SYLLABUS

University of Central Florida
Political Science Department
Physical Geography
GEO 1200-0001 (84780)
Aug 18 2014 - Dec 3, 2014
W 6:00 - 8:50 PM
MSB 260
Professor: John R. Swanson

Classes Begin 8/20/14 **Classes End 12/26/14** **Final Exam 12/3/14**

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, and lithosphere 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.

Power Point presentations, Animations explaining Physical Geography concepts introduced in each chapter, and sample test questions are available on the Webcourses@UCF site that are designed to enhance each students learning experience.

TEXTBOOK:

Physical Geography: McKnight's: A Landscape Appreciation, 11th ed. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Hess, Darrel, ISBN: 13: 978-0-321-82043-3

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

Explain the basic symbiotic relationships/processes operating between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere that produce geographic patterns.

Give examples of environmental connections between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, 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:*

Class 1 8/20/14 Syllabus - Webcourses Review - Available On-Line Resources

Class 2 8/27/14 Ch 1- Introduction to Earth
Ch 2 - Portraying Earth

Class 3 9/03/14 Ch 3 - The Atmosphere
Ch 4 - Insolation and Temperature

Class 4 9/10/14 Ch 5 - Atmospheric Pressure
Ch 6 - Atmospheric Moisture

Class 5 9/17/14 Test I Chapters 1 - 6

Class 6 9/24/14 Ch 7 - Atmospheric Disturbances
Ch 8 - Climate/Climate Change

Class 7 10/01/14 Ch 9 - The Hydrosphere
Ch 10 - Biosphere Patterns and Cycles
Ch 11 - Flora and Fauna

Class 8 10/08/14 Test II Chapters 7 - 11

Class 9 10/15/14 Ch 12 - Soils

Class 10 10/22/14 Ch 13 - Landform Processes
Ch 14 - Impact of Internal Processes

Class 11 10/29/14 Ch 15 - Weathering/Mass Wasting
Ch 16 - Fluvial Processes

Class 12 11/05/14 Test III Chapters 12 - 16

Class 13 11/12/14 Ch 17 - Karst and Hydrothermal Topography
Ch 18 - Arid Lands

Class 14 11/19/14 Ch 19 - Glacial Terrain
Ch 20 - Coastal Processes

Class 15 11/26/14 Final Exam Review Chapters 1 - 20

Class 16 12/03/14 Final Exam 7:00 PM - 9:50 PM

***Attendance will be taken at each class lecture.**
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 professor and is in no way intended to be comprehensive or all inclusive. Students may contact me through the Political Science Department, Room 320 Howard Phillips Hall or by webmail.ucf; **Office Hours are 2 hours before each class period or by appointment.**

TESTING AND GRADING:

There will be a total of three exams. Each exam will contain 50 multiple choice questions on readings from the textbook, lectures and classroom discussion. Each Exam will be worth 100 points.
The Final Exam will contain 50 multiple choice questions, worth 100 points, covering chapters 1 - 20. The Final Exam will include questions from each chapter.

Test question responses must be recorded on the "PINK" 50 Question - Test Scoring Test Form. UCF Picture ID must be must be shown when turning in your Pink Test Scoring Form to the Instructor or Teaching Assistant.

Make-up tests must be made by the class following the date of the missed test. There will be no make-up tests for the Final Exam without the explicit consent of the professor, which will be granted in case of documented extreme emergency and in accordance with UCF Policy. Failure to take the Final Exam will result in Zero "0" points and will be averaged with Exams 1, 2, and 3 for the Final Course Grade.

GRADING SCALE:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	95 - 100	380 - 400
A-	90 - 94	360 - 376
B+	86.5 - 89	345 - 359
B	83.5 - 86	333 - 344
B-	79.5 - 83	317 - 332
C+	76.5 - 79	305- 316
C	73.5 - 76	293 - 304
C-	79.5 - 73	277 - 292
D+	66.5 - 69	265 - 276
D	63.5 - 66	253 - 264
D-	60 - 63	240 - 252
F	< 60	239

UCF POLICY - ATTENDANCE: Attendance and Academic Honesty Policy as described in the UCF Student Catalog will be followed.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID REGULATIONS:
As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document student's academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz, listed below, no later than August 22, 2014, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 22, 2014. Failure to do so will result in the delay in the distribution of your federal aid.

SYLLABUS QUIZ:
Academic activity will be documented by responding to the Syllabus Quiz at the conclusion of Class 1, on Webcourses@UCF. The opening date for the Syllabus Quiz is August 18, 2014 and will close August 22, 2014.