
GEOS 2302 & GOEG 2302 “The Global Environment “

spring 2009

ECSS 2.312

Tues & Thurs. 10:00 am – 11:15 am

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Stuart Murchison office: GR 3.130

(smurchison@utdallas.edu)

972-883-6726 (office) (e-mail is preferred over phone contact) 214-724-6921 (cell, if urgent)

Office hours: Tues 12:00-1:00 pm & Thu 12:00-1:00 pm and by appointment or drop-in

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

An introduction to the physical aspects of the world's geography, emphasizing the interrelationships between the Earth and its climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms. Provides a global perspective on the physical environment and the interactions between global systems to produce regional differences. (Same as GEOG 2302) (3-0)

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The objective of this course is to provide the students with an understanding of the basic components of the environment in which we live. Particular emphasis is placed on climate and the global climate system. Ecosystems, soils, and the surface processes at work on the surface of the earth are then discussed as part of the global environment. The relationships between humans and the environment are a central theme for the course. Students will be able to describe laws, theories, or findings basic to the physical geography.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Introducing Physical Geography, 4th Edition, by Strahler and Strahler. Wiley Publisher.

Lectures are posted on my website at <http://www.utdallas.edu/~smurchison>

Grading Policy for Exams and Assignments

Evaluation will be based upon a midterm exam (30%), Tests (30%) and a final exam (40%). Exams will be graded on a scale of 100. (A+ 100-97, A 96-94, A- 93-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-74, C- 73-70, D+ 69-67, D 66-64, D- 63-60, F below 59.)

Course & Instructor Policies

(Make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

Exams will be at the times indicated below. Students unable to attend must inform the instructor ahead of time in which case an accommodation will be attempted for verifiable problems.

Students are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. An occasional missed class is acceptable since work and family conflicts are sometimes unavoidable but beyond one or two are considered excessive and can result in a grade penalty. Each student has the responsibility to access all information presented during a missed class session from other sources; the faculty instructor is not responsible for ensuring that students have missed materials. Students are expected to display a positive attitude toward learning by paying attention (not sleeping), conducting themselves with civility and respect for others (e.g., sharing thoughts and actively listening to the thoughts and comments of peers and the instructor), and general good, courteous behavior, including not engaging in cell phone (which should be silenced), personal movies/TV, personal newspaper (or other reading materials) usage, or social discussion groups during class time.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

January 13	(T)	Introduction to Physical Geography - Prologue
January 15	(Th)	Chapter 1 - The Earth as a Rotating Planet
January 20	(T)	Chapter 1 - continued
January 22	(Th)	Chapter 2 - The Earth's Global Energy Balance
January 27	(T)	Chapter 3 - Air Temperature
January 29	(Th)	Chapter 3 - continued
February 3	(T)	Chapter 4 - Atmosphere Moisture and Precipitation
February 5	(Th)	Chapter 4 - continued
February 10	(T)	Chapter 5 - Winds and Global Circulation
February 12	(Th)	Test # 1 – Prologue and Chapters 1 - 4
February 17	(T)	Chapter 6 - Weather Systems
February 19	(Th)	Chapter 6 - continued
February 24	(T)	Chapter 7 - Global Climates
February 26	(Th)	Chapter 8 - Biogeographic Processes
March 3	(T)	Chapter 9 – Global Biogeography
March 5	(Th)	Midterm Exam – Chapters 5 - 9
March 10	(T)	Chapter 10 - Global Soils
March 12	(Th)	Chapter 10 - continued
March 17	(T)	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
March 19	(Th)	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
March 24	(T)	Chapter 11 - Earth Materials
March 26	(Th)	Chapter 12 - The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics
March 31	(T)	Chapter 13 - Volcanic and tectonic Landforms
April 2	(Th)	Chapter 13 - continued
April 7	(T)	Test # 2 – Chapters 10 - 13
April 9	(Th)	Chapter 14 - Weathering and Mass Wasting
April 14	(T)	Chapter 15 - Fresh Water of the Continents
April 16	(Th)	Chapter 16 - Landforms Made by Running water
April 21	(T)	Chapter 17 - Landforms and Rock Structure
April 23	(Th)	Chapter 18 - continued
April 28	(T)	Chapter 19 - Landforms Made by Waves and Wind
April 30	(Th)	Chapter 19 - Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age
May 5	(T)	Chapter 19 - continued
May 7	(Th)	Final Exam – Chapters 14 - 19

General Policies

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities: *Not applicable to this course*

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents*,

The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

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 (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

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**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind.

Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee. ***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***