UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau

GEO-101 The Natural Environment
3 Credits (CRN 62219)
Online Asynchronous

INSTRUCTOR: William Smith

OFFICE: Hale Na'auao Room 127 and Online Office via Zoom

OFFICE HOURS: Tu 3:30-4:30 & Wed 7:30-8:30pm

TELEPHONE: (808) 236-9216 Cell: 808-561-3692 EMAIL: wsmith@hawaii.edu

EFFECTIVE DATE: **2nd 8 Weeks Fall 2026 Oct 19th - Dec 11th**

Clickable Link for Zoom Personal Meeting Room: https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/3387093879

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

ʻO keia ka wā kūpono e hoʻonui ai ka ʻike me ka hoʻomaopopo i kō Hawaiʻi mau hoʻoilina waiwai. Aia nō hoʻi ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau nā papahana hou o nā ʻike ʻake akamai a me nā hana noʻeau. Me ke kuleana koʻikoʻi e hoʻohiki ke Kulanui e kākoʻo a e hoʻokumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka hoʻonui ʻike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e hoʻolako, kākoʻo a paipai i nā Koʻolau a kō Oʻahu aʻe me nā hana noʻeau ākea, ka hoʻonaʻauao ʻoihana a me ka hoʻonui ʻike ma ke kaiāulu— hōʻaʻano a e hoʻoulu i nā haumāna i ka poʻokela.

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawaiʻi and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Koʻolau region of Oʻahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

ʻĀina

Windward Community College is located in the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe and Heʻeʻia in the moku of Koʻolaupoko on the island of Oʻahu. Both ahupuaʻa are directly connected to the moʻo ʻōlelo of Pāpa and Wākea, who are seen as the ancestors of the Hawaiian nation. The campus sits beneath the puʻu of Keahiakahoe, which is also connected to many moʻo ʻōlelo of this ʻāina. Because wind names and rain names are associated with specific ʻāina, the rain name of Kāneʻohe is known as the ʻĀpuakea and the rain name of Heʻeʻia is the Ulumano.

About Your Instructor

Aloha! My name is William Smith, and I am a lecturer in Geography and Zoology at Windward Community College. I earned a B.A. in Zoology and an M.A. in Geography from the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, where my graduate work focused on biogeography and remote sensing. Much of my research has examined coral reefs, habitat mapping, and the relationship between physical environments and the organisms that live in them.

In GEO 101, I try to connect physical-geography concepts to Hawaiʻi whenever possible. The course is online and asynchronous, but it is not "teach yourself geography." I am active in the course through announcements, discussions, feedback, email, and Zoom office hours.

How to Contact Your Instructor

Use the Help! Q&A forum in Lamakū Discussions for general questions about course content, activities, due dates, or grading procedures. I review the Q&A forum several times each week. For personal matters or individual grading questions, use Lamakū Email. You may also attend Zoom office hours or contact me to arrange another Zoom meeting.

ASKING COURSE QUESTIONS

Please use the course Help! Q&A forum in Lamakū Discussions for all general questions about content, activities, due dates, grading, etc. I will review the Q&A section several times a week and provide follow-up information as needed.

Email specific grading questions and/or personal matters, per FERPA, to protect your information. Please use Lamakū Email instead of UH Gmail or any other email service.

* While Lamakū has an Instant Message feature, I prefer Lamakū email. Please **do not** use Instant Messaging.

If you have any personal questions about this course that you would like to discuss, please call my cellphone or e-mail me using Lamakū e-mail. Always include "**GEO 101**" in the subject field of your e-mail, so that I will notice it immediately. We can also have Zoom sessions in my Zoom Personal Meeting Room, allowing us to share Lamakū and online course information.

ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alakaʻi 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other than Class Times

This is an online course and thus has no scheduled times.

> **NOTE**: The **Final Exam** will be taken at home through Lamakū. Midterms and the Final will be open-book, timed exams. You can take each exam ONLY once.

Participation Verification

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with Executive Policy 7.209, all students in the University of Hawaiʻi system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Effective Fall 2021, students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Survey of the natural environment; distribution and interrelationships of climates, vegetation, soil and land forms.

REGULAR SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTIONS (RSI)

Online courses at Windward Community College follow the college's RSI Definition for ensuring quality instruction. You can expect me to communicate with you frequently (and in a timely fashion) about our coursework in the following ways during our 8-week course:

- *Announcements:* Students can expect Announcements once a week, on Mondays.
- *Discussions*: Students will use Lamakū forums for discussions. There will be new discussion threads once a week. Students will do at least two discussion posts per thread/chapter. I will reply to threads that ask me questions and review other posts for content. I will also participate in the discussions with students. I read and reply to discussion threads on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday.
- *Quizzes and Exams*: I will provide customized post-assessment support with individual question feedback. These assessments and post-assessment feedback will come out once a week after students have completed the quizzes and exams.

All course activity due dates are listed in Lamakū on the Calendar and Content pages. Please check your UH email often and set your Lamakū Notifications (both email and D2L Brightspace Pulse App) to receive course notices, such as grading updates, announcements, and activity reminders. I will keep our Lamakū course Grades as current as possible.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following outcomes:

1. Describe the components (inputs), processes (actions) and resulting spatial patterns (outputs) of the physical environment (atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere) as a **system**.

2. Apply the **scientific method**, and **theories** and **concepts** of geography to explain a physical environment.

3. Explain critically the **interaction** of humans and the physical environment.

4. Illustrate how his/her views of the physical environment have (or have not) changed.

UH E-MAIL via LAMAKŪ

Occasionally, a rush message announcement is disseminated via Lamakū e-mail. Please check your Lamakū and UH e-mail often. Do not worry about misplacing any emails, as any course content you receive by email will also be on our Laumaku site (usually posted as an announcement).

REQUIREMENTS COURSE SATISFIES

At WCC: Meets AA degree physical science requirement of the Natural Science requirements (DP). Note: GEO 101Lab meets science laboratory course requirement (DY).
Also fulfills the Sustainability Natural Science elective requirement for the Sustainability Academic Subject Certificate.

This class section is S-focused, meaning that content will focus primarily on

sustainability from within a given academic discipline and/or the course will examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens (**SF**). For more information please visit: https://windward.hawaii.edu/sustainability-curriculum-committee/.

At UHM: Meets Natural Science general education requirements (DP). Note: GEO 101Lab meets science laboratory course requirement (DY).

RECOMMENDED BASIC SKILLS LEVEL

Ability to read and write at a college level; math at college level

LEARNING RESOURCES – ZERO COST (Free) Textbook

1. Required Textbook: *Geography 101 Book* (Online Textbook) by Dennis Nullet

Available from the Textbook Tab in the Lamakū site

2. Required Lecture Notes (Think of this like a second online textbook):

Available from the **Lecture Notes** Tab in the class Lamakū site

Lamakū Learning Management System

Lamakū Learning Management System (https://Lamakū.hawaii.edu/d2l/home)

- UHCC Lamakū Student Resources (how-to videos)
  - Contact UH ITS for 24/7 Lamakū assistance.
- Keeping Accessibility and UDL in Mind
  - If you find any course content that needs remediation and/or updating, please kindly share and I will immediately work to make the content accessible.
- Lamakū courses will appear 5 days before the first day for the academic term and will become inactive (no longer be available to access) 3 weeks after the end of the term.
  Be sure to save any coursework you may need from Lamakū *during* the term.
- Lamakū automatically logs you out *if it does not detect activity for three hours*. A warning message will appear, notifying you of the lack of activity. Activity is defined as clicking a button in Lamakū, such as "Save Draft" or "Next" (in a test), clicking on a course tab, or taking an action that sends information to the server.

COURSE TASKS

This class examines the Earth's Natural Environment. The structure and processes of major environments are discussed. **Assignments**:

It is assumed that you **read** and understand all the assigned parts of the online **textbook** *and* **lecture notes**. Think of the online **lecture notes** as a second online reading resource.

Weekly course **announcements** will be posted in Lamakū at the start of each week to preview upcoming topics, clarify expectations, and address common questions from the previous week. Students

are expected to read each announcement, as there may be new material specific to student needs based on past chapter performance.

Chapter quizzes on the textbook and lecture notes materials will be available through the Lamakū Quizzes interface. These quizzes count toward your final grade.

Students must also complete **chapter discussion posts** for participation points. These discussion posts count towards your final grade. They will be available through the Discussions forums in Lamakū.

Participation in Chapter discussion posts is mandatory. Weekly discussion posts are scored for participation points. In addition to grading discussions, I regularly read discussion posts and may ask follow-up questions, clarify key concepts, or highlight strong examples to support learning.

Midterm and Final Exams cover the textbook, lecture notes, and the instructor's lecture video. Exams will be available through the Lamakū Quizzes interface. These exams count toward your final grade.

Any changes in the content/material/schedule/procedure related to the class will be announced on Lamakū promptly.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Student Evaluation:

1. There will be **a total of 180 Points** for the evaluation as follows:

• **Final Exams** (60 points)	x 1	=	60 points
• **Chapter Quizzes** (5 points each)	x 12	=	60 points
• **Participation** (5 points each chapter)	x 12	=	60 points
	Total	**=**	**180 points**

Reviews for the Exams are available in the EXAM QUESTIONS REVIEW BY CHAPTER Module of Lamakū. Also, students should use the Lamakū Review function for **Chapter Quizzes**.

> **Requirement 1**: You must achieve **60%** or better on the final exam to earn a C grade or higher for the course. If you score below 60% on the final exam, you cannot earn higher than a D grade.

You must complete the **Exams** during the designated weeks of the semester.
Exams are non-proctored, open-book, and taken at home through Lamakū.

> **Requirement 2**: No more than **50%** missing weekly discussion entries

Participation (via Discussion) will be used to evaluate each student's achievement of the course objectives listed above. Students missing discussion regularly (i.e., more than 50% of the possible number of entries) cannot be assessed for these objectives and will likely **drop one letter grade**.
Every four days, students will be required to do **two (2) posts** as part of their discussions (to earn the 5 possible points for each of the 12 chapters).
Please refrain from subjects that are not appropriate for public discussion.

Extra Credit Exam (Extra **15** points)

There is an extra-credit final exam worth up to 15 points. Think of it as an extra credit practice final exam.

Grading uses the standard scale:

1. **A**: 90.0-100.0%, **B**: 80.0-89.9%; **C**: 70.0-79.9%, **D**: 60.0-69.9%, **F**: 0-59.9%.
2. For Cr/NC options, Incomplete ("I" grade), and "W" grade, see the WCC College Catalog.
3. There is no "N" grade in this class.

NOTE:

1. There is NO extra credit work other than the **Extra Credit Exam**.
2. There are **NO make-ups for missed** quizzes, chapter discussions, or exams.

GEO 101: Chapters, Lecture Notes, Quizzes, and Exam Schedules for an 8 Week Section.

Quizzes, Discussions, & Assignments **Due Twice a Week on Sundays & Thursdays**

Lecture Notes may not follow their numbered order. Everything presented in previously assigned Lecture Notes may be on all future quizzes and exams (the information is cumulative).

Tasks	Material Covered	Date
Weekly Quiz (Ch 1–12)	Multiple choice questions for Online Textbook and Lecture Notes (PDF)	Two Quizzes Weekly (1st – 8th weeks) Thru **Lamakū** (**NOT** proctored: Open Book; Note: they have a **time limit** once started)
Final Exam	Multiple choice questions for Textbook: Chapters **1–12**; Lecture Notes **1–24**; Also study **Key Concepts & Terms**	Finals Week Thru **Lamakū** (**NOT** proctored: Open Book; Note: Exam has a **time limit** once started)
Extra Credit Exam(Optional)	Multiple choice questions. Think of this as a practice final exam that can count for extra credit points.	8th Week on **Lamakū** (**NOT** proctored: Open Book; Note: Exams have a **time limit** once started)
Discussion	Discussion on each Chapter in the online textbook and/or Lecture Notes	**Reasonable** entries** (2 Discussions every 4 days, **2 entries per discussion**; see **Discussion** in Syllabus)

: "Reasonable entries**" means that single-line comments such as "That's great!" **will not count**.

Chapter Quizzes: Covered Materials & Week Due

Quiz #	Week/Day Due	Chapters	Lecture Notes
#1 (Ch01)	1 /Sunday	1	01, 02 & 03
#2 (Ch02)	2 /Thursday	2	03, 04, 06 & 07
#3 (Ch03)	2 /Sunday	3	05, 06, 08 & 09
#4 (Ch04)	3 /Thursday	4	07, 08 & 10
#5 (Ch05)	3 /Sunday	5	09, 10 & 14
#6 (Ch06)	4 /Thursday	6	11,15, 16 & 17
#7 (Ch07)	4 /Sunday	7	12, 13 & 14
#8 (Ch08)	5 /Thursday	8	17
#9 (Ch09)	5 /Sunday	9	17 & 18
#10 (Ch10)	6 /Thursday	10	19 & 20
#11 (Ch11)	6 /Sunday	11	21 & 22
#12 (Ch12)	7 /Thursday	12	23 & 24

NOTE 1: **Chapter Quizzes** cover **both** lecture notes **and** the online textbook readings. It is mandatory to read all chapters and lecture notes assigned. Each quiz includes multiple-choice questions, including true/false questions. Students will have the access to the review function for quizzes immediately after the quiz closing date.

Both (1) **Key concepts and terms** and (2) **Reviews for Multiple Choice Exams** are available in on Lamakū.

NOTE 2: Exact open and due dates of each quiz are available in the Quizzes section of **Lamakū**. Open and closing times for the final will also be posted here.

NOTE 3: **Final Exam** covers the assigned Online Textbook and Lecture Notes readings, and **Chapter Quiz** content. It is mandatory to read all the reading materials.

Both (1) **Key Concepts and Terms** and (2) **Reviews for Multiple Choice Exams** are available on **Lamakū**.

Academic Integrity

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.
In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

- Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.
- All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Windward CC Student Conduct Information
UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

UH Executive Policy 2.220 Artificial Intelligence

The Windward CC Library AI Essentials Library Guide provides guidance and has helpful resources for both instructors and students.

AI Use - Full Integration Allowed

You may use generative AI tools for any activity in this course, including discussions, chapter quizzes, and exams. You are not required to disclose or cite AI use unless I specifically tell you otherwise for a particular activity. AI use does not change the course deadlines, time limits, or one-attempt rules for quizzes and exams. You are responsible for deciding whether an AI response is accurate and useful; AI tools can produce incorrect, incomplete, or fabricated information.

Secrets of Success: Two key factors are especially important

(1) **Self-motivation**: Because this is an online course, nobody will push you to do the work. Thus, self-motivation is a key factor of success in this course.

(2) **Communication**: You are not alone. Continuous and open discussion among all participants is strongly recommended. You can use the "Class Discussion" pages available in the Discussions tool of Lamaku to communicate with each other. Group work and corroboration is encouraged (i.e., help each other).

Tests & FinalExam (online):

(1) You will take an open book Final Exam at home via Lamaku.

! You can take each chapter quiz and the final exam ONLY once.

Chapter Discussion (Participation Points):

(1) You will post your comments (i.e. your reactions, opinions, etc.) in the appropriate topic area in the Class Discussions section of Lamaku by the due date. For example, you can report what you think, why you feel this way, and what we can do, etc.

(2) You will do **two posts/comments** for each of 12 chapters.
Each of the two chapter posts will be worth 2.5 points- totaling 5 possible points.
One will be your original (first) post based on instructor suggestions The Second comment will be a reply post to another student's original comment.

WARNING: Please do NOT share the Discussions tool with a third party. Any violation of this confidentiality may lead to dismissal from this course and will be reported to the administrator.

When each weekly Discussion opens, click on the appropriate topic and compose your message. Your report should NOT exceed 250 words.

Also, be sure to Reply to at least one entry in each weeks Discussions. In other words, you write your reaction to at least one student's post. You will write **TWO** entries in the Discussion for each week's topic. Again, you are strongly encouraged to assist your fellow students.

! Discussion for each topic remains open until Thursdays or Sundays, respectively. Be sure to post and reply within this time frame.

NOTE: If you have any questions about course mechanics, please post them in the Lamaku Questions Forum Thread. You can also use Lamaku email or schedule a Zoom Room Meeting with me.

How to Seek Academic or Technical Support

Academic Support

- Windward Community College Library
- Library eResources
- Ka Piko Writing Lab
- Ka Piko Speech Lab
- Ka Piko Math Lab
- Evening and Online Learning at Windward Community College
- STAR Balance

Technical Support

- UH ITS Help Desk – email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lamakū
- and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support - email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call 808-235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale La'akea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lamakū – Click on the Lamakū Help link in the menu bar at the top of the Lamakū homepage to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- Information Security for Students

College Policies & Support Services

Your instructor may also provide additional resources in your Lamakū course.

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the UH System Basic Needs.

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at (808) 235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 106) for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at (808) 934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu ***BEFORE*** you withdraw to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

LGBTQ+

The University of Hawaiʻi system and Windward Community College are committed to building an inclusive community that supports and advocates for all students, staff, and faculty. We welcome all members of our campus community to our campuses: transgender, māhū, and people of all gender identities. All members of our campus community deserve a work and educational environment free from harassment or bullying based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. For more information, see the University of Hawaiʻi Commission on LGBTQ+ Equality. Windward Community College Commissioner: Scott Sutherland, scottjks@hawaii.edu

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College provides counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at WCC Mental Health & Wellness.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawaiʻi Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, they have placed themselves under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

TRiO Program

The Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Information about services can be found at Windward CC TRiO.

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Desrae Kahale, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 109

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale ʻAlakaʻi 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, refer to the University's Title IX resources, and the Universityʻs Policy, EP 1.204.

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit UH Alerts for more information.