

# GEOG 141: The Natural Environment

## Fall 2012

**Instructor:** Mark A. Fonstad

**Office:** Condon 107F

**Email:** [fonstad@uoregon.edu](mailto:fonstad@uoregon.edu)

**Phone:** 346-4208

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 12-1 or by appointment

**Lecture:** Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00-11:20, 282 LIL

### GTFs & Weekly Lab Sections (all in 206 Condon):

**Jane Atha: W 9:00-9:50, W 10:00-10:50, F 12:00-12:50**

Office: Condon 105, [jatha@uoregon.edu](mailto:jatha@uoregon.edu), 346-4564

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30

**Alanna Young: W 12:00-12:50, W 1:00-1:50, W 2:00-2:50**

Office: Columbia 247, [avy@uoregon.edu](mailto:avy@uoregon.edu), 346-2371

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00

**Adriana (Didi) Martinez: F 9:00-9:50, F 10:00-10:50, F 11:00-11:50**

Office: Condon 105, [adriana@uoregon.edu](mailto:adriana@uoregon.edu), 346-4564

Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00-10:00, 11:30-12:30

**Helen Beeson: W 11:00-11:50, F 1:00-1:50, F 2:00-2:50**

Office: Condon 105, [hbeeson@uoregon.edu](mailto:hbeeson@uoregon.edu), 346-4564

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00



### Course Description

This course introduces the major components of physical geography: climatology, 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
- Biogeography: vegetation patterns; the human footprint
- Geomorphology: Plate tectonics; volcanoes and earthquakes; weathering and mass wasting; rivers; coastal processes and glaciers

### Required materials

1. **Geosystems, 8<sup>th</sup> edition.** by Robert W. Christopherson (Pearson). (ISBN-100321706226) The textbook is available in the bookstore. It is a common book and available from many sellers (be sure you get the new **8<sup>th</sup> edition**). You will need the book from the beginning of class. Note that we will not cover the entire book. If a topic interests you, please feel free to read on! Climatology, biogeography, and geomorphology are all 300-level Geography courses where you can pursue these topics in more detail.
2. **Laboratory Instructions.** These will be made available to you via Blackboard. We expect you to print them out and review them before the lab section.
3. **iClicker** remote control (available in the Bookstore). You must bring this to lecture every day and register it on Blackboard under the "Course Information" folder.
4. Google Earth, version 6 (free software).
5. Additional and supplementary materials will be made available on Blackboard.

### Grading

Two exams (50% of total), In-class participation (10% of total), Weekly laboratories (40% of total). You must receive a passing grade in lab in order to pass the class. The final grade scale is as follows: A+: >98; A: 92-98; A-: 90-92; B+: 88-90; B: 82-88; B-: 80-82; C+: 78-80; C: 72-78; C-: 70-72%; D+: 68-70; D: 62-68; D-: 60-62; F: <60.

**Exams** (50% of total grade)

There will be two tests, Exam 1 (25%) and Exam 2(25%). 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.

**Lab** (40% of total grade)

The weekly one hour labs are part of this course. If you do not pass the lab section, you will not pass the course. The labs provide you with the opportunity to apply some of the concepts you have learned in class and in readings, to ask questions about points that interest or confuse you, and to get to know your classmates better. If you do not attend lab, you will not receive credit for that week's lab assignment unless you have a documented excuse. If you cannot for a valid reason attend a lab, you must communicate this in advance of the lab with your GTF. Late labs are not graded. **Labs begin during week 1.**

You will likely not finish the lab during the lab period, so you will have to put in some time outside the 50-minute period to complete the lab. It is to your advantage to read through the lab before the lab session. This will allow you to ask questions about any parts that cannot be finished during the lab period.

You will enter your lab answers and submit them by computer via Blackboard. Labs are due by 4:30pm six days after the lab (e.g. Wednesday labs are due on the following Tuesday at 4:30pm); otherwise you will receive a grade of zero for the lab. Sometimes a question requires answered submitted on paper. In that case, submit those answers to the Homework Mailbox outside 107 Condon (by 4:30pm on the due date) or scan and save your lab as a PDF and attach it to your submitted lab on Blackboard. Penalties will be applied to labs turned into the homework box without your GTF's name and your section time.

Your lowest lab grade of the quarter will be thrown out. Cheating on labs WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and will be reported to the Student Judicial Affairs Office.

**Grades**

Grades will be posted on blackboard along with any announcements and lecture notes. I reserve the right to offer extra credit, but you should not expect it or ask for it. Due to privacy laws, I do not discuss overall grades via email. If you have questions about your overall grade(s), please make an appointment with me or with your GTF to discuss your concerns.

**Attending Lecture and Completing the Readings**

To do well in this course, you will need to come to lecture and keep up with the readings. The information being taught is cumulative: you will not understand material if you skip sections. There will be examples provided during lecture that are not in the text but will nevertheless be on the exams.

During lecture please be respectful of everyone's learning experience. This includes:

- No talking amongst each other. Please leave your social conversations for outside the classroom. However, questions during lectures are encouraged. If you have a question, raise your hand or catch me after class.
- Please don't leave in the middle of lecture. It is distracting for many people, including me. If you need to leave sit near an exit.
- Do not have your laptop open to surf the web. Note taking on laptops is OK.

Assigned readings should be completed prior to the corresponding lecture. You are required to read the current week's lab prior to attending lab.

**Contacting me**

The reading assignments, exam dates, as well as policies on late/make-up work are clearly stated herein; thus I will not reply to messages asking about these topics. The fastest way to contact me is via email.

## Academic Dishonesty

I *will not* tolerate cheating or academic misconduct/dishonesty in my courses; examples of these behaviors include (but are not limited to):

- Plagiarism (passing off the work of another as that of your own)
- Copying answers from your neighbors during exams/activities
- Dishonesty concerning reasons for absence from class
- Any other actions that might give you an unfair advantage over your classmates.

All cases of academic dishonesty/misconduct will be referred immediately to the Student Judicial Affairs Office. The penalties for engaging in academic dishonesty and/or misconduct can range from a grade of "F" for an assignment to an automatic failure of the course.

Please consult the university policy at

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

## Late/Make-Up Work

Late labs will not be accepted and make-up work will not be assigned, except in extreme circumstances and where you have documentation (i.e. doctor's note). If you must miss a lab section or exam due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, you **MUST** notify the instructor prior to missing if possible.

## 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.

**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.

## Schedule (subject to change):

| Week | Date     | Lecture Topic  | Readings    | Lab Topic  |
|------|----------|--|-------------|--|
| 1    | 9/25/12  | Introduction, Essentials of Geography, Earth-Sun Relationships | <b>1, 2</b> | Map skills (units, scales, projections, locations, isolines)         |
|      | 9/27/12  | Solar energy, Earth's atmosphere                               | <b>2, 3</b> |  |
| 2    | 10/2/12  | Atmosphere and surface energy balances                         | <b>4</b>    | Earth-sun relationships  |
|      | 10/4/12  | Global temperatures  | <b>5</b>    |  |
| 3    | 10/9/12  | Atmospheric & oceanic circulations                             | <b>6</b>    | Temperature and Winds  |
|      | 10/11/12 | Atmospheric & oceanic circulations                             | <b>6</b>    |  |
| 4    | 10/16/12 | Water & atmospheric moisture                                   | <b>7</b>    | Global circulation and air masses, humidity, and adiabatic processes |
|      | 10/18/12 | Weather  | <b>8</b>    |  |
| 5    | 10/23/12 | Climate & climate change                                       | <b>10</b>   | Describing global climates   |
|      | 10/25/12 | Midterm Exam   |             |  |

|    |          |  |               |                                  |
|----|----------|--|---------------|----------------------------------|
|    |          | (on lectures through Oct 23 and lab materials for weeks 1-4)                       |               |                                  |
| 6  | 10/30/12 | Terrestrial biomes   | <b>20</b>     | Global biomes and climate change |
|    | 11/1/12  | Geography of Soils & Ecosystem Essentials  | <b>18, 19</b> |                                  |
| 7  | 11/6/12  | The dynamic planet   | <b>11</b>     | Topographic maps and air photos  |
|    | 11/8/12  | Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes  | <b>12</b>     |                                  |
| 8  | 11/13/12 | Weathering, Mass movement, karst landscapes  | <b>13</b>     | Landforms and mass wasting       |
|    | 11/15/12 | Water resources, river systems and landforms                                       | <b>9, 14</b>  |                                  |
| 9  | 11/20/12 | River systems and landforms  | <b>14</b>     | No Lab                           |
|    | 11/22/12 | No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday   | <b>14</b>     |                                  |
| 10 | 11/27/12 | River systems, glacial, periglacial  | <b>14, 17</b> | Stream Processes                 |
|    | 11/29/12 | Glacial and periglacial systems. Course wrap-up                                    | <b>17</b>     |                                  |
|    | 12/7/12  | Final Exam, 8:00 AM in LIL 282. On Lectures Oct 30-Nov 29 and Labs for weeks 5-10. |               |                                  |