://www.aljazeera.com/>) (<https://www.aljazeera.com/>)

World Data:

Our World in Data (Oxford) <https://ourworldindata.org> (<https://ourworldindata.org>) (<https://ourworldindata.org>)

Software:

Google Earth <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html> (<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>) (<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>)

Google Maps <https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces> (<https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces>) (<https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces>)

QGIS <http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html> (<http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>) (<http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>)

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/>

(<https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/environmental-film-festivals/>)

(<https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/environmental-film-festivals/>)

Culture unplugged <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/festival/films.php#view=thumb>

(<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](http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/)  (<http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/>) 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

Course structure

Canvas: This course uses Canvas as a course webpage. All the readings, lecture slides, class activities, assignment instructions, the latest version of the syllabus, and other announcements will be posted here. If you experience problems with accessing Canvas, contact ETS in the Green Library for support (GL 152a).

Class material: You must read all the mandatory readings. Links to these materials will be available on Canvas in advance. Additional readings will complement, not repeat, the lectures.

Assignments/Discussions & Grading

Grading

Graded Item	No.	%	% of Grade	Due date
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.
 - *Read the prompts carefully and answer all the questions asked.*
 - *Read the grading rubrics and make sure to include all the components.*
 - *Refer to the class materials as in-text references in the form of (Author, Year). If referring to external source(s), add a list of references at the end. Any referencing style is allowed. Class materials do not need to be included in the list of references.*
 - *Once you have submitted an assignment, you will have access to others' postings, and yours will also become visible to your classmates. Please take care in determining what to post, and learn from reading others' works.*

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