SYLLABUS

University of Central Florida
Political Science Department
GEO 1200 Physical Geography
Aug 19 - Dec 2, 2013
M-W-F 12:30 - 1:20 pm
CL 1 - 0121
Professor: John R. Swanson

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Physical geography is the study of the geographic patterns to the earth's physical environment. The characteristics, processes, and patterns of the earth's atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and cryosphere will be explored to develop an understanding of why and how the physical environment impacts the nature of how we live. We will do this through lectures that access a variety of resources and exercises that require you to apply principles and concepts covered in lecture.

TEXTBOOK:
Physical Geography: McKnight's: A Landscape Appreciation, 10th ed. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Hess, Darrel, ISBN: 13-978-0-321-82043-3

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Describe the geographic spatial patterns of the earth's physical environment, including global patterns of climate, ecosystems, soils, and landforms.

Explain the basic environmental processes operating between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, and lithosphere that produce geographic patterns.

Give examples of connections between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, and lithosphere.

Apply technical skills of reading, interpreting, creating, and analyzing geographic data.

Use the skills and knowledge gained throughout the semester to predict the characteristics of different places and to solve problems or analyze situations related to the physical geography processes. It is not enough to know something; you also need to know when and how to apply that information.

TEXTBOOK READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS:

Module 1: Aug 19 - Sept 11, 2013

Class 1	8/19/13	Course Introduction To Physical Geography	
Class 2	8/21/13	Chapter 1	Earth Sun Relationship
Class 3 - 4	8/23/13 - 8/26/13	Chapter 2	Map Projections
Class 5 - 6	8/28/13 - 8/30/13	Chapter 3	Atmosphere
Class 7 - 8	9/04/13 - 9/06/13	Chapter 4	Insolation and Temperature - Ocean Currents
Class 9 - 10	9/09/13 - 9/13/13	Chapter 5	Wind Patterns
Class 11	9/16/13 Test I.	Chapters 1 - 5	

Module 2: Sept 18 - Oct 4, 2013

Class 12 - 13	09/18/13 - 09/20/13	Chapter 6	Water Cycle, Precipitation Patterns
Class 14 - 15	09/23/13 - 09/25/13	Chapter 7	Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Weather, Clmate
Class 16 - 17	09/27/13 - 09/30/13	Chapter 8	Hydrosphere
Class 18	10/02/13	Chapter 9	Ocean Circulation

Class 19 10/04/13 Test II. Chapters 6 - 9

Module 3: Oct 7 - Oct 30, 2013

Class 20 - 21	10/07/13 - 10/09/13	Chapter 10	Biosphere
Class 22 - 23	10/11/13 - 10/14/13	Chapter 11	Flora and Fauna
Class 24 - 25	10/16/13 - 10/18/13	Chapter 12	Soils
Class 26 - 27	10/21/13 - 10/23/13	Chapter 13	Lithosphere
Class 28 - 29	10/25/13 - 10/28/13	Chapter 14	The Endogenic Process

Class 30 10/30/13 Test III. Chapters 10 - 14

Module 4: Nov 1 - Nov 27 - Dec 2, 2013

Class 31 - 32	11/01/13 - 11/04/13	Chapter 15	The Exogenic Process
Class 33 - 34	11/06/13 - 11/08/13	Chapter 16	The Fluvial Process
Class 35 - 36	11/13/13 - 11/15/11	Chapter 17	Karst and Hydrothermal Topography
Class 37 - 38	11/18/13 - 11/20/13	Chapter 18	Arid Lands Topography
Class 39 - 40	11/22/13 - 11/25/13	Chapter 19	Glacial Terrain
Class 41	11/27/13 -	Chapter 20	Coastal Processes
Class 42	12/02/13	Final Exam Review	

Final Exam TBA Chapters 1 through 20

These lectures and class schedule may be covered as discreet topics and/or integrated with other topical areas in an order which is at the discretion of the professor. These and other topics may be expanded, elaborated, and/or modified at the discretion of the individual professor and is in no way intended to be comprehensive or all inclusive. Students may contact me through the Department of Political Science Office or by webmail.ucf.edu: **Office Hours are by appointment.**

TESTING AND GRADING:
There will be a total of three (3) multiple choice tests on readings from the textbook, lecture notes and classroom discussion, and one (1) cumulative multiple choice final exam (each worth 100 points for a total of 400 points).
U.C.F. Photo ID cards must be shown when turning in each Exam.
Make-up tests must be made by the class following the date of the missed test.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will consist of 50 comprehensive multiple choice questions. **Make-up test will not be granted for the Final Exam without documented extreme emergencies, the explicit consent of the professor, and in accordance with U.C.F. Policy.** Failure to take the Final Exam will result in a "0" grade for the Final. The final course grade will be the average of Test 1, Test 2, Test 3, and the Final Exam grades.

GRADING SCALE:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	95 - 100	380 - 400
A-	90 - 94	360 - 376
B+	86.25 - 89	345 - 359
B	83.25 - 86	333 - 344
B-	79.25 - 8 3	317 - 332
C+	76.25 - 79	305- 316
C	73.25 - 76	293 - 304
C-	79.25 - 73	277 - 292
D+	66.25 - 69	265 - 276
D	63.25 - 66	253 - 264
D-	60 - 63	240 - 252
F	< 60	239

UCF POLICY - ATTENDANCE: Attendance policy as described in the UCF Student Catalog will be followed. Attendance will be taken each class period by recording the answers to a 10 question multiple choice Review Quiz on a PINK SCANTRON which will be collected at the end of each class.