

Syllabus

Geography 1100 – Exploring the World through Google Earth

Fall 2021

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

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

Office Hours: In GC 4842 Monday & Wednesday 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM,
In GC 1855 Thursday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Class Time and Location: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:50 AM - 1:10 PM, GC 2560

Prerequisites: None

Department: Geography

General Education

This course meets the Physical/Life Science (SF) and Sustainability – Limited (SUSL) requirements and addresses the following Essential Learning Outcomes: Critical Thinking, Quantitative Literacy or Problem Solving, Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning.

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

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the primary 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

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. Lab assignments and quizzes will cover material discussed in class. For this reason, attending the lectures and taking notes are extremely important.

Important dates

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

Friday, 3 September

Last day to withdraw from classes

Friday, 22 October

Evaluation

Labs

There are 12 labs scheduled for this course. Lab assignments will be posted to Canvas on the dates shown in the schedule below. Each lab will be completed outside of class and submitted as a document to Canvas by 11:30 AM on the due date specified in the schedule below. Individual effort is required for the labs; group work on the labs is not permitted.

Each of the labs requires **Google Earth version 7.x**. Google Earth 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 11:30 AM). Late labs will not be accepted more than one week after the due date. Your lowest lab score will be automatically dropped for determining your final grade.

Quizzes

Most weeks, there will be a short quiz on the previous week's material. Quizzes cannot be made up unless the instructor is contacted prior to an absence. If a make-up quiz is offered, it may take any form at the discretion of the instructor. If a written make-up quiz is offered, you will be required to take the quiz at Exam Services in the Marriott Library. A fee is charged by Exam Services for administration of exams.

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

Final Project

All students are required to create a final project, for which you will 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 cannot contain any of the datasets from the lab assignments. You will submit a project proposal to Canvas with your selected topic and dataset(s) by 11:59PM on Wednesday, 3 November. 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 a classmate is using for their project, you may be required to choose another topic or dataset. If you have difficulty selecting a topic or finding a dataset, please consult with the instructor.

Your final project will include your dataset(s) along with placemarks in Google Earth that describe and analyze 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 by 11:59PM on Wednesday, 8 December. Further guidance on the final project will be provided via postings to Canvas and consultation 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	94-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	87-90%
B	84-87%
B-	80-84%
C+	77-80%
C	74-77%
C-	70-74%
D+	67-70%
D	64-67%
D-	60-64%
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.

Disability Accommodation

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. 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.

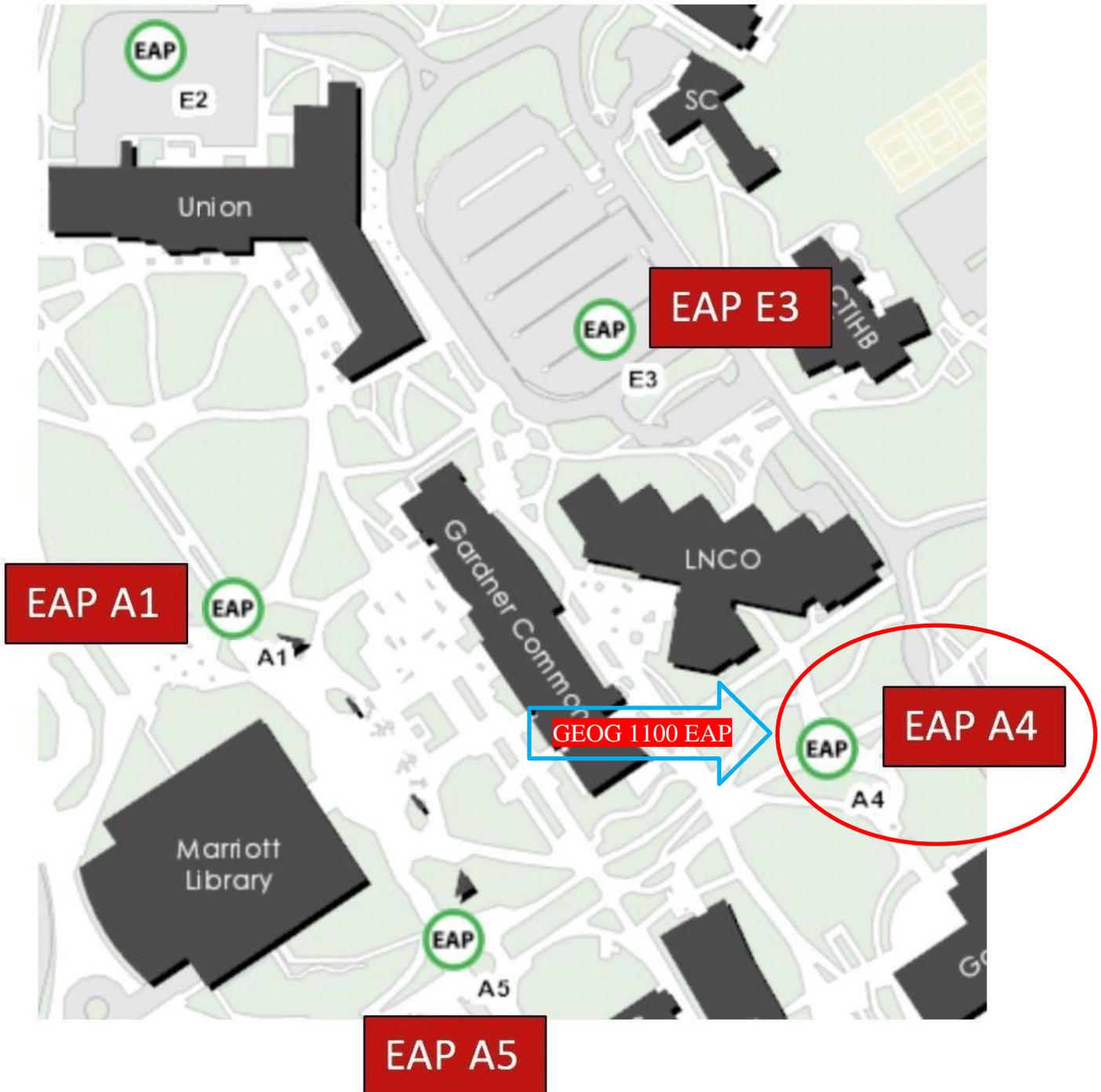
Course Schedule*

Date	Topic	Quiz	Lab Available	Lab Due
Mon 23 Aug	Introduction			
Wed 25 Aug	Geographic principles, geospatial data, and Google Earth		1	
Mon 30 Aug	Remote sensing			
Wed 1 Sep	Working with KML files (<u>bring a laptop if you have one</u>)		2	1
Mon 6 Sep	No Class, Labor Day Holiday			
Wed 8 Sep	Discussion on Final Project			2
Mon 13 Sep	Earth's energy budget	1		
Wed 15 Sep	Global atmospheric circulation and ocean currents		3	
Mon 20 Sep	Earth's climates	2		
Wed 22 Sep	The ozone hole		4	3
Mon 27 Sep	Global climate change I	3		
Wed 29 Sep	Global climate change II		5	4
Mon 4 Oct	Climate and ice sheets	4		
Wed 6 Oct	Ice sheets and glaciers		6	5
Mon 11 Oct	No Class, Fall Break			
Wed 13 Oct	No Class, Fall Break			
Mon 18 Oct	El Niño	5		
Wed 20 Oct	Aerosols and dust		7	6
Mon 25 Oct	Water resources	6		
Wed 27 Oct	Carbon cycle		8	7
Mon 1 Nov	2021: Population 7.8 billion	7		
	Migration and urbanization		9	8
Wed 3 Nov	Final Project Proposal Due			
Mon 8 Nov	Climate and social stability	8		
Wed 10 Nov	Agriculture and food security		10	9
Mon 15 Nov	Paleoecology: Reconstructing the past	9		
Wed 17 Nov	Fire and evacuation in the Wildland-Urban Interface		11	10
Mon 22 Nov	Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa	10		
	Natural hazards		12	11
Wed 24 Nov	Lecture and Lab Introduction Videos provided on Canvas			
Mon 29 Nov	Energy resources I	11		
Wed 1 Dec	Energy resources II			12
Mon 6 Dec	No Class, use class time for final project			
Wed 8 Dec	Conclusions, Final Project Due by 11:59 PM	12		

*Note that the above schedule is subject to change.

Scheduling Conflicts: Please speak with the instructor within the first two weeks of class regarding any known conflicts you may have with the course schedule.

GEOG 1100 [Emergency Assembly Point](#)



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). 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](#).

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 on the Office of the Registrar's [Campus Safety / Responding to Harassment](#) page.

Your well-being is key to your personal safety. If you are in crisis, call Community Crisis Intervention & Support Services at 801-587-3000; help is close.

The university has additional excellent resources to promote emotional and physical wellness, including the [Counseling Center](#), the [Wellness Center](#), and the [Women's Resource Center](#). Counselors and advocates in these centers can help guide you to other resources to address a range of issues, including substance abuse and addiction.

COVID-19 Guidelines

University leadership has urged all faculty, students, and staff to **model the vaccination, testing, and masking behaviors** we want to see in our campus community.

These include:

- Vaccination
- Masking indoors
- If unvaccinated, getting weekly asymptomatic coronavirus testing

Vaccination

- **Get a COVID-19 vaccination** if you have not already done so. Vaccination is proving highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization and death from coronavirus. Vaccination is the single best way to stop this COVID resurgence in its tracks.
- Many in the campus community already have gotten vaccinated:
 - More than 80% of U. employees
 - Over 70% of U. students
- Visit [MyChart](#), [Campus Alert-Vaccine](#), or [Vaccines.gov](#) to schedule your vaccination.

Masking

- While masks are no longer required outside of Health Sciences facilities, UTA buses and campus shuttles, CDC guidelines now call for everyone to wear face masks indoors.
 - Check the [CDC website](#) periodically for masking updates
 - Treat masks like seasonal clothing (i.e. during community surges in COVID transmission, masks are strongly encouraged indoors and in close groups outside).

Testing

- If you are not yet vaccinated, get weekly asymptomatic coronavirus tests. This is a helpful way to protect yourself and those around you because asymptomatic individuals can unknowingly spread the coronavirus to others.
 - Asymptomatic testing centers are open and convenient:
 - Online scheduling Saliva test (no nasal swabs)
 - Free to all students returning to campus (required for students in University housing)
 - Results often within 24 hours
 - Visit [Campus Alert-Testing](#)
- **Remember: Students must self-report if they test positive for COVID-19** via [COVID-19 CENTRAL @THEU](#).

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification, particularly when the modification is done to rectify an error that would disadvantage the student.