

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Department of Geosciences

GEA4275 – Human-Environment Interactions in South Florida

Spring 2012 – Monday and Wednesday, 4:30-5:50pm – PS 337

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Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 10am-12pm

Pre-requisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: This course is for Geography majors and majors in other related fields. Methods covered in previous Geosciences courses are emphasized in a collaborative learning environment. Critical and systematic thinking skills are used in a series of case-study projects.

Intended Audience: GEO 4275 is the capstone course designed for students in all tracks of Geography to apply methods and approaches learned in previous geosciences courses to a variety of human-environmental interactions. Additionally this course is well suited for upper level students from related fields (e.g., environmental studies, planning, etc.) who desire to explore human-environmental interactions from a geography viewpoint.

Textbook and course materials: *Classic Edition Sources: Environmental Studies*, 4th Edition, by Thomas Easton (McGraw Hill, 2011). Additional course materials such as syllabus, schedules, announcements, lecture notes, class assignments, and multimedia resources will be made available in class or through FAU's Blackboard system.

Course objectives: Students successfully completing GEA 4275 will comprehend a variety of scientific processes and thought that occur through the interactions of the human and environmental systems. Students will develop their research skills, knowledge in interdisciplinary learning, communication and critical thinking, as well as apply approaches/methodologies/techniques learned in previous, related classes.

Strategy: The course will utilize both lecture and seminar style approaches, incorporating individual and collaborative learning in a manner where the instructor and students share responsibility for the learning process. Students will benefit from the collective knowledge, skills, insights, and efforts of each other. Students will take part in an Academic Service-Learning project and complete a relevant research project illustrating their understanding of scientific and geographic methods. These projects will include both a written report and oral presentation in the class.

Graded Requirements: students' tasks include:

1. **Participation (15%):** each student will be expected to actively participate in all class discussions and weekly Wiki posts. Class attendance is mandatory. A student with more than three missed class shall not pass this class.
2. **Exams (30%):** There will be one mid-term and one final exam. Questions will be essay format involving analysis and critical thought on the assigned reading and class discussions.
3. **Academic Service-Learning (A S-L) project (15%):** Each student will identify an agency/organization to complete a 10-12 hour A S-L experience with; providing service to the community and allowing you to apply knowledge from this course to a local, national, and/or global human-environmental issue. Students will complete a 2-3 page written reflection of their A S-L experience and well as a class oral presentation. This assignment may be done in small groups but should be relevant to your individual class research paper.
4. **Research paper (30%):** Each student will write a 12-15 page **original** research paper on a scientific question dealing with human-environmental interactions and then present his/her research orally at the end of the semester. This project will be chosen by the student and approved by the instructor.
5. **Research paper presentation (10%):** Each student will give a 10-15 minute oral presentation of their research project during the last three class meetings.

Grade postings: Scores are listed in Blackboard under *My Grades*.

The grade scale is set as below, with scores rounded to the nearest whole percent:

Percent Avg.	Grade	Percent Avg.	Grade
93 - 100	A	73 - 76	C
90 - 92	A-	70 - 72	C-
87 - 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
83 - 86	B	63 - 66	D
80 - 82	B-	60 - 62	D-
77 - 79	C+	0 - 59	F

Academic Service-Learning Statement:

Due to the nature of the course content, this course is designated as an “academic service-learning” course. The assistance you provide to the agency/organization during your academic service-learning experience is a service to the community and will allow you to apply knowledge from the course to local, national, and/or global social issues. Throughout this course you will be participating in academic service-learning activities while demonstrating civic engagement at campus, local, national, and/or global community levels. You will also reflect on your academic service-learning experience and the impact on the community as well as your professional development.

To receive academic service-learning notation of hours on your transcript, your hours must be logged electronically through SweatMonkey, www.sweatmonkey.org, while completing your academic service-learning project. Also, pre-assessment and post-assessment surveys through Survey Monkey are required to be taken by academic service-learning students. Please visit the Weppner Center for Civic Engagement & Service website, www.fau.edu/volunteer, for instructions on how to log hours through SweatMonkey and the links for the surveys. Once your hours have been approved and both surveys have been completed, you will receive an academic service-learning notation on your transcript..

Plagiarism: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Students taking this course must adhere to the FAU Academic Policies and Procedures. **Additionally, all student work must be ORIGINAL to this class and may be submitted to SafeAssign.com in determining adherence to university plagiarism policies.** Plagiarism in any assignment, including the research paper may result in a ZERO grade for that assignment. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copy/paste of material from the Internet and not properly citing work.

Electronic mail: Please note that this course conforms to the FAU student email policy. All course-related email will be sent to your FAU email account. If you want to forward your FAU email to a different account, you can set this up within your myFAU account. All students must regularly (at least twice weekly) access their electronic mail accounts, as well as Blackboard for announcements and scheduling information! You can normally expect all emails to the instructor to be replied to within 48 hours.

Policy on make-ups: If you miss an assignment, you lose credit for it unless you can provide the instructor with written documentation of a medical or family emergency. If you know that you can't take an assignment beforehand, be sure to contact the instructor to see if it can be administered at a different time or date. .

The “incomplete” grade: The grade of I (incomplete) shall ONLY be given for the reasons listed and under the conditions specified in the FAU course catalog (<http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/catalog/academics.php>).

Academic integrity: All students in this course are expected to adhere to all of FAU's Academic Policies and Regulations, including the Honor Code, http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf. You must never represent the work of another person as your own without acknowledgment. In this course, you may work together in study groups and may help one another with the homework assignments. **However, during the tests you may use your lecture notes and the textbook ONLY, and may NOT collaborate with others.** If you have any questions regarding interpretations of academic integrity rules, be sure to see the instructor.

Course etiquette: Attendance and class participation are an important part of this course. Students must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss assigned reading material. Class absence and/or tardiness will negatively affect your participation grade. During student presentations you must give your complete attention to the speaker and show respect and professionalism when asking questions or commenting on the presentation.

Special accommodations: Athletes competing in sports this semester should be certain that their academic advisor is aware of the course assignment schedule and contacts the instructor as soon as possible if there are conflicts. Since all assignments can be completed online from any Internet connected computer, extensions are not generally provided for "away" games and competitions.

Students with disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) - in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) - and follow all OSD procedures.

Class Schedule

(please refer to Blackboard for additional reading assignments and any changes to the dates below)

Jan. 9: Introduction, review syllabus, discuss A S-L and Research Projects.

Jan. 11: The Idea of Wilderness

Text readings: (1) *Man and Nature*, (15) *The Trouble with Wilderness*

Jan. 16: No class meeting - MLK holiday.

Jan. 18: The Idea of Wilderness continued

Generating research ideas and questions; potential A S-L opportunities.

Jan. 23: American Environmentalism

Text readings: (2) *Hetch Hetchy Valley*, (3) *Principles of Conservation*, (4) *A Sand County Almanac* (14) *Sierra Club vs. Morton*

Jan. 25: Research question proposals, Data collection and research methodology

Jan. 30: American Environmentalism continued

Feb. 1: Library Research (Meet at Library LY 136)

Feb. 6: Ecosystems

Text readings: (9) *Human Domination of the Earth's Ecosystems*, (8) *Life and Death of the Salt Marsh*, (10) *Ecosystems and Human Well-being*, (21) *Restoring Rivers* (35) *Human Carrying Capacity*

Feb. 8: On Campus Field Trip – FAU Preserve

Feb. 13: Ecosystems continued

Feb. 15: Research outline presentations and ASL updates

Feb. 20: Biodiversity/Invasive Species;

Text readings: (16) *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, (17) *Impacts of Biodiversity Loss on Ocean Ecosystems*, (18) *Rethinking Rain Forests*

Feb. 22: Biodiversity/Invasive Species continued

Feb. 27: Research projects/AS-L

Feb. 29: Mid-term exam

Mar. 5, 7: No class – Spring Break (optional – complete A S-L project as part of an “alternative spring break”).

Mar. 12: Environmental Degradation

Text readings: (5) *Prehistoric Overkill*, (7) *The Tragedy of the Commons*, (31) *Environmental Justice for All*, (25) *Could Food Shortages Bring Down Civilization?*

Mar. 14: Environmental Degradation continued

Mar. 19: Systems Thinking

Text readings: (32) *Putting a Value on Nature's “Free” Services*, (38) *Collapse*

Mar. 21: Systems Thinking continued

Mar. 26: Sustainability;

Text readings: (12) *Energy and the Environment*, (13) *A Path to Sustainable Energy by 2030*, (26) *Radically Rethinking Agriculture for the 21st Century*

Mar. 28: LEED building campus field trip

Apr. 2: Global Climate Change

Text readings: (22) *The Rising Sea*, (23) *Climate Change 2007*, (24) *The most Important Number on Earth*

Apr. 4: Global Climate Change continued

Apr. 9: Discussion of Undergraduate and Graduate Research Day

Apr. 11: Global Climate Change continued

Apr. 16: Undergraduate Student Presentations

Apr. 18: Undergraduate Student Presentations

Apr. 23: Undergraduate Student Presentations

Apr. 25: Undergraduate Student Presentations

Apr. 30: Final exam period, **4:00 – 6:30pm**