

GEOGRAPHY 101: WORLD NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Spring 2008

M-W-F 1:00-1:50 p.m., Classroom A209

Instructor: Dr. C.A. Holmgren

E-mail address: holmgrca@buffalostate.edu

Telephone: 878-5568

Office: Classroom A220

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:30-4:00 or by appointment

Course Objective: to provide you with an understanding of Earth's physical environments. The course focuses on four main themes: 1) characteristics and global patterns of weather and climate, living-organism environment systems, and surface-relief systems; 2) the linkages and interconnections among these environmental systems; 3) the dynamic nature of Earth's physical environment; and 4) the influence of human activities on environmental processes.

Course Format: In addition to lectures, classes will frequently involve activities and group work designed to aid your learning. Class time will be given to work on these activities; however, you will likely have to do work outside of class time to complete the assignments. Much of this in-class work will be related to your readings; it is therefore important for you to do the assigned reading before you come to class. Your active engagement in class activities is important for your success in this course.

Required Materials:

- Geosystems, Christopherson, 6th Edition available in the bookstore. Many used copies are also available at Amazon.com etc. Alternatively, an online textbook is available at: <http://www.safarix.com/JVXSL.asp>.
 - **Strongly recommended:** A calculator. Please bring a calculator to class every day.
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Grading: Your grades will be based on several assessment opportunities including three exams worth 100 points each and several exercises worth 100 points total. Grades will be determined using the total number of points earned out of a possible 500 points. Generally speaking, you can estimate your course grade at any time by taking a percentage (total points earned / total points possible) and comparing this to the % listed below:

I will use the plus/minus system and the letter grade breakdown will be as follows:

A=100-93; A-=92-90; B+=89-87; B=86-83; B-=82-80; C+=79-77; C=76-73; C-=72-70; D+=69-65; D=64-60; E=< 59

Grading Breakdown:

Activity	Points	Total Points	Percentage
Exams	100 each (3)	300	60%
Exercises	Variable	200	40%

Exams Exams will be a mixture of objective (multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-in-the-term, etc) and short essay questions. Material for the exams will come from the textbook, lectures, and in-class exercises. The final will NOT be comprehensive.

Exercises This category contains a total of 100 points. Some of these we will work on in class, generally as small groups. Others will be more traditional homework-type assignments done outside of class. These will typically be due at the end of the hour or at the beginning of the next class meeting. I will occasionally require each student to print a copy of upcoming activities from ANGEL and bring them to class (I will announce these ahead of time).

Late work: 10% of the total number of point possible will be deducted from an assignment for each class period it is late. **However, assignments must be turned in within 2 class periods after the due date or they will not be accepted and NO CREDIT will be given.**

Communications: The syllabus, announcements, copies of exercises, and grades will be posted on ANGEL

Class attendance: Participation is critical to your success in this course. **Do you have occasional but known upcoming schedule conflicts?** Don't wait until afterward; please talk to me well beforehand so we can make sure you keep up with the class.

Makeup exams: Makeup of exams is not permitted without a valid excuse such as a **documented** emergency or compelling schedule conflict. Any scheduling conflicts must be brought to my attention **within the first 2 weeks of the semester** for a makeup exam to be given.

Students with disabilities: Any student who requires accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability is invited to make his or her needs known to the instructor and to Marianne Savino, the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, 120 South Wing, 878-4500.

Classroom etiquette: Students are expected to avoid disruptive behavior during class time (cell phones, talking, noise, tardiness, etc.). Disruptive behavior by students will not be tolerated. If a student behaves in a disruptive or threatening manner, I will exercise my right to ask that individual to leave the classroom. If refused, I will exercise my right to notify the University Police. The responding officer will determine whether an arrest should be made or whether a referral to medical or counseling staff is appropriate. If a student is perceived as a danger to him/herself or others, the Dean of Students, Dr. Charles B. Kenyon, may propose an interim suspension until a hearing is held. Any student removed from class will have a right to a hearing.

Cheating and plagiarism: Don't do it. *Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses* and may result in no credit for an assignment or the course and possible referral to the Academic Misconduct Committee.

Office Hours: Office hours are for your use. I am always happy to discuss any concerns or questions about the material, your progress in the course, study tips, or questions you may have about geography in general, becoming a geography major, careers, etc. If you are struggling with any aspect of the course, please come see me as soon as possible. I welcome appointments if you cannot attend my regular office hours.

****I will follow the lecture schedule as closely as possible. However, I may modify the syllabus if deemed necessary at any time.**

Date	Topic	Reading (Ch.)
Week 1 (1/23-1/25)	Introduction to Physical Geography Location and Time, Map scales and Projections	1
Week 2 (1/28-2/1)	Solar Energy and the Seasons Earth's Atmosphere	2 3
Week 3 (2/4-2/8)	Atmosphere and Surface Energy Balance (Greenhouse Effect) Global temperatures 2/8 – No class	4 5
Week 4 (2/11 – 2/15)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	6
Week 5 (2/18 – 2/22)	No class 2/18 – President's Day Water and Atmospheric Moisture 2/22 - Exam 1	7
Week 6 (2/25-2/29)	Weather	8
Week 7 (3/3-3/7)	Global Climate Systems Climate Change	10
Week 8 (3/10-3/14)	Climate Change Biogeography: Ecosystem essentials	10 19
Week 9 (3/17-3/21)	Biogeography: Ecosystem essentials + Biodiversity Biogeography: Biomes	19 20
Week 10 (3/24-3/28)	Spring Recess – No Classes	
Week 11 (3/31-4/4)	Biogeography: Biomes 4/4 - Exam 2	20
Week 12 (4/7 – 4/11)	Dynamic Planet Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanism	11 12
Week 13 (4/14 – 4/18)	Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanism AAG Meeting – No class 4/16 or 4/18	12
Week 14 (4/21-4/25)	Water Resources Coastal Processes and Landforms	9, 14 16
Week 15 (4/28-4/30)	Coastal Processes and Landforms Glaciers and Ice Ages	16 17
CEP Week	Final Exam	