

Syllabus

Geography 1100 – Exploring the World through Google Earth

Fall 2020

Instructor: Tim Edgar, M.S., Assistant Professor (Lecturer)

Contact Information: tim.edgar@geog.utah.edu, GC 4842

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Class Location and Time: Online, asynchronous

Prerequisites: None

Course Fulfills: Physical/Life Science Exploration (SF) and Sustainability – Limited (SUSL) requirements

Department: Geography

Credit Hours

GEOG 1100 is a three credit hour course. At the University of Utah it is assumed that there is at least one hour in class and two hours outside of class per week or the equivalent combination connected to every credit hour.

Course Description

Social and environmental changes are occurring at rates never before witnessed in the history of humanity. Geographic data have revolutionized our view of the physical and human processes causing global change, and Google Earth has greatly increased our ability to access and visualize these data. This course uses Google Earth as a tool to investigate important geographic processes that are responsible for global change phenomena. Interactive, self-guided labs will use Google Earth to analyze datasets for topics including climate change, population growth, migration, land cover change, disease, and natural hazards.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe the basic factors that govern the Earth's energy budget, and explain how changes in these factors can lead to cooling or warming of the Earth system
- Explain the physical and human process responsible for global change phenomena
- Understand large scale changes in human and physical systems and the relative importance of these changes to the individual and societies
- Demonstrate effective use of Google Earth for the visualization and analysis of datasets

General Education

This course meets the Physical/Life Science (SF) requirement.

This course addresses the following Essential Learning Outcomes: Critical Thinking, Quantitative Literacy or Problem Solving, Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning.

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. Lab assignments and quizzes will cover material presented in the online video lectures. For this reason, viewing the video lectures and note taking while playing the lectures is extremely important.

Important dates

Last day to add, drop (delete), elect CR/NC, or audit classes

Friday, 4 September

Last day to withdraw from classes

Friday, 16 October

Assessments

Labs

There are 12 labs scheduled for this course. Lab assignments are posted to Canvas on the weeks shown in the schedule below. Each lab will be submitted as a document to Canvas by 12:59 PM Sunday on the week specified in schedule below. Individual effort is required for the labs; group work on the labs is not permitted.

Each of the labs requires **Google Earth Pro, version 7.x**. Google Earth Pro is freely available for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems. You can complete the labs on your own computer, or use a university computer lab that has the appropriate software. Previous versions of Google Earth, or versions of Google Earth on mobile devices, may not open or display the lab datasets properly.

Assignments are expected to be well formatted and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Poorly formatted assignments will not be graded; assignments will lose points for poor spelling and/or grammar. 10% of the value of the lab will be deducted for each day the lab is late (after 12:59 PM, Sunday). Late labs will not be accepted more than one week after the due date. Your lowest lab score will be automatically dropped in determining your final grade.

Quizzes

Most weeks, there will be a short quiz on the week's material. Quizzes are accessed through Canvas, have a time limit (usually 10-15 minutes), and can only be taken once. Each week's quiz must be completed by 11:59 PM, Sunday.

There are a total of 12 quizzes scheduled for the course; your lowest quiz score will be automatically dropped in determining your final grade.

Final Project

All students are required to create a final project. For the project, you will need to source one or more Google Earth datasets that relate to a topic within the primary themes of the class: **geography** and **environmental change**. Your project must use a dataset(s) not covered in the lab assignments. You will submit a project proposal to Canvas with your selected topic and dataset(s) on Thursday, 8 November by 11:59PM. Topics and datasets are "first come, first served;" if you select a topic or dataset that is the same or too similar to a dataset that someone else is using for their project, you may be required to choose another topic or dataset. There will be several scheduled meetings during the semester to consult with the instructor on the final project.

Your final project will include your dataset(s) along with placemarks that describe important attributes of the topic and dataset(s) you have selected. The project will be submitted as a Google Earth .kmz file.

Final projects are due on Sunday, 6 December by 11:59PM. Further guidance on the final project will be provided via postings to Canvas and Zoom meetings with the instructor.

Extra Credit

There are NO extra credit opportunities available in this course.

Grading

Percentage Points:

Lab Assignments	50 %
Quizzes	40 %
Final Project	10 %
Plagiarism Certification	3 %
Total	103 %

Grade Scale:

A	93-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-90%
B	83-87%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-80%
C	73-77%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-70%
D	63-67%
D-	60-63%
E	<60%

Table of Grades

Grades	Points	Explanation
A	(4.0 points)	Excellent performance, superior achievement
A-	(3.7 points)	
B+	(3.3 points)	Good performance, substantial achievement
B	(3.0 points)	
B-	(2.7 points)	
C+	(2.3 points)	Standard performance and achievement
C	(2.0 points)	
C-	(1.7 points)	
D+	(1.3 points)	Substandard performance, marginal achievement
D	(1.0 points)	
D-	(0.7 points)	
E	(0.0 points)	Unsatisfactory performance and achievement

Academic Misconduct Statement

As stated in the [Student Code](#); "Academic misconduct' includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."

- "Cheating' involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise."
- "Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members."
- "Plagiarism' means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression."
- "Fabrication' or 'falsification' includes reporting experiments or measurements or statistical analyses never performed; manipulating or altering data or other manifestations of research to achieve a desired result; falsifying or misrepresenting background information, credentials or other academically relevant information; or selective reporting, including the deliberate suppression of conflicting or unwanted data. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data and/or results."

This course has a zero tolerance policy for academic misconduct. For any coursework in which it is demonstrated that a student engaged in academic misconduct the resulting academic sanction will be a score of zero for the coursework. Additionally the student will be required to meet with the academic advisor from the Department of Geography and/or your respective department, and the instance of academic misconduct will be entered into a university database. See the Student Code for additional information on academic sanctions.

Disabilities Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#).

Course Schedule*

Week	Date	Topics	Quiz	Lab
1	24 Aug – 30 Aug	Introduction/ Geographic principles, geospatial data, and Google Earth	0	1
2	31 Aug – 6 Sept	Remote sensing/ Working with KML files	1	2
3	7 Sept – 13 Sept	Earth's energy budget/ Global atmospheric circulation and ocean currents	2	3
4	14 Sept – 20 Sept	Earth's climates/ The ozone hole	3	4
5	21 Sept – 27 Sept	Global climate change	4	5
6	28 Sept – 4 Oct	Ice sheets and glaciers/ Climate and ice sheets	5	6
7	5 Oct – 11 Oct	El Niño/ Aerosols and dust	6	7
8	12 Oct – 18 Oct	Carbon cycle/ Water resources	7	8
9	19 Oct – 25 Oct	2020: Population 7.7 billion/ Migration and urbanization		9
10	26 Oct – 1 Nov	Agriculture and food security	8	10
11	2 Nov – 8 Nov	Geography of Terrorism/ Paleoecology: Reconstructing the past	9	
12	9 Nov – 15 Nov	Fire and evacuation in the Wildland-Urban Interface/ Climate and wildfire in the west	10	11
13	16 Nov – 22 Nov	Natural hazards	11	12
14	23 Nov – 29 Nov	Energy resources	12	
15	30 Nov – 6 Dec	Final Project Meetings w/Instructor		

*Note that the above schedule is subject to change.

Face Coverings are Required in all In-person Classes for Both Students AND Faculty

Based on CDC guidelines, the university requires everyone to wear face coverings in shared public spaces on campus, including all classrooms. As a reminder, when I wear a face covering, I am protecting you. When you wear a face covering, you are protecting me and all of your classmates. If you forget your face covering, you will be asked to leave class to retrieve it. If you repeatedly fail to wear a face covering in class, you will be referred to the Dean of Students for a possible violation of the Student Code. Note that some students may qualify for accommodations through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you think you meet these criteria and desire an exception to the face covering policy, contact the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). Accommodations should be obtained prior to the first day of class so that your instructors are notified by CDA of any students who are not required to wear a face covering.

Safety & Wellness

Your safety is our top priority. In an emergency, dial 911 or seek a nearby emergency phone (throughout campus). Report any crimes or suspicious people to 801-585-COPS; this number will get you to a dispatch officer at the University of Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS; dps.utah.edu). If at any time, you would like to be escorted by a security officer to or from areas on campus, DPS will help — just give a call. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

The University of Utah seeks to provide a safe and healthy experience for students, employees, and others who make use of campus facilities. In support of this goal, the University has established confidential resources and support services to assist students who may have been affected by harassment, abusive relationships, or sexual misconduct. A detailed listing of University Resources for campus safety can be found at <https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/campussafety.php>

Your well-being is key to your personal safety. If you are in crisis, call 801-587-3000; help is close. The university has additional excellent resources to promote emotional and physical wellness, including the Counseling Center (<https://counselingcenter.utah.edu>), the Wellness Center (<https://wellness.utah.edu>), and the Women's Resource Center (<https://womenscenter.utah.edu>). Counselors and advocates in these centers can help guide you to other resources to address a range of issues, including substance abuse and addiction.