

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
ENVR/GEOG/GEOS 2302
SPRING 2015
GR 3.402 A & B; 11:30 – 12:45 Tuesdays/Thursdays

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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 here will be addressed and how global systems work to produce regional differences. Some attention will also be placed to the interaction between humans and the 'natural systems' that function in these environments.

Learning objectives:

At the end of the class students will 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 numerical data to arrive at informed conclusions on Earth's physical phenomena
- work effectively with others to examine and articulate issues critical to the global environment

Texts:

The lecture and exercise materials are derived from a number of sources (mainly textbooks). These sources, listed below, are available through the UT Dallas Bookstore (1), online merchants, including Amazon.com (2, 3), and online (4). The texts are listed as required and recommended.

Required texts:

1. Hess, D. & Tasa, D.G. 2014. **McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation**, 11th Edition, Pearson
2. Hammond, **Odyssey World Atlas**, 2001 or ANY WORLD ATLAS.

Recommended texts:

3. Christopherson, R. W. 2009. **Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography**.
4. Ritter, M. E. 2011. **The Physical Environment: an Introduction to Physical Geography**. Available at http://www.earthonlinemedia.com/ebooks/tpe_3e/title_page.html last visited July 7, 2014.

COURSE POLICIES

Requirements:

This course meets two days per week for one hour and fifteen minutes. During this time there will be lectures, discussions and exercises. You are required to attend lectures and complete assigned exercises, and most importantly take notes. You have the responsibility of getting your own notes, but lecture slides

will be uploaded to Blackboard (eLearning) after class. Exams will be based on lectures and readings, while quizzes will be based on the required readings only. In addition to lecture notes, there is a list of natural features (page 3 of this syllabus) which locations you must learn to identify on a world map for exams. Please see the features that correspond with each exam.

Grading:

The final grade for this class will be determined from five areas: exams, quizzes, class participation, a group project, in-class exercises and attendance. There are three exams and three quizzes in this class. Exams include multiple choice, matching, short written answer and essay, questions, while quizzes vary from five (5) short questions or multiple choice questions. Quizzes cover readings for a specified period (please see academic organizer on page 4). There are also thirteen (13) in-class exercises distributed across the semester (please see academic organizer on page 4) to which you must submit correct responses for seven (7). Exercise responses are due **one week** after they are presented in class. The format for each exercise response will vary and will be announced in class at the time they are presented. Response to exercises will be submitted via eLearning. You must be present in class on the day an exercise is presented in order to receive credit for a submission. However, you are more than welcomed to complete an exercise and check for the correct answers with me at any time. Questions on the content of exercises are also likely to show up on exams and quizzes - so please ensure you understand these. The attendance grade will be computed from attendance on 6 random days distributed throughout the semester. Each student is allowed one free miss on a random day, however, if you are absent on more than one random day, the proportion of the 5% (1% per day) of class participation grade will be deducted from your overall course grade. 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. You must speak to me or send me a message as soon as you learn you will miss the regularly scheduled exams or quizzes. The details of the group project will be announced as the course progresses

Grade breakdown and criteria:

3 exams (20 % each)	60%
One group project	10 %
3 quizzes (5 % each)	15 %
Exercises and participation	10 %
Attendance	5 %

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY & CONDUCT

Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy for the University of Texas at Dallas:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/dishonesty/>. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, collusions, etc.) will be immediately forwarded to the Office of Judicial Affairs. To avoid being suspected of dishonesty, in instances where you may have spent a lot of time studying with someone else, and I encourage you to work together, please ensure your submitted work reflects your unique thoughts and ideas. Sit away from persons with whom you may have studied during exams, this will avoid suspicion of 'cross duplication' on scripts. Show respect to others by arriving on time for classes and staying the full length of the lecture or discussion. Late arrivals disturb everyone already in class. Allow others to speak, even when you may disagree with them. Do not have personal conversations during class (this also means turning off your cell phones and laptops while in class). Food and beverages may be brought into class but you are responsible for cleaning up after you.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

I would like to accommodate any scheduling needs related to conflicts between this course and students' religious beliefs. Please notify me (via a written note or email) at least by the end of the first week of class so that you can be accommodated.

DISABILITY

If you need accommodations for a disability, I would be more than happy to make these for you. Please contact the Office of Student Affairs (<http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaffairs/>) to complete the relevant paperwork to share with me.

PLACE LOCATIONS FOR EXAMS

Understanding where things are in the world will help you to gain perspective when we talk about some of these in class. You can get the Atlas listed in this outline, but there are also atlases in the library that can show you where these features are located. The list below gives you the features you should know for each exam.

Exam 1

Continents

North America
South America
Eurasia
Africa
Australia
Antarctica

Water Bodies

Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean

Mountain Ranges

Rocky Mountains
Sierra Nevada (USA)
Andes
Alps
Himalayas

Other Features

Great Rift Valley
Arabian Peninsula

Rivers

Amazon
Mississippi
Nile
Yangtze (Chang Jiang)
Congo

Islands

Greenland
Iceland

Exam 2

Water Bodies

Caribbean Sea
Red Sea
Black Sea
Great Lakes (know each)
Gulf of Mexico
Baltic Sea
Hudson Bay
Mediterranean Sea

Mountain Ranges

Appalachians
Cascades
Urals
Atlas

Other Features

Great Plains
Great Basin
Sahara Desert

Rivers

Rio Grande
Euphrates
Colorado
Brahmaputra
Yellow (Huang He)

Islands

Islands of Japan (collectively)
Philippines (collectively)

Exam 3

Water Bodies

Bering Sea
Adriatic Sea
Aral Sea
Caspian Sea
Persian Gulf
Arabian Sea
South China Sea
Bay of Bengal
Lake Baikal

Mountain Ranges

Pyrenees
Zagros
Caucasus

Other Features

Kalahari Desert
Gobi Desert
Tibetan Plateau

Rivers

Mekong
Volga
Danube
Thames
Orinoco

Islands

New Zealand (collectively)
Madagascar