SYLLABUS

Fall Term 2015

GEO 1200-0001 Physical Geography

University of Central Florida

Political Science Department

M - 6:00 pm - 8:50 pm - NSC 101

Professor: John R. Swanson

Classes Begin 8/24/15 | Thanksgiving Break 11/26/15 to 11/28/15 | Classes End 12/07/15

Final Exam December 14, 2015 - 7:00 pm to 9:50 pm

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID REGULATION:

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz on the webcourses.ucf.edu web site by August 28, 2015, the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your federal aid.

SYLLABUS QUIZ:

Academic activity wll be documented by responding to the Syllabus Quiz at he conclusion of Class 1, on Webourses@UCF. The opening date for the Syllabus Quiz is August 24, 2015 and will close August 28, 2015.

Physical Geography

"The task is not to see what has never been seen before, but to think about what has never been thought before about what you see every day." Erwin Schrodinger

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.

ON-LINE COURSE ACCESS:

The Syllabus, Power Point Lecture Notes, Geoscience Animations, Chapter Quizzes, and a Test Bank are available @ **webcouses.ucf.edu.** The Geoscience Animations cover the most difficult - to - visualize topics in Physical Geography and will enhance your understanding of how the physical world works.

TEXTBOOK:

Physical Geography: McKnight's: A Landscape Appreciation, 10th ed. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Hess, Darrel, ISBN: 13: 078-0-321-67734-1

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, and lithosphere that produce geographic patterns.

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

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

Class 1 8/24/15 Introduction Chapter 1 Earth Sun Relationship
Chapter 2 Map Projections

Class 2 8/31/15 Chapter 3 Atmosphere
Chapter 4 Insolation and Temperature - Ocean Currents

Class 3 9/14/15 Chapter 5 Wind Patterns

Class 4 9/21/15 TEST I Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

MODULE - 2

Class 5 9/28/15 Chapter 6 Water Cycle
Chapter 7 Cyclones, Hurricanes, Tornadoes

Class 6 10/05/15 Chapter 8 Climate
Chapter 9 Hydrosphere

Class 7 10/12/15 Chapter 10 Biosphere
Chapter 11 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Class 8 10/19/15 TEST II Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

MODULE - 3

Class 9 10/26/15 Chapter 12 Soils
Chapter 13 Lithosphere

Class 10 11/02/15 Chapter 14 The Endogenic Process
Chapter 15 The Exogenic Process

Class 11 11/09/15 Chapter 16 The Fluvial Process

Class 12 11/16/15 Test III Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

MODULE - 4

Class 13 11/23/15 Chapter 17 Karst and Hydrothermal Topography
Chapter 18 Arid Lands Topography

Class 14 11/30/15 Chapter 19 Glacial Terrain
Chapter 20 Coastal Processes

Class 15 12/07/15 Final Exam Review

Class 16 12/14/15 Final Exam 7:00 pm to 9:50 pm

These lectures and class schedule may be covered as discreet topics and/or integrated with other topic 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 Political Science Office at 407-823-2608 or by e-mail; http://webmail.ucf.edu **Office Hours are by appointment.**

TESTING AND GRADING:

There will be a total of three (3) multiple choice tests (50 questions each) on readings from the textbook, lecture notes and classroom discussion, and one (1) cumulative 50 question multiple choice final exam. (Each Exam worth 100 points).

PINK SCANTRONS (50 Questions) ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH EXAM .

A UCF PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO BE SHOWN WITH YOUR SCANTRON AFTER EACH EXAM.

MAKE-UP TESTS MUST BE MADE BY THE CLASS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE MISSED TEST. MAKE-UP TESTS FOR THE FINAL EXAM WILL ONLY BE MADE IN CASES OF DOCUMENTED EXTREME EMERGENCY AND UCF POLICY.

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.