

FAÑOMNÅKAN (SPRING) 2025

**INTRODUCTION
TO GEOGRAPHY**

GE - 101-01

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:30 PM – 1:50 PM**

LOCATION:

LECTURE HALL
College of Liberal Arts &
Social Sciences

DR. JOSE EDGARDO L. ABAN

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Office: Room 209

Telephone: (671) 735-2874

Office Hours:

Mondays	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Tuesdays	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Wednesdays	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Introduction to Geography! This is a fun, gentle introduction to the broad and interesting field of geography. You will study the highly integrated relationship between humans and Earth and become familiar with the tools and methods used in the discipline. You will develop an understanding of the various subfields with geography, such as physical geography, cultural geography, environmental geography, economic geography, and political geography. Ideally, you will see the significance of the geographic perspective and gain an appreciation of the complexity of this world.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOs)

By the end of the course, it is expected that you will be able to

- Identify locations of major physical and political features on earth
- Define and explain the methods used for geographical analysis
- Explain the major geologic and meteorological processes of the earth
- Explain the major aspects of the human/environment interaction (e.g., natural hazards and resource use)
- Define and describe how concepts of population settlement, political frameworks, and access to natural resources can contribute to economic development
- Describe how culture, the environment, and location affect our understanding of the earth and perception of reality
- Interpret and analyze information through a spatial perspective in order to explain past and present world events
- Be comfortable using online resources such as UOG Moodle.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES (PLOs) FOR GEOGRAPHY

There are four major learning objectives for the Geography Program. Achieving the GE101 CLOs (see previous section) are direct links to these broader PLOs. Should you decide to minor in Geography, it is expected that you will have fulfilled the following PLOs upon completion of your minor:

1. SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE

Develop a spatial perspective demonstrated by competence in using maps in communicating and analyzing spatial phenomena, and applying geographic methods such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in laboratory and field situations. (I)

2. NATURAL AESTHETICS

Gain an appreciation for nature or landscape and informed insights regarding the quality of a place, demonstrated by their abilities to ask better questions about places, gain deeper understanding of how we are connected to each other and our surroundings, and develop a richer affective/aesthetic appreciation of the world. (I)

3. SYNTHESIS

Demonstrate the abilities to incorporate a spatial perspective into their lives and careers and synthesize a wide variety of data from related disciplines on a range of topics. (I)

4. CORE CONCEPTS

Demonstrate knowledge and competence with a core set of geographic concepts, and specific knowledge relating to the geography of Guam, Micronesia and the Pacific Basin. (I)

**(I) indicates that this course introduces this particular objective.*

(R) indicates that this course re-enforces this particular objective.

(M) indicates that this course was specifically designed with this particular objective in mind.

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES (ILOs) of UOG

In addition to the PLOs, the CLOs also support the ILOs of UOG. By the time you graduate, it is expected that you have achieved the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate mastery of critical skills, theories, methodologies, and other content knowledge at a level that will enable them to address fundamental questions in their primary area of study (I)
2. Plan, conduct, and complete a significant research or creative project (I)
3. Exercise oral and written communication skills sufficient to publish and present work in their field; (I)
4. Adhere to the ethical principles of academia and their respective disciplines in course work, fieldwork, and other appropriate situations; and (I)
5. Exemplify, through service, the value of their discipline to the academy and the community at large, interacting productively and professionally with people from diverse backgrounds. (I)

**(I) indicates that this course introduces this particular objective.*

(R) indicates that this course re-enforces this particular objective.

(M) indicates that this course was specifically designed with this particular objective in mind.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODS

- The course will be delivered face-to-face. However, the following **Online Services** will be utilized and exploited for the delivery of course contents, online discussions and consultations, coordination, as well as the conduct of quizzes (if any) and long exams/finals. As such, students are expected to have access to any of these devices (connected to the Internet) such as a mobile phone, an Ipad, tablet, or a PC laptop, most specially during scheduled exams. It is important all students must have access to these systems/services for effective delivery of educational content as well as ideal learning experience.
 - **UoG Moodle**
 - **Google Docs and Google Forms (for quizzes, long exams and Final Exams)**

- *Google Video and/or Youtube*

- **UOG MOODLE**

All course materials (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides, supplementary readings) will be available on UOG Moodle (<http://moodle.uog.edu>) . **Therefore you must self-register yourself using the key provided by email.**

Lecture slides generally get posted in the UOG Course Moodle a few days after the lecture.

You will be expected to submit some of the assessments and assignments through Moodle, so start familiarizing yourself with the Web site. Furthermore, if you have questions on the material covered in class or would like to start a forum to discuss a particular topic more in-depth, I encourage you to use Moodle.

If you are having problems with your account or with Moodle, please call UOG Moodle Support at (671) 735-2620 or send an email to moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

All UOG students are provided with a university email account. You are expected to monitor it. You can forward your official UOG email to a personal account, but please note that UOG will not be responsible for service interruptions or security breaches of other email providers. You are also expected to monitor our course materials in UOG Moodle.

CLASS ATTENDANCE RULES ON CONDUCT

Attendance will be monitored and taken at the beginning of every class. Be sure to check in on the designated time of the class. Three “lates” will be one unexcused absence.

Should you have **six unexcused absences, it will be an automatic F**. Excused absences are at the discretion of the professor and usually require proof (e.g., doctor’s note, military orders, jury duty notice). Please notify me of an excused absence prior to class; you will be responsible to make up the work.

If you have an *unexcused* absence for the day of a quiz, assessment, or group work, you will not be allowed to make up the work.

EVALUATIONS

You will be regularly evaluated via assessments, assignments, exams, and quizzes throughout the course in order to measure your comprehension of the material.

The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Four (4) Long Exams/Assessments (conducted via Google Forms)	80%
Final Exam	20%
Bonus Class Participation & Attendance <i>(EXTRA CREDIT as necessary)</i>	(5%)
TOTAL	100%

GRADING (ADD PLUS OR MINUS SYSTEM)

How well you do on the assessments depends on the quality of your work and performance in class. There is no curve! The grading system is as follows:

New Policy:

Log No. 6412

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percent Grade	Definition	
A+	4.00	98-100%	Outstanding	Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	4.00	93-97%		
A-	3.67	90-92%		
B+	3.33	87-89%	Good	Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	3.00	83-86%		
B-	2.67	80-82%		
C+	2.33	77-79%	Adequate	Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
C	2.00	70-76%		
D	1.00	60-69%	Deficient	Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
F	0.00	<60%	Failure	Inadequate to receive credits.
P			Pass	
I			Incomplete	
NC			No Credit	

The percentage values listed above must be used in every course unless specified otherwise in the official catalog course description.

Current Policy: No policy concerning percentage values of grades.

PLAGIARISM

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarized work is an automatic failure; this is your only warning. This is an extremely serious offense in higher education. The UOG Student Handbook strictly prohibits plagiarism. If you fail to give credit for information (in the form of written work, art, music, statistical data) or ideas that are not your own, you are violating the intellectual property rights of the original author. Evidence of plagiarism in any assignment will result in an "F" grade, and a hearing at the Student Discipline Committee.

For a clear explanation of plagiarism, watch this video: <http://www.commoncraft.com/video/plagiarism>. You will also have to watch this video during class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS (ONLINE SUBMISSIONS)

In general, I do not accept late assignments. Late assignments will be marked as 0 or F. However, I do make exceptions (e.g., death in the family, sickness, natural hazards) on a case-by-case basis. But you must talk to me, well in advance to make arrangements, before the assignment is due. If you come to me after the deadline for the assignment has passed, I will not help you and the assignment will be marked 0. There are no make-up assessments, quizzes, or assignments for unexcused absences.

STUDENT CONDUCT

All UOG students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University of Guam Rules, Regulations and Procedures Manual (available at www.uogonline.com/gateway/forms/rules_regs_proc_man.pdf).

I maintain the right to provide a positive learning environment in the physical classroom and online. Some general house rules:

- Respect yourselves and respect each other (in the classroom).
- If you are confused or have a question, ask (if you do not want anyone else hearing you, you can do it via Moodle, email, or during office hours).
- Do not cheat. Do not do someone else's homework (if any) for them. You are committing a great disservice. Do not let someone else do your homework for you. You are forfeiting an opportunity to learn.
- **DO NOT CHEAT DURING EXAMS!** If you are caught cheating, your exam will be **INVALIDATED or VOIDED** and you lose the points for that exam. You have been warned!

ADA Policy and Commitment to Student Learning

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community free of all forms of discrimination and harassment in all programs, activities, and employment practices as required by Title VII and Title IX and other applicable statutes and policies. If you experience harassment or discrimination, report it immediately to the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office, at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, 671-735-2244 (TTY) or eeoada@triton.uog.edu. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

ADA Accommodation Services— For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a student with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2505.

INDICATIVE CLASS SCHEDULES

Time Frame	Topic
Week 1	Course Introduction and Orientation.
Week 2	Introduction
Week 3	Techniques of Geographic Analysis
	Physical Geography
Week 4	Landforms
Week 5	Weather and Climate 1
Week 6	Weather and Climate 2 Assessment 1/Long Exam 1
Week 7	Geography of Natural Resources
Week 8	Human Impacts on the Environment Assessment 2/Long Exam 2
Week 9	BREAK
Week 10	Population Geography
Week 11	Cultural Geography Assessment 3/Long Exam 3
Week 12	Human Spatial Interaction
Week 13	Political Geography Assessment 4/Long Exam 4
Week 14	Economic Geography
Week 15	Economic Geography
Week 16	Urban Geography
Week 17	Urban Geography Final Exam

TEXTBOOK (OPTIONAL TO BUY OR ACQUIRE BUT NOT NECESSARY)

Getis, Bejelland, & Getis (2014). Introduction to Geography, 15th edition. McGraw-Hill Education.

The entire course is structured around this textbook. It is available at the campus bookstore. It is also available to purchase online from a number of vendors (e.g., Amazon, Book Depository).

Geography is awesome! Your brains will grow by learning new things! I hope you enjoy this class!