

# GEA 3271.B: The Face of Florida

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Dr. Timothy Fik**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Deadline:** 16 weeks from each student's enrollment date

### **Overview:**

This course introduces students to the geo-history and geography of Florida. It includes an overview of the physical landscape of Florida including shorelines, soils, vegetation, resources, and climate, and surveys various environmental problems and the forces and factors causing environmental degradation. The course includes an overview of the Florida economy and its many key sectors and activities, as well as discussions of settlement patterns and development, socio-economic change, and demographic and population growth trends.

### **Course Description:**

The first part of GEA 3271 deals with the evolution of the modern-day topography of Florida. This is followed by a study of those structures and processes that are changing both the surface and subsurface features of the state. The climate, soils, and vegetation are then introduced to round out the study of the physical environment. Following the study of the physical environment, the human element is introduced. A brief chronological study of the settlement pattern from the time of the discovery of Florida through the 2000 census is included, with emphasis on the large population increase in the state since World War II and the take-off period during the 1980's and 90's. Most of the problems facing Florida today would not exist if the state was uninhabited. However, since Florida's population is increasing by approximately forty-five people per hour, the problems are escalating. The last half of the course deals with various problems facing the people of Florida—cultural, social, economic, agricultural, and environmental. In each of the areas studied, the problems are introduced, and you are given the opportunity to suggest solutions.

### **Course Goals:**

After you have completed this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the physical environment of Florida and the effects of humans upon that environment.
- Discuss the various problems—cultural, social, economic, agricultural, and environmental that the state of Florida continues to face.
- Understand the social, spatial and environmental impacts that have resulted from an ever-increasing population in the state.

### **Overview of the Course:**

This course contains fourteen lessons. You must complete all fourteen lessons. You are required in each lesson to first complete the reading assignment. After reviewing the lesson's objectives and discussion, you are required to complete a written assignment and submit it for grading. The typical written assignment is comprised of a series of short-essay questions. You are expected to answer each question and provide sufficient discussion and detail to demonstrate mastery over the subject matter or concepts. In some cases, you will be asked to formulate an opinion. You should back up your arguments and statements and respond in a coherent fashion using complete sentences. Note that you are expected to complete a descriptive

essay/research paper on Florida's Economy (highlighting the major income-generating activities in the Sunshine State). You must also take two examinations in this course: a midterm exam (after assignment #8) and a comprehensive final exam (once all assignments are completed). The exams are mandatory, and you must complete both exams and all written assignments before a final course grade can be issued. There are no exceptions. The midterm should be taken after you have complete Assignments 1-8 (and covers all material presented in those assignments). The final exam is cumulative, though more weighted toward material covered in the second-half of the course (in particular, Assignments 10-14).

### **Required Textbooks and Course Materials:**

Clarence M. Head and Robert B. Marcus, *The Face of Florida* (3rd ed. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1998). In spite of its vintage, this textbook remains as one of the definitive texts on the physical geography of Florida. As this course is largely oriented toward the geo-historical and physical aspects of Florida, the textbook remains as a vital resource and should be read in its entirety.

### **Instructor:**

#### **Course Author**

The late **Dr. Robert B. Marcus** was Professor of Geography at the University of Florida, where he taught from 1954-1989. He also taught at Elizabeth City High School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and The Pennington School, Pennington, New Jersey. The author received his B.S. degree in biology and geography from West Chester University (Pennsylvania) and his master's and doctorate from the University of Florida.

Dr. Marcus authored *A Geography of Florida* and co-authored *Florida: A Geographical Approach* and *The Face of Florida* (the textbook used in this course). He also published numerous articles in geographical journals and was a leader in the fields of cultural and physical geography. During World War II, Robert Marcus served as an anti-aircraft officer in the United States and the Philippines. He retired from the United States Army Reserves in 1973 with the rank of Colonel. Dr. Marcus passed away in 1995, but his legacy remains.

#### **Course Author and Your Instructor**

**Dr. Timothy J. Fik**, your instructor for this course, is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Florida, and has been teaching at UF since 1989. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, with a major in economic geography and a minor in agricultural economics in May of 1989. His Master's degree was in Geography (with a specialty in Urban and Regional Analysis) from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1985), where he also completed a B.A. in Economic Geography (1980).

Before coming to the University of Florida, Dr. Fik taught economic geography at the University of Arizona (1986-1989), where he won three awards for excellence in teaching. At the University of Florida he continues to teach courses in quantitative methods and human geography, and has received several nominations and awards for teaching and advising. A well-published figure in the field of geography, Dr. Fik is author of *The Geography of Economic Development: Regional Changes, Global Challenges* (2nd edition), McGraw-Hill (2000) and co-author of the third edition text *Economic Geography*, Wiley (1999). In addition, Dr. Fik has published over 40 articles in peer-refereed journals and is a frequent presenter at professional national and international conferences. Dr. Fik is the 1987 recipient of the Charles Tiebout Prize in Regional Science and was ranked 16th in the world by the International Regional Science community in terms of articles published and citations during the decade of the 1990s. In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Fik is also an accomplished musician, poet, songwriter, and music producer. While at UF, he developed a course entitled: *Pop Music and Culture: A Geographical Perspective*, a course that is typically offered to undergraduates during the Fall semester and occasionally taught as an Honors course. His music career spans twenty-four years, with over

1,500 live performances to his credit, including major concert openings for numerous national recording artists in rock and country rock genres. On a related academic front, he is currently in the process of completing a draft of a book on the history and diffusion of Blues Music in America (which is expected to be completed by 2012). Dr. Fik is also affiliated with Florida Sea Grant, and continues to work in a consulting capacity and as a Co-Principal Investigator on research projects pertaining to Recreational Boating and Coastal Management issues in the state of Florida. He has co-authored over a dozen technical reports and articles in this research area.

### **Academic Policies:**

This Flexible Learning course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance as a Flexible Learning student are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom setting.

### **How to Approach the Written Assignments:**

Take particular care in preparing the written assignments you submit for grading. Your material should be created and saved using MS Word. Please save all documents as '.doc' for uploading. Leave a margin of at least 1 inch at the left-hand side of the page for your instructor's comments. Each page should be numbered and contain your name and the written assignment number. Please follow the naming convention for saving your assignments in MS Word, and then upload them via the 'Assignment' link on the portal menu. The written assignments should prompt a good deal of work on your part. They are designed to test your understanding of the text material and to give you an opportunity to apply, respond and to evaluate critically the material you have read. You are encouraged to take great care in composing your answers to the questions. Your essays and short-answer responses should display the depth of your understanding and the quality of your thinking. Written assignments should be free of grammatical errors, and all written responses and answers should be in complete sentences. Submit each written assignment for grading as soon as it is completed. **You may submit a maximum of three written assignments per week.** It is a poor practice to delay sending in a finished written assignment while working on subsequent lessons; there is no advantage to it. Feedback on previous assignments may help you in preparing future ones, and it will certainly aid you in preparing for examinations. It is a good practice to keep a copy of the written assignments you submit. Be careful to answer all questions in **your own words**. If you quote from your reading, be sure to use quotation marks. Indicate the source of your quote and its page number in parentheses following the quoted material, for example: (Jones, p. 83). If you quote from a source other than the text, provide a full footnote.

### **How to Prepare for the Examinations:**

The midterm examination should be taken as soon as you have finished Written Assignment 8; the final examination should be taken as soon as you have submitted Written Assignment 14 (and all previous assignments have been submitted (including assignment #9, the Descriptive Essay on Florida's Economy). You will have 4 hours to complete each exam. The exams are closed-book but notes and scratch paper is allowed. Each exam needs to be scheduled through ProctorU. See the ProctorU instructions and handout in Module 8 and in Module 14. A computer with a webcam and microphone is required for the exams. The midterm examination consists of 70 multiple-choice questions and two essay questions. The final exam consists of 70 multiple-choice questions and two essay questions. In each exam, you will be able to select your two essay questions from four questions. Map questions will be included. You will also be given a map with outlined counties and approximately 10 items shown on the map. Ten multiple choice questions will ask you to identify the items. Sufficient hints will be given so that you can determine the proper classification of the items.

**Grading Criteria:**

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Written Assignments (13 @ 3% each)	39%
Descriptive Essay/Research Paper	11%
Midterm Examination	20%
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

This is the official grading scale for computing Grade Point Average

A	=	4.0	C	=	2.0
A-	=	3.67	C-	=	1.67
B+	=	3.33	D+	=	1.33
B	=	3.0	D	=	1.0
B-	=	2.67	D-	=	0.67
C+	=	2.33	E	=	0.0

This is the grading scale with equivalent numerical grades:

A	=	95 or above	C	=	73 - 76
A-	=	90 - 94	C-	=	70 - 72
B+	=	87 - 89	D+	=	67 - 69
B	=	83 - 86	D	=	63 - 66
B-	=	80 - 82	D-	=	60 - 62
C+	=	77 - 79	E	=	59 or below

The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given over the telephone.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students enrolled in Flexible Learning courses through the University of Florida are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. You are responsible for providing proper acknowledgement for any work that is not the product of your own thought; this includes published and unpublished texts and information taken from Internet sources. Failure to properly cite such material will be regarded as plagiarism.

**Plagiarism:**

“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.” Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041. For more information, please go to [regulations.ufl.edu](http://regulations.ufl.edu)

“For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

- (a) Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
- (b) Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an ‘E’.”

Source: [regulations.ufl.edu](http://regulations.ufl.edu)

**Disability Accommodations:**

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation of a disability is required to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. The professional employees at the Disability Resource Center serve as full-time advocates for students with disabilities ensuring students have physical and programmatic access to all college programs. One of the services provided by the Disability Resource Center includes:

- Testing Accommodations - for further information visit [UF testing accommodations](http://UF%20testing%20accommodations)

[Register here with the UF Disability Resource Center](#)

**The Flexible Learning Office needs to be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course by emailing the Accommodations Letter to [lessons@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:lessons@dce.ufl.edu).**

**Course Deadline and Extension Policy:**

Students are allowed *16 weeks, from their date of enrollment*, to complete and submit their coursework. If the student has not submitted at least 50% of their coursework and have an extenuating circumstance preventing them from submitting the coursework, a failing grade of “E”, “E0” or “E1” will be issued and recorded to the UF Registrar.

If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing and submitting at least 50% of the coursework and have an extenuating circumstance, the student may petition the instructor for a course extension before the course expires. Each course extension request will be administratively evaluated. Instructors are not required to allow extensions. If a student does receive an extension, an incomplete grade of an “I” will be assigned as an interim grade. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. After that, the “I” grade will be changed to the student’s final course grade on their transcript.

**Course Cancels and Course Drops:****A Course Cancel:**

A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request within 30 days of enrollment to the Flexible Learning Office. This request must be in writing by [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu) or sent by fax, 352-392-6950. Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used, the refund will be credited a back to the card. No refunds are granted after 30 days.

**Course Drop:**

**Dropping a course:** To drop a course, you need to email the Flexible Learning office at [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu) with a request to drop within 14 weeks of the date of enrollment. In addition to their own request by email, *UF* students must have advisor approval to drop a flexible learning course. An advisor can email [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu) with the student’s name, the course that they want to drop, and confirmation of permission to do so. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all drop requests have been received by the Flexible Learning office within the allotted time. The course grade will appear as "W" on a UF transcript.

Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are permitted to petition for additional drops. Find more information by contacting the [Disability Resource Center](#).

**Full Term Withdrawals:**

All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/ procedures. An approved withdrawal form must be submitted to the [Dean of Student's Office](#) for review and final approval. Students must also notify the Flexible Learning of this request by [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu).

It is the responsibility of the student to notify Flexible Learning of their approved medical or retroactive withdrawal so the students’ record is updated. [Email](#) to our office a copy of the approval.

**Medical Withdrawals:**

[Here is the link to start the Medical Withdrawal Process:](#)

**Retroactive Withdrawals:**

[Here is the link for retroactive withdrawal information:](#)

The student needs to notify the Flexible Learning Office of their approved medical or retroactive withdrawal so that we can update their record in our office by emailing a copy of the approval to [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu).

### **UF Official Transcripts:**

Flexible Learning *advises* that you review your “unofficial transcript” first to ensure your grade(s) is/are posted, prior to ordering the “official transcript”.

1. Two ways to order a transcript: [Order UF Official Transcripts here](#)
2. If you are unable to order your official transcript online, please contact the [UF Office of the University Registrar](#). In addition on more information on mailing in a transcript request form by remitting a check or money order. [Official Transcripts FAQs](#).

The Registrar’s Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and their phone number is 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

**Please check your “unofficial transcript” first, before ordering your “official transcript”, to make certain that your grade has been posted.**

UF Flexible Learning Contact Information:

Email: [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu)  
Phone: (352) 392-1711  
Toll free: (800) 327-4218  
Fax: (352) 392-6950  
Website: [UF Flexible Learning](#)

### **Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday, except Holidays  
8:00am-5:00pm EST