Course ENVR/GEOG/GEOS 2302: The Global Environment
Term Fall 2020

Instructor: **Dr. Anthony Cummings**
Office: 3.818 Green Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. or by appointment (via Microsoft Teams or other agreed upon platform)
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CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:
This is an ONLINE class offered via the Internet. All course materials may be found on the UT Dallas eLearning site at https://elearning.utdallas.edu or by clicking here. There are no required in-person class meetings.

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 online (1), through the UT Dallas Bookstore (2), and online merchants, including Amazon.com (3, 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 (but any edition after the 9th will work).
2. *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 8/14/2020. *Students are not required to print material available electronically.

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

COURSE POLICIES

Requirements:
This course is based completely online and all requirements will be met through the UT Dallas eLearning site, and ***there are no required meetings or in person classes***. The class format will consist of ***online lectures, blog entries, three exams, weekly quizzes, and weekly exercises***. You are responsible for reading the assigned course material each week so that you can make blog entries where appropriate and successfully

complete the quizzes and exams. Weekly lectures will be recorded and available for viewing online on your own schedule. Lectures will be draw 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) will become available at around 10:00 a.m. on Monday each week. All due dates and exam schedules are posted in this syllabus. 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, blog entries and participation.
Exams and Quizzes: There are three exams distributed across the semester in this class. There are twelve quizzes 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 part of the syllabsus for the period covered by each exam) and some locations that you need to know for each exam (please see the academic organizer). Quizzes will be based on the materials covered in lectures and your final grade quiz grade will be computed based on the ***best ten quizzes*** you complete across the semester. You are only allowed to take exams and quizzes one time. All quiz and exam dates are listed in the academic organizer. Note that each exam and quiz will be posted and available for you to take for a full week, but once you begin, your work will be timed. Exams and quizzes are open book and open notes, meaning you can refer to your notes to obtain answers.

Exercises: There are eleven (11) exercises in this class distributed across the semester (please see academic organizer on page 4). To obtain the full credit for the exercise portion of the course you are required to submit correct responses for ten (10) exercises. 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 one of the two required textbooks 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.

Blog entries and discussion boards: each student will make ***five (5)*** original blog entries across the semester where they will share photographs, notes and ideas on how the materials covered in the class affect their lives or is manifested in the real world. Blog entries are your own original thoughts on a subject and can include anything that is relevant to the class. For instance, you may be at home one day and a hail storm arrives. You can relate the occurrence of the storm to the topic we cover in the class on precipitation. In addition to drawing on your own experiences, you an review releant literature to develop an entry of at least 50 words that enhances your understanding of the topic. Blog entries are due across the semester and will be provided on eLearning as the class progresses.

Similarly, students will be required to participate in ***class discussion boards***. Topics for discussion and 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 ***five*** of these. The weeks when a discussion subject will be made available on eLearning are provided with a ***"(D)"*** in the academic organizer. In order to receive full credit for this component of the course, you 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.

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. In the event a student submits incorrect

responses to an exercise, they will be given an opportunity to correct same for a re-grade. Please communicate any difficulties in completing exercises or materials for grading within the week they are assigned to the instructor.

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

Grade breakdown and criteria:

Exams (3 @ 15 % each)	**45%**	Quizzes (10 @ 3 % each)	**30 %**
Blog and discussion board entries	**15 %**	Discussion board entries	**10 %**

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 - The University of Texas at Dallas.

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 me 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 RECORDINGS

All lectures will be recorded and made available to all students registered for this class. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures***. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation***. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

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.***

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 syallabus and at the university on the whole are available here. Please review these policies.

PLACE LOCATIONS FOR EXAMS

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

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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

ACADEMIC ORGANIZER

	Week	Date	Topic	Hess Chapter (s)
FROM BELOW: SOLID EARTH	1	17-23 August	Course Overview; Physical Geography Quiz 1/Execise 0	Chapters 1 & 13
	2	24-30 August	Structure of the Earth, Tectonism & Volcanism Quiz 2/Exercise 1 ***(D)***	Chapters 2, 13 & 14
FROM ABOVE: THE ATMOSPHERE	3	31 August – 6 September	Composition & Vertical Structure of the Atmosphere/ Earth's Motion Relative to the Sun Quiz 3/Exercise 2	Chapters 1, 3 & 4
	4	7 – 13 September	Solar and Terrestrial Radiation **Exam 1 (Materials from 17 Aug – 13 Sep)**	Chapter 2
	5	14-20 September	Global Energy Balance/Atmospheric Forces & Motion Quiz 4/Exercise 3 ***(D)***	Chapter 3, 4 & 5
	6	21-27 September	General Circulation of the Atmosphere/ Atmosphere-Ocean Interactions Quiz 5/ Exercise 4	Chapter 5
	7	28 September – 4 October	Moisture in the Atmosphere/Atmospheric Stability/Precipitation Quiz 6/ Exercise 5 ***(D)***	Chapters 4 & 6
	8	5-11 October	Air Masses and Fronts/Midlatitude Cyclones Quiz 7/Exercise 6	Chapter 7 Chapters 6 & 8
IN THE MIDDLE: AT THE EARTH'S SURFACE	9	12 – 18 October	Distribution of Climate Types **Exam 2 (Materials from 14-Sep – 18 Oct)**	Chapters 6 & 8
	10	19 - 25 October	Climatic variability and its measurement Quiz 8/Exercise 7 ***(D)***	Chapter 10
	11	26 October – 1 November	Biogeographic Processes & Vegetation Distribution/Soil Profiles, Formation Factors and Distribution Quiz 9/Exercise 8 ***(D)***	Chapters 9 & 12 Chapter 15
	12	2- 8 November	Hydrology Quiz 10/Exercise 9	Chapter 15 & 16
			Erosional Slope Processes and Forms Quiz 11/ Exercise 10	Chapter 15 & 16
	13	9- 15 November	Weathering and Mast Wasting Quiz 12/Exercise 11 ***(D)***	Chapters 17, 18 & 20
	14	16 – 22 November	Fluvial Processes and Landforms/Glacial Processes and Landforms **Exam 3 (Everything from 19-Oct – 22 Nov)**	Chapters 17 - 20