

GE112 Principles of Physical Geography: Landforms

Spring Semester 2013

Instructor: Dr. Greg Gaston

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Office 119 Wesleyan

Office hours will be posted

Course web site:

I will post materials on the ANGEL site for this class...

HOWEVER... I DO NOT REGULARLY CHECK ANGEL MAIL!!!

Text:

Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation by McKnight and Hess (GE112 will cover all the material in the second half of the book, chapters 11-20). Either the 9th or 10th editions are acceptable for this course.

You are expected to read the chapters in timely fashion. Questions on the chapter tests will come in large part directly from the book. Upon request a copy will be placed on reserve at the UNA library. We will not use the lab manual nor do I require the study guide.

The Course:

GE 112. (4) Principles of Physical Geography II. Study of the physical features of the earth's environment pertaining to landforms, physiographic regions, and soils with an emphasis on the interrelated processes that shape these features and the resulting distributions and global patterns that occur. Three class periods; one 2-hour laboratory period per week. Field trips may be a part of laboratory activities. (Fall, Spring)

Course Goals:

You will:

- **Gain an appreciation for the landscape.** You will learn to observe and understand patterns on the landscape.
- Learn the proper terms to describe landform features and processes.
- Analyze geographic and physiographic patterns from field observations, photographs, maps, and overhead imagery.
- Use maps/images and other spatial data in geographic analysis.
- Collect primary geographic field data
- Demonstrate that you are THINKING and understanding the concepts of Physical Geography. The focus for evaluation will be on your ability to synthesize information and analyze patterns.

Evaluation and Assessment:

Each chapter/topic discussed in class will be followed by a test that will be a mixture of multiple-choice questions and sketching. You will be required to diagram and label with the proper terms subjects from each chapter/topic.

These chapter/topical tests will account for a significant portion of your overall grade for the course. (50%)

We are required to have a final exam... the final will be selectively comprehensive and will account for another 25% of your grade. The final exam will follow the same general format as the chapter tests, but longer.

This is a laboratory science course, and as such the laboratory reports you create over the term will account for the final 25% of your grade. Evaluation criteria for this portion of the course will be discussed in the laboratory session.

Attendance and make up assignments:

- You are paying for this course. (\$800+)
- Attendance is highly correlated with good grades.
- As an additional incentive, attendance will be taken at various times during the term; perfect attendance will be rewarded by having 3-4% added to your final course grade.
- There are no make up assignments.
- We will drop the lowest chapter/topic test grade... if you miss a chapter/topic test, the resulting zero can be the dropped grade.

Laboratory Attendance:

You MUST attend a laboratory session each week. While maps and assignment descriptions will be available on the class web site, laboratory equipment and field trips may only be available during the designated lab times.

Other information of significance:

Other than the incentive for attendance, I do not offer or accept 'extra credit'.

Lecture materials will be placed on the web and on ANGEL (in a powerpoint presentation). Lecture materials are of limited utility without the discussion that accompanies them in class.

If 'life happens' to such an extent that you will be forced to miss a significant part of the term it may be in your best interest to drop the course. You are solely responsible to make this decision within the dates established by University policy.

Using cell phones to text or play games while the professor is talking is simply rude, and is not acceptable. You will be asked to cease using the device or asked to leave. In extreme cases points will be deducted from your grade.

Disability Accommodation:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan.

Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services.

Alabama Quality Teaching Standards (AQTS)

Alabama Quality Teaching Standards (AQTS) for GE112			
Standard Code		Standard Description	Assessment
(1)(a)1.	Gain Knowledge of:	The physical and human characteristics of places	Laboratory Exercises; Pre and post-test
(1)(a)4.		The physical processes that shape Earth's surface	Laboratory Exercises; Pre and post-test
(1)(a)5.		The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface.	Laboratory Exercises; Pre and post-test
(1)(b)8.	Demonstrate the ability to:	Ask geographic questions and to acquire, organize, and analyze geographic information to answer those questions as they engage in the study of substantive geographic content.	Field laboratory Exercises

Topics that will be considered in this course:

Chapters 10 and 11

Cycles of NRG and Minerals

Geographic regions

Biomes

“what is ‘Natural’?

Seral Stages and the role of fire and agriculture

Chapter 12

Soil...

The interface between atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere

Soil properties, genesis, taxonomy and mapping

Chapter 13

LANDFORMS... Patterns on the land... Descriptive Geography for the ~58 million square mile of exposed land surface on this planet.

What? (descriptions and terms)

Where? (patterns of global distribution)

How? (structure and process)

Rock Cycle

Scale

Chapter 14

Plate Tectonics

Accretion

Volcanic features and formations

Folding and faulting

Chapter 15

Weathering and Mass Wasting

Chemical and Physical weathering

Erosion and Transport

Chapter 16

Fluvial Processes... the impact of moving water

Stream Channels, sediment transport

Drainage basins

Chapter 17

Karst Topography... Thermal Karst

Chapter 18

Arid Lands... describing the landforms of desert regions

Chapter 19 Glacial Landforms... footprints of an ice age invader.

Landscape features left behind by melting ice... ‘arete, cirque’ and other French words...

Chapter 20

Coastal Landforms...describing the land/sea interface

Other topics of interest.....climate change, comparative landforms, applications of remote sensing.