

GEOG 141: The Natural Environment

Summer 2015 (June 22nd – August 14th)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: *This course introduces the major components of physical geography- climatology, hydrology, biogeography, and geomorphology. Specific topics include:*

- Climate: Solar energy and seasons, global warming and radiation budget; global and local winds;
Ocean currents; lapse rate; rain shadow; air masses and fronts
- Hydrology: Hydrologic cycle and water balance
- Biogeography: ecosystems; vegetation patterns
- Geomorphology: Earth materials; the lithosphere and plate tectonics; volcanic and tectonic landforms; weathering and mass wasting; fluvial landforms

Instructor: Swagata Goswami, swagata@uoregon.edu

Online office hours: Wednesday 10am-1pm

GTF's:

Mark Niedzwiecki, markned@gmail.com

Online office hours- Wednesday 9am -11am

Carlos Alberto, cmorales@uoregon.edu

Online office hours-

Text required

1. **Geosystems, 8th edition.** By Robert W. Christopherson (Pearson). (ISBN-9780321706225).

NOTE: This book is available as an e-book for a 180-day period for about 50% of the cost of the printed book. Search for the book at CourseSmart (<http://www.coursesmart.com/9780321706225>). The textbook is available in the bookstore. You will need the book from the start of class. Note that we will not cover the entire book.

Software required

You will need a computer with access to the programs listed below. Each program is free and available for PC or Mac.

1. Adobe Reader – download link <http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>
2. Google Earth – download link <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>
3. Firefox Mozilla – with current Java - download link
PC/ Windows <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
Mac http://download.cnet.com/Mozilla-Firefox/3000-2356_4-10208569.html

Computer Skills Needed for this Class

You will use Blackboard for this class. In Blackboard, you will need to know how to:

1. Send a message within Blackboard.
2. Check that your email address is current.
3. Attach a file or document.

Weekly Tasks and Time-Management Suggestions for this Online Class

Sunday or Monday - View the Chapter Focus PowerPoint and read the Chapter Guide.

Monday to Wednesday - Read and study the terms and topics assigned for the chapter. Read the chapter/s assigned.

Tuesday to Thursday - Complete the weekly lab.

Contact me by Wednesday to clarify the weekly work if you have questions.

Thursday or Friday - Take the quizzes

My online office hours for this class are on Wednesday (10am-1pm)

These are the times I will **read and respond to your email**.

If you wait until Thursday to begin the weekly work and run into difficulties, I will not get your “distress call” until Monday, which may be too late to be helpful to you. Make sure you keep current with the work and feel free to work ahead. **I will accept early work, but I will not accept any late work.**

Weekly Reading and Assignment Schedule- (This schedule is subject to change)

-Labs and quizzes for each week are due end of the week (Friday) by 5pm via Blackboard

- Quizzes and exams will be timed with only one attempt to finish.

Week One: June 22 – June 26

Readings: Chapter 1. Essentials of Geography

Chapter 2. Solar Energy to Earth and the Seasons

Lab 1- Map Skills

Quiz 1- on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Two: June 29- July 3

Readings: Chapter 3. Earth’s modern Atmosphere

Chapter 4. Atmosphere and Surface Energy Balances

Lab 2- Earth-Sun Relationships

Quiz2- on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Three: July 6- July 10

Readings: Chapter 5. Global Temperatures

Chapter 6. Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations

Lab3 – Temperature Patterns, Humidity, and Adiabatic Processes

Quiz3- on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Four: July 13- July 17

Readings: Chapter 7. Water and Atmospheric Moisture

Lab 4- Winds and Global Circulation

Exam One- available July 16/17 (chapters 1, 2, 3,4,5 ,6 and 7) .This will be a timed (one-hour, single attempt) open note exam.

Week Five: July 20- July 24

Readings: Chapter 8. Weather

Chapter 9. Water resources (pages 223-235)

Chapter 18. The Geography of Soils (pages 527-535)

Lab 5 – Describing Global Climates

Quiz4 - on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Six: July 27- July 31

Readings: Chapter 10. Climate Systems and Climate Change

Chapter 20. Terrestrial Biomes

Lab 6- Global Biomes and climate change

Quiz 5- on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Seven: August 3- August 7

Readings: Chapter 11. The Dynamic Planet

Chapter 12. Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism

Lab 7 – Topographic Maps

Quiz 6- on readings, PowerPoint slides, labs

Week Eight: August 10- August 14

Readings: Chapter 13. Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement

Chapter 14. River Systems and Landforms

Lab 8- Fluvial Processes and Landforms

Exam Two Open Aug 13/ 14 (chapter 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and 20). This will be a timed (one-hour, single attempt) open note exam.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined from these components:

- Exam 1 (30%)
- Exam 2 (30%)
- Labs (20%)
- Quizzes (20%)

Grade distribution:

- A = >90
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = <59

GRADING

Exams (60% of total grade)

There will be two tests, with each test worth 30% of the total grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. The exams will not be cumulative. There are no make-ups for exams. **Students who miss a test without a documented excuse will receive a score of ZERO for that test.** Except in the case of true emergencies, you must contact me prior to the exam if you are going to miss it; otherwise you will receive a grade of zero. You will be required to provide valid documentation in case of hospital admissions.

Exams will cover all lecture material (including presentations, discussions, and videos), plus the chapters in the book. Please make sure that you read the book! There is not enough time to cover everything in detail in the lectures, but you will be responsible for all of the information in the text. Cheating on an exam will result in an automatic fail for the course and you will be reported to the Student Judicial Affairs Office.

Labs (20% of total grade)

The weekly labs are part of this course. Late labs are not graded, but must be turned in to pass the course. Labs begin during the first week. Discussion activities will be there for few weeks.

Labs are due on the day specified in the syllabus; otherwise you will receive a grade of zero for the lab. If you have questions regarding the lab, be sure to allow enough time for your GTF to respond. Your GTF is not obligated to respond past 5 pm during the week. If you do not pass the lab, you will not pass the course. Cheating on labs WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and will be reported to the Student Judicial Affairs Office.

Quizzes (20% of total grade)

There will be six quizzes during the quarter. Material on the quizzes will come from lecture and readings for that week's class.

Disability Services Notice

I work hard to ensure a quality learning experience for all students. If you need specific accommodations to get the most out of this class, please let me know by (1) informing me of your particular needs, and (2) providing the appropriate documentation from the campus learning services office. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs, but you must notify me by the first week of class if you need special arrangements.

Academic honesty: We encourage you to work with other students in the class, but all work that you turn in for a grade must be your own. Quotations, paraphrases, and ideas based on published or on-line sources must be properly cited. Academic dishonesty policies will be enforced per University

codes and regulations. Please consult the university policy at <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/70/Default.aspx> or ask us if you have any questions.

Note: I consider this syllabus a contract between myself and the students in this course. In writing this syllabus, I have obligated myself to follow the policies and procedures contained herein. You are responsible for understanding and following these policies as well. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. You will receive verbal and written notification of major changes to course policies, procedures and content.