



SYLLABUS

Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Geography & Anthropology
GEOG 1125-W02: Resources, Society, and the Environment
Summer 2025: June 30 to July 23, 2025

Course Information

Class meeting time: Asynchronous Online

Modality: Asynchronous Online

Location: Asynchronous Online on D2L

Instructor Information

Name/Title: Dr. Paul N. McDaniel, Associate Professor of Geography

Pronouns: He/Him/His

E-mail: paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu

Faculty Web: Visit [Dr. McDaniel's FacultyWeb](#) page

Office Location: Sturgis Library Building (LB) room 4217 (a [SafeSpace](#)) on Kennesaw Campus

Drop-In Office Hours & Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

[Department of Geography & Anthropology](#) Main Office:

Social Sciences Building (Kennesaw Campus) room 4042. Phone: 470-578-2373.

Preferred Method of Communication

If you have questions about our course, please send your messages to Dr. McDaniel at paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu, and please identify which class you are in when reaching out (as faculty teach many different courses). I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, Monday to Friday, during regular business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For messages that arrive over the weekend (after 5:00 PM on Friday) or during holidays, I will respond the next business day. While I will also respond to messages sent through the D2L email message platform within the online course, it may take longer for me to respond than via regular KSU email. Email is a primary form of communication for businesses and other professional settings such as at a university. Knowing when and how to write effective emails is critical because email often provides the first impression of you and your communication skills (i.e., sending a professional email within a professional setting is not the same as sending a text message to a friend). As such, please refer to the KSU Writing Center's [Guide on Writing Professional Emails](#).

Course Description

Interactions between physical systems and human activities, and their effects on environmental quality and sustainability are emphasized. Topics include: geography of population and resource consumption, food production, water and air quality, energy policy, and land/biotic resource management. Contrasting social, ethical, and technological perspectives on environmental concerns are explored. Pre-requisites: none. Credit Hours: 3 (3-0-3).

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. Describe biophysical processes that operate in the environment as a response of social and ecological factors due to resource management.
2. Recognize the diversity of life and the interactions among the elements of the ecosphere to achieve sustainability.

3. Explain the dynamic nature of the earth's environments, evident across a range of spatial and temporal scales operating on biomes and ecoregions.
4. Recognize the reciprocal interactions between human action, modification of their support systems, and past/future global environmental change.
5. Identify the role of science in the political ecology transactions of the everyday functioning of our environment, and its crucial role in informing social policy decision-making, environmental conflict resolution, peace, and sustainability.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of college-level scientific principles, theories, and laws, and apply them to solve problems and explore natural phenomena.

Students will demonstrate their proficiency in the above by:

1. Completing assignments on time
2. Actively participating in discussions
3. Submitting end of module reading quizzes

Core Curriculum Statement

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Technology, Mathematics, and Science area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Inquiry and Analysis
- Problem-Solving
- Teamwork

Course Materials

Required Texts: There is no textbook. All readings are on D2L. You do not need to buy a textbook.

Technology requirements:

Internet and D2L: Since this course is conducted entirely online, it is required that you have access to a computer with a reliable and HIGH speed internet connection. If you don't have reliable internet at home, you need to find a backup location. You will have to log into D2L SEVERAL times a week for this course. You will not be able to complete parts of this course with just a tablet or a phone. You must be able to send email with attachments, and upload documents in D2L. If you find yourself unable to log in multiple times per week and actively engage with this course, I would recommend you withdraw from this course. I cannot make exceptions for students who are only active in this course 1 or 2 days per week.

D2L training is available here: [D2L training](#)

If you have any questions about D2L, please ask me for help first and then as a second step contact KSU's ITS (Information Technology Service) in one of the ways below:

Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu; Call: 470-578-3555

Walk-in support: See [IT support](#) for times and locations

If you do contact ITS, you need to copy me in on the service request email.

Adobe Reader: You will need Adobe Reader to open some of the readings, and assignments (which are in pdf format). If you do not already have Adobe Reader installed, you can download it for free [here](#).

Word Editor: You will need Microsoft Word for some of the assignments. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word, you can use Open Office instead. [Open Office](#) is a free software that you can use instead of Microsoft Office.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, and Grading Policies

All graded activity due dates are clearly listed in multiple locations to help you stay organized and on schedule for successful completion of all course components. Due dates are clearly listed in the course grade activity information below in this syllabus, in the module weekly schedule further below in this syllabus, in D2L on each individual activity page, and in the online D2L course calendar. Reminders of upcoming due dates are also posted regularly as announcements in D2L and are also sent via D2L message. Typically, I will do my best to grade items and return feedback to you in the grade item submission area within D2L within one week of the due date for the item.

Final Course Grading Scale

Course Activity	Points	Percent of Final Grade
Syllabus Quiz	10	1 %
Module Quizzes (12 at 20 points each)	240	24 %
Module Activities (Assignments and Discussions) (13 at 50 points each)	650	65 %
Participation	100	10 %
TOTAL	1,000 points	100 %

A = 90% to 100% B = 80% to 89% C = 70% to 79% D = 60% to 69% F = 0% to 59%

I will round up final course grades if they are > or = 0.5 or above, for example, an 89.6 is an A, but 79.2 is a C.

Quizzes

Each of the weekly modules (including the Introduction module) contains a quiz, for a total of 13 quizzes. Each quiz contains 10 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points for each quiz (except for the Syllabus Quiz, which is only out of 10 possible points). All quiz questions are covered in the required readings (the StoryMap readings linked in each Module). The question format is multiple choice and true/false.

Module Activities (Assignments and Discussions)

There are 13 modules, including the Start Here / Introduction module. Each of these modules contains a required activity that will either be an assignment or a discussion (see course schedule further below in this syllabus). Grading rubrics for each type of activity (Assignment or Discussion) are included below. I encourage you to also refer to the resources the [KSU Writing Center](#) provides if you need assistance or clarification with items such as different types of writing, reference/citation formatting/styles, grammar, etc.

Grading Rubric for Assignments

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Appropriately Responds to Assignment Instructions / Questions / Prompts 10 points	Fully addresses all aspects of the assignment prompt. Delivers a clear and focused response that directly answers the question(s) or fulfills the task(s) outlined.	Addresses most aspects of the assignment prompt, but may miss some minor details. Response may be somewhat focused, but might deviate slightly from the main question or task.	Does not fully address the assignment prompt. May misunderstand key elements of the question or task. Response is not focused and may stray significantly from the intended topic.
Content 20 points	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic. Analysis is insightful and well-developed. Uses relevant geographical concepts and terminology accurately. Provides strong supporting evidence (data, examples) to back up claims.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic. Analysis is somewhat developed but may lack depth. May use some geographical concepts and terminology, but may not always be accurate. Provides some supporting evidence, but it may be weak or irrelevant.	Demonstrates a weak understanding of the topic. Analysis is lacking or underdeveloped. Does not use geographical concepts or terminology. Lacks supporting evidence.

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Length 10 points	Meets the one-page minimum requirement based on Times New Roman 12-Point Font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins. Can be longer if needed. Content is well-distributed throughout the page.	Only partially meets the one-page requirement (approximately half a page, for instance). Content may feel rushed or stretched.	Does not meet the one-page requirement (significantly short/brief). Content feels incomplete or overly repetitive.
Grammar and Spelling 5 points	Writing is free of grammatical errors and typos. Sentences are varied and well-constructed.	Writing contains some grammatical errors and typos, but they do not hinder overall understanding. Sentences may be repetitive or unclear at times.	Writing contains frequent grammatical errors and typos that significantly hinder understanding. Sentences are poorly constructed and difficult to read.
References and Citations 5 points	Includes relevant reference citations using a consistent style guide (e.g., APA, MLA) to support claims made in the discussion post. The KSU Writing Center provides style-specific resource guides for citations, references and other aspects of the writing process.	Some sources are cited, but there may be inconsistencies in style or some missing citations. Citations may not always be relevant to the content.	No sources are cited, or citations are incorrect.
Total	50 points	15 points	0 points

Grading Rubric for Each Discussion Activity

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Content appropriately Responds to Discussion Instructions / Questions / Prompts 20 points	Fully addresses all aspects of the discussion prompt. Delivers a clear and focused post that directly answers the question(s) / prompt(s) and demonstrates critical thinking. May introduce relevant outside information or personal experience(s) to enhance the discussion. Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is insightful and well-developed. Uses relevant geographical concepts and terminology accurately. Provides strong supporting evidence (data, examples) to back up claims.	Addresses most aspects of the discussion prompt, but may miss some minor details. Response may be somewhat focused, but might deviate slightly from the main question(s) / prompt(s). Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is somewhat developed but may lack depth. May use some geographical concepts and terminology, but may not always be accurate. Provides some supporting evidence, but it may be weak or irrelevant.	Does not fully address the discussion prompt. May misunderstand key elements of the question(s) / prompt(s). Response is not focused and may stray significantly from the intended topic. Demonstrates a weak understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is lacking or underdeveloped. Does not use geographical concepts or terminology. Lacks supporting evidence.
Length (Main Discussion Post) 10 points	Meets or exceeds the minimum 200-word requirement. Content is well-distributed and provides a substantial contribution to the discussion.	Length is between 100 and 199 words.	Length is less than 100 words.
Grammar and Spelling 5 points	Writing is free of grammatical errors and typos. Sentences are varied and well-constructed.	Writing contains some grammatical errors and typos, but they do not hinder overall	Writing contains frequent grammatical errors and typos that significantly hinder understanding. Sentences

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
		understanding. Sentences may be repetitive or unclear at times.	are poorly constructed and difficult to read.
References / Citations 5 points	Includes relevant reference citations using a consistent style guide (e.g., APA, MLA) to support claims made in the discussion post. The KSU Writing Center provides style-specific resource guides for citations, references and other aspects of the writing process.	May or may not include citations or references. If included, there may be inconsistencies in style or some missing citations.	Does not include any citations or references, even when relevant information is clearly sourced from outside materials.
Meaningful Responses to At Least Two Other Students' Discussion Posts 10 points	Identifies and responds thoughtfully to at least two classmates' posts (minimum 50 words per response). Responses demonstrate active reading of others' posts, build upon others' ideas, and contribute meaningfully to the overall discussion. May ask insightful questions to stimulate further discussion.	Only one response to another student discussion post. Or, responds to at least two classmates' posts, but responses may be short or brief (less than 50 words) or generic or lack depth. May not demonstrate a clear connection to the classmate's original post.	No responses to other students' discussion posts.
Total	50 points	15 points	0 points

Participation (100 points)

Active and timely participation in class discussions and all other components of the course is important. Consider our class as an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular participation not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. Students are expected to participate in all class activities and discussions, complete all components, and complete assigned readings by the beginning of the week in which the reading is assigned (refer to schedule presented in this syllabus) in order to actively participate in the class each week. As a reminder, D2L keeps a log of the date and time of everyone's interaction with each course component. As such, it is easy for an instructor to assess student participation and online course engagement throughout the semester. The participation grade is based on regular and consistent active participation throughout the semester and will be assigned on the last official day of class for the semester. If you regularly participate in the class and turn things in on schedule, then you will receive the full participation grade points at the conclusion of the course. If due dates are missed, please refer to the Late Work Policy in this syllabus.

Course Policies

Attendance

Class Participation. For this class, you should be diligent about reading the required textbook as class activities (lectures, quizzes, exams, discussions) are based on content directly from the textbook. Regular participation and meeting course graded activity deadlines are an essential component to succeeding in this class. Consider our class an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular participation not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. If you need to miss a graded activity deadline for a reasonable reason, please let me know via email along with a valid excuse (such as a doctor's note). If you have an unplanned missed deadline, please let me know about the reason via email as soon as possible after the missed due date occurs along with documentation for the reason for missing the due date. **Financial Aid Attendance Compliance:** You are responsible for determining your enrollment status in all classes to protect your financial aid monies. NOT ATTENDING A CLASS FOR WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED IS NOT THE SAME AS **WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE**. You must complete an online withdrawal to be removed from a course. If you stop attending class but do not complete an online withdrawal BEFORE the last day to drop without academic penalty, you will receive a grade of WF, which counts as an F in calculating your grade point average and counts as a completed course for determining your financial aid award.

Late Work Policy

Late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor through either making pre-arrangements for a late submission with a valid excuse or for an unplanned missed due date with a valid excuse. Simply submitting a graded activity late without communicating with the instructor as to the reason why it was submitted late is unprofessional. Saying you were confused about due dates or simply forgot about the course requirements is also unprofessional. It is crucial to highlight that in professional settings, meeting deadlines and understanding expectations are fundamental. These skills transcend specific courses or majors and are vital in any career path. I encourage you to reflect on the importance of carefully reviewing course materials and their requirements, seeking clarification when needed, and managing deadlines effectively. Developing these skills during your academic journey is invaluable as they directly translate into success in your career. Late work most likely will not be accepted more than one week after the stated due date for a particular item. However, "life happens" and so it may be necessary for you to submit something late due to an unforeseen circumstance. Such issues are taken into account, but please communicate with the professor. So that final course grades can be submitted to the university on schedule, no late work will be accepted after the last official day of class for the term as stated in the official university calendar unless there is a valid reason (such as pre-arranged accommodations or a valid documented excuse such as a doctor's note).

Interaction and Engagement

This course provides regular and substantive interaction between the learners and the instructor by providing direct instruction via the instructor-created and recorded audio/video lectures, assessing and providing timely feedback on student coursework, providing information and responding to questions about the content, and facilitating discussions regarding the content of the course. The faculty member will also be monitoring student academic engagement and success (via the various required course activities and the tools provided by D2L) and promptly and proactively engage in substantive interaction with a student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

Instructional Continuity Plan

Kennesaw State University (KSU) may decide to close campuses, operate on a delayed schedule, or transition to remote instruction for inclement weather or in case of emergency. The University will announce campus closures, delayed schedules, or remote instruction through KSU Alerts sent to your cell number on file and to your university email account. In addition, announcements will be posted on KSU's home page: www.kennesaw.edu. Our class continuity plan includes:

1. Communication: Please check D2L Brightspace or e-mail for necessary instructions.
2. Virtual Classes: If in-person classes are not possible, we may transition to virtual classes using MS Teams.
3. Assignments and Assessments: Deadlines for assignments and assessments may be adjusted to accommodate the emergency situation.

We understand that emergencies create unique challenges. If you need additional support during an emergency, reach out via D2L or e-mail. The university also offers resources such as counseling and academic support, which can be accessed remotely.

Policy on the Usage of Artificial Intelligence: AI Use Allowed, but Not Required

This policy statement and text is from the KSU Syllabus Template: In this class, you are welcome to use AI for any purpose. However, you should note that all AI generative tools still tend to make up incorrect facts and fake citations, code generation models tend to produce inaccurate outputs, and image/art generation tools can produce copied work or offensive products. You will be responsible for any inaccurate, biased, offensive, or otherwise unethical content you submit regardless of whether it originally comes from you or an AI tool. If you use an AI tool, its contribution must be credited in your submission. The use of an AI tool without acknowledgement is cheating and constitutes a violation of the KSU Code of Academic Integrity.

Communication Rules/Online Course Etiquette

In any classroom setting there are communication rules in place that encourage students to respect others and their opinions. In an online environment the do's and don'ts of online communication are referred to as **Netiquette**. This [netiquette resource](#) may prove useful to students.

How to Succeed in this Class

To succeed in this class, you will need to log on daily, and refer to the detailed schedule in this syllabus which lists the course modules week-by-week and the due dates for discussions, reading quizzes, and exams. The D2L course calendar also specifies due dates for all course items. An online class can be both challenging and exciting. You need to have and make the time to complete all the activities, participate in discussions, and be proactive and open-minded to learning. You also need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. If you are unaware or uncertain about how to properly cite a particular source, check out the RCHSS ODE's Plagiarism Resources (for [MLA](#) and [APA](#)) for more information.

Institutional Syllabus Policies, Procedures, and Resources

Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies

There are numerous federal, University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR), and KSU course syllabus policies that outline students' rights and responsibilities. Students are responsible for visiting the KSU website that lists these and for being familiar with all of the policies listed. For detailed information, visit the Course Syllabus Policies page:

[Federal, BOR, & KSU Required Syllabus Policies and Student Resources](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Policy

Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. Students who require accommodation in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the Assistant Director for Disabled Student Services to arrange an individual assistance plan. Accommodations may include classroom accessibility, modified computer equipment, disability-accessible parking, assistance with note-taking sign language interpreting or captioning services, class materials in alternate format, library and laboratory assistance, and other accommodations. Determination of appropriate accommodations to be provided will be based upon documentation of the disability. Members of the public who require specific accommodations in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the office sponsoring the service, program or activity at least five days in advance to arrange individual accommodations. Should a student require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact either the ADA Compliance Officer for Students at 770-423-6443; the ADA Compliance Officer for Facilities at 470-578-6224; or the Director of Human Resources, ADA Compliance Officer for staff and faculty at 470-578-2666. For more information, visit KSU's [Institutional Policies](#) page.

KSU Non-Discrimination Statement

Kennesaw State University (KSU) is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community. For more information, visit KSU's [Office of Institutional Equity](#) page.

Codes of Conduct

All students are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in the Kennesaw State University Codes of Conduct. The KSU Codes of Conduct include: the general Student Code of Conduct, the Residential Code of Conduct, and the Code of Academic Integrity. Kennesaw State University reserves the right to make changes to this code as necessary and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. Students are encouraged to check online for the updated versions of all policies. For more information, visit KSU's [Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) page.

KSU Student Resources

A wealth of resources is available on campus for students. Visit the [KSU Student Resources](#) page and [KSU Required Syllabus Information](#) page for detailed information about: Coronavirus (COVID-19); Technology Assistance; Student Support and Wellness; Academic Resources (including Grade Appeals). You can also access information regarding [Financial Aid](#), [the Registrar](#), and [the Bursar](#) by visiting their websites. KSU's [Online Learning Support](#) division is also available if you need assistance with online courses.

KSU Writing Center

Visiting the KSU Writing Center makes writing for any class easier and more effective. A friendly peer writing assistant will work with you in person or online to help you develop a topic, organize your research, revise and edit drafts, document your sources, and much more. The Writing Center offers specialized support for graduate students and includes the English Language Program (ELP), which provides tutoring in writing, speaking, and reading for individuals whose primary language is not English. The Writing Center offers weekly workshops; free online writing resources; and book, writing, and D&D clubs. Go to writingcenter.kennesaw.edu to learn more and to schedule an appointment, or visit us in English 219 (K) or Johnson 101 (M). For more information, visit the [KSU Writing Center](#) page to reserve your appointment and to learn more about Writing Center services and online resources.

Course Schedule

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each module of the course. Dates below indicate the date the module begins. Due dates are listed within this schedule below, in the Grading and Evaluation Policies section earlier in this syllabus, and are also clearly listed in the online D2L course calendar and on each graded activity item within D2L. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Time and are due by 11:59 PM on D2L on the specified due date.

Week	Modules	Readings/Topics/Content/Activities	What's Due
Week 1: June 30- July 6	0: Start Here / Introduction 1: Population and Scarcity 2: Urbanization	Course introduction, background, and overview of course syllabus, requirements, and activities Read Geography.com website for general overview of the discipline of geography. 1: Population and Scarcity 2: Urbanization July 4: Independence Day Holiday	July 6: Syllabus Quiz and Introduction Discussion Population and Scarcity Quiz and Assignment Urbanization Quiz and Assignment
Week 2: July 7-13	3. Urban Sprawl/Traffic 4. Fossil Fuels 5. Alternative Energy 6. Water Resources	3. Urban Sprawl/Traffic 4. Fossil Fuels 5. Alternative Energy 6. Water Resources July 10: Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty	July 13: Urban Sprawl/Traffic Quiz and Discussion Fossil Fuels Quiz and Assignment Alternative Energy Quiz and Assignment Water Resources Quiz and Discussion
Week 3: July 14- 20	7. Biodiversity 8. Air Pollution 9. Climate Change	7. Biodiversity 8. Air Pollution 9. Climate Change	July 20: Biodiversity Quiz and Assignment Air Pollution Quiz and Discussion Climate Change Quiz and Discussion
Week 4: July 21- 23	10. Agriculture	10. Agriculture 11. Meat / Livestock	July 23:

Week	Modules	Readings/Topics/Content/Activities	What's Due
	11. Meat / Livestock	12. Sustainability	Agriculture Quiz and Assignment
	12. Sustainability	July 23: Last day of classes for Summer 4-Week III! Dr. McDaniel will be calculating and submitting final course grades on July 24.	Meat/Livestock Quiz and Assignment Sustainability Quiz and Assignment