Course	ENVR/GEOG/GEOS 2302: The Global Environment
Term	Spring 2024
Meetings	Online
Instructor	Md Nakir Ahmed

Instructor:	**Md Nakir Ahmed**
Office:	3.318 Green Hall
Office Hours:	Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. or by appointment (via Microsoft Teams or other agreed-upon platform)
Email:	MdNakir.Ahmed@utdallas.edu

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:

This course is fully online. All course materials, assignments, and exams will be hosted on the eLearning section for this class. More information about each of these components can be found on pages 2 - 3 of the syllabus.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Description:

This class is an introduction to the physical aspects of the world's geography, emphasizing the major systems within the natural environment: climate; vegetation; soils; hydrology (water); and landforms. We will examine the processes and environmental interactions that allowed for these systems to be shaped within the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere. The distribution of natural features around the earth and explanations for why these features are found where they are will be addressed and how global systems work to produce regional differences. Some attention will also be placed on the interactions between humans and the 'natural systems.'

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the class students should be able to:

- describe laws and theories that are critical to physical geography and the earth system.
- observe, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize facts on Earth's physical phenomena.
- use data to arrive at informed conclusions on Earth's physical phenomena.
- articulate issues critical to the global environment

Texts and Materials:

The lecture materials are derived from a number of sources (mainly textbooks). These sources, listed below, are available through the UT Dallas Bookstore (1), and online merchants, including Amazon.com (2,3). The texts are listed as required and recommended.

Required text:

1. Hess, D. & Tasa, D.G. 2014. **McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation**, 11th Edition, Pearson (but any edition after the 9th will work).

Recommended texts:

2. Hammond. 2001. **Odyssey World Atlas, *ANY WORLD ATLAS or Google Earth***.
3. Christopherson, R. W. 2009. Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography.

COURSE POLICIES

Requirements:

This course is ***online,*** and all requirements will be met through the UT Dallas eLearning site. The class will consist of ***lectures, discussion board entries, three exams, quizzes, exercises, and a final project***. You are responsible for watching lectures videos and reading the assigned course materials each week so that you

can make discussion board entries where appropriate and successfully complete the exercises, quizzes, and exams. Lectures will be drawn from a number of sources including the required textbook. Separate instructions will be provided for exercises and quizzes and are provided below. New materials (lectures, instructions for quizzes and exercises and assignments and other materials) will become available at around 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday each week. All due dates and exam schedules are posted in the Academic Organizer. Your response and submissions are due by the end of the day listed (that is, 11:59 p.m.).

GRADING POLICY:

The final grade for this class will be determined from: exams, quizzes, exercises, discussion board entries and final project.

Exams and Quizzes: There are three exams distributed across the semester and twelve quizzes (best ten will be counted for the final grades) in this class. Exams and quizzes will comprise multiple-choice, matching, and short written answer questions. Exams will cover a specific set of materials in the class over a specific period (please see the Academic Organizer portion of the syllabus for the period covered by each exam). Quizzes will be based on the materials covered in lectures and the textbook. **You are only allowed to take exams and quizzes one time.** All quizzes and exam dates are listed in the academic organizer. Note that each quiz will be posted and available for you to take for a full week, but once you begin, your work will be timed. Quizzes and Exams are open books and open notes, meaning you can refer to your notes to obtain answers.

Exercises: There are eleven (best ten will be counted for the final grades) exercises in this class distributed across the semester (please see Academic Organizer). The format for each exercise response will vary and will be announced at the time that they are issued. Most exercises will be based on materials covered in the required textbook for the class, and materials of interest from web-based sources. Questions on the content of exercises are likely to show up on exams and quizzes - so please ensure you understand them. You will be allowed to make a maximum of three submissions for exercises with the last attempt submitted on the due date graded.

Discussion boards: Students will be required to participate in ***class discussion boards***. Topics for discussion that are relevant to the class will be provided as the semester progresses. In total, ***seven*** discussion topics will be presented to the class and students are required to participate in ***all Seven*** of these. The weeks when a discussion subject will be made available on eLearning are shown with a "***(D1, D2…)"*** in the Academic Organizer and you will have two weeks to finish. In order to receive full credit for this component of the course, ***your response to the subject has to be between 100-150 words long***. While you are encouraged to comment on other students' posts, you will not be graded on these comments. Your original posts can include opinions, insights based on your own personal experiences, or summaries of relevant news stories on the topics being discussed.

Final Project: A small group (2,3 0r 4 persons) will research a topic and present their findings to the class. The details of the project will be made available to you, via a class announcement, as the class progresses. Each group will need to prepare a recorded video presentation on their topic (10 minutes or less).

Make-up exams and re-grades: The dates for exams and quizzes are listed in the Academic Organizer. In fairness to other students, proof of absence (e.g., a doctor's letter) will be required if you are ill or have a personal emergency and will need to make up an exam or quiz. Please communicate any difficulties in completing exercises or materials for grading to the instructor within the week they are assigned.

Late work: Late submission of work will be penalized 10 % per day.

Grade breakdown and criteria:

Exams	**40%**	Quizzes	**10%**
Exercises	**20%**	Discussion board entries	**10%**
Final Project	**20%**		

Letter grades: A+ > 95; A = 93-95; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <59

Incomplete Grade Policy: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

INTERNET ACCESS
All coursework and reading assignments will be provided electronically on the Internet. Activities will include streaming and watching videos as well as completing exams and assignments online. These activities are not possible on anything other than a high-speed Internet connection. Information on computer and browser requirements can be found on the eLearning Help Desk Page.

eLEARNING SYSTEM
This class uses UTD's eLearning System to deliver contents, receive your feedback and other functions. You should log in to your eLearning account on the first day of class to ensure there are no problems with you accessing the site. If you are not familiar with eLearning, there are student tutorials available here. There are additional videos available at the bottom of the page here. You can also get help by calling 1-866-588-3192 or visiting the eLearning Help Desk Page.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS
Remember computer technology can be unreliable, so plan ahead. Quizzes and exams will be timed, and once you start your quiz or exam, you cannot reset the clock – the exam must be completed within the allotted time period. If you are booted off or experience a slow connection, you will not be able to start over.

If you run into trouble, please email the instructor IMMEDIATELY to document the problem. Or you may send an email to the UTD Computing Help Desk (assist@utdallas.edu) and copy me on the email. If your problem is related specifically to eLearning, call the help desk anytime of the day or night at 1-866-588-3192 and ask for an email copy of your ticket, which you can then forward to me for verification. For more information, visit the eLearning Help Desk Page.

EMAIL ACCOUNT
Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly. UT Dallas provides each student with a free email account so that we can maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to here.

CLASS MATERIALS
Class materials will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials ***may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.***

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ACADEMIC HONESTY & CONDUCT

The faculty at UT Dallas expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from students. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. ***For online classes, letting another person complete your work for you or representing them as you is considered cheating. Only students registered for the class may participate in class work or assignments.***

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism. Students who plagiarize will be referred to UT Dallas judicial affairs. More information on how to avoid academic dishonesty is available here.

Comet Creed: *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:* ***"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."***

DISABILITY

Please contact the Office of Student Affairs (http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaffairs/) to complete the relevant paperwork to share with me.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures: Additional details and policies relevant to this syllabus and at the university, on the whole, are available here. Please review these policies.

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Tentative Schedule

	Week	Date	Topic	Hess Chapter (s)
FROM BELOW : SOLID EARTH	1	**16 January**	Course Overview/ Introduction to Geography **Quiz 1/Exercise 0**	Chapters 1 & 13
	2	**23 January**	Structure of the Earth/ Tectonism & Volcanism **Quiz 2/Exercise 1/ *(Discussion 1)***	Chapters 2, 13 & 14
FROM ABOVE: THE ATMOSPHERE	3	**6 February**	Composition & Vertical Structure of the Atmosphere **Quiz 3/Exercise 2**	Chapters 1, 3 & 4
	4	**13 February**	Earth's Motion Relative to the Sun/ Solar and Terrestrial Radiation **Quiz 4/Exercise 3 / (Discussion 2)**	Chapter 2
	5	**20 February**	Global Energy Budget **Exam 1 (Materials from 16 Jan – 13 Feb)**	Chapter 3, 4 & 5
	6	**27 February**	Atmospheric Forces & Motion/ Atmosphere-Ocean Interactions **Quiz 5/ Exercise 4/ *(Discussion 3)***	Chapter 5
	7	**5 March**	Moisture in the Atmosphere/ Atmospheric Stability/ Precipitation **Quiz 6/ Exercise 5**	Chapters 4 & 6
	8	**12 March**	**SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES**	
IN THE MIDDLE: AT THE EARTH' S SURFACE	9	**19 March**	Air Masses and Fronts/ Midlatitude Cyclones **Quiz 7/Exercise 6/ *(Discussion 4)***	Chapter 6, 7 & 8
	10	**26 March**	Climatic Variability/ Distribution of Climate Types **Quiz 8/Exercise 7**	Chapter 10
	11	**2 April**	Biogeographic Processes **Exam 2 (Materials from 20 Feb – 28 Mar)**	Chapters 9, 12
	12	**9 April**	Vegetation Distribution/ Soil Profiles, Formation Factors and Distribution **Quiz 9/Exercise 8 / *(Discussion 5)***	Chapter 15 & 16
	13	**16 April**	Hydrology/ Stream Discharge and Hydrographs **Quiz 10/Exercise 9**	Chapters 17, 18 & 20
	14	**23 April**	Erosional Slope Processes and Forms/ Mast Wasting/ Fluvial Processes and Landforms **Quiz 11/Exercise 10/ *(Discussion 6)***	Chapters 17 - 20
	15	**30 April**	***Group Presentations*** **Quiz 12/Exercises 11/ *(Discussion 7)***	Chapters 17 - 20
	16	**7 May**	Glacial Processes and Landforms Course Review and Wrap-up **Exam 3 (Everything from 2 April – 7 May)**	

**Note: These descriptions and timelines are subject to change.