SYLLABUS
Spring Term 2016
Physical Geography GEO 1200
Mo - We 3:00 - 4:15 CB1 - 0121
University of Central Florida
Political Science Department
Professor: John R. Swanson

Classes Begin 1/11/16 Classes End 4/25/16 Final Exam 5/4/16

"The task is not to see what has never been seen before, but to think 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, and lithosphere will be explored to develop an understanding of why and how the physical environment impacts the nature of how and where we live. This will be done through lectures that access a variety of resources and exercises that require you to apply principles and concepts covered in the lectures.

Power Point presentations, Animations explaining Physical Geography concepts introduced in each chapter, and sample test questions are available on the webcourses.ucf.edu site and 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 environmental processes operating between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere that produce geographic patterns.

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

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

Apply the knowledge gained throughout the semester to understand the characteristics of different places and to analyze situations related to the physical geography processes.

TEXTBOOK READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS:

Module 1 Overview: Chapters 1 - 5. The physical landscape of the Earth's surface is composed of four overlapping and interacting systems called "spheres." Module 1 introduces the gaseous Atmosphere, the Hydrosphere, the solid inorganic Lithosphere; and that part of the Earth where all living organisms can exist, the Biosphere. The earth will be explored through maps, GPS applications, and Remote Sensing applications. The elements of weather and climate and the global patterns of energy and temperature over land and water will be studied

Class 1	M 1/11/16	Syllabus Review Introduction to Earth
Class 2	W 1/13/16	Chapter 1 Introduction to Earth
Class 3	W 1/20/16	Chapter 2 Portraying Earth
Class 4	M 1/25/16	Chapter 3 The Atmosphere
Class 5	W 1/27/16	Chapter 4 Insolation and Temperature
Class 6	M 2/01/16	Chapter 5 Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
Class 7	W 2/03/16	Test I Review Chapters 1 - 5
Class 8	M 2/09/16	Test I

Module 2 Overview: Chapters 6 - 9. Water, water everywhere. Global distribution of precipitation and atmospheric disturbances in the form of cyclones, hurricanes, and thunderstorms will be introduced. Global patterns of climate types related to latitude, land and water will be studied. The causes of long term climate change in relation to variations in Earth - Sun positions (Module 1) over long periods of time will be examined. The conspicuous and pervasive interrelationship of moisture (Hydrologic Sphere) in the four spheres will be studied.

Class 9	2/10/16	Chapter 6	Atmospheric Moisture
Class 10	2/15/16	Chapter 7	Atmospheric Disturbances
Class 11	2/17/16	Chapter 8	Climate and Climate Change
Class 12	2/22/16	Chapter 9	The Hydrosphere
Class 13	2/24/16	Chapter 10	The Biosphere
Class 14	2/29/16	Test II Review Chapters 6 - 10	
Class 15	3/02/16	Test II	

Module 3 Overview: Chapters 10 - 14. The overall significance of plants, animals, and organisms and their impact on the biosphere, ecosystems, biomes and soil development and distribution will be studied. We will review the origin on the continents from Pangea to present time. The Earth's endogenic processes of tectonic plate activity, earthquakes, and volcanic activity will be explained.

Class 16	3/14/16	Chapter 11	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
Class 17	3/16/16	Chapter 12	Soils
Class 18	3/21/16	Chapter 13	Landform Study
Class 19	3/23/16	Chapter 14	The Internal Processes
Class 20	3/28/16	Chapter 15	Erosion: Weathering and Mass Wasting
Class 21	3/30/16	Test III Review	
Class 22	4/04/16	Test III Chapters 11 – 1	

Module 4 Overview: Chapters 15 - 20. The geologic time period and formation of Earth's surface features along with the fundamental concepts of weathering and mass wasting will be introduced. The impact of Fluvial Processes on the landscape, on landform development, Karst Topography, Arid Lands, Glacial Processes, and Coastal Processes will be reviewed.

Class 23	4/06/16	Chapter 16	Fluvial Processes
Class 24	4/11/16	Chapter 17	Karst Topography and Hydrothermal Processes
Class 25	4/13/16	Chapter 18	The Topography of Arid Lands
Class 26	4/18/16	Chapter 19	Glacial Modification of Terrain
Class 27	4/20/16	Chapter 20	Coastal Processes and Terrain
Class 28	4/25/16	Final Exam Review	

Final Exam 5/4/16 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 Political Science Department, 320 Howard Phillips Hall. or by e-mail; John.Swanson@ucf.edu. Office Hours from 11:30 to 2:30 pm, Mo. & We. or by appointment.

TESTING AND GRADING:
There will be a total of three (3) multiple choice tests on readings from the textbook, lecture notes and a Comprehensive Final Exam each worth 100 points

Arrangements for Make-up Tests must be made by the first class following the date of the missed test. There will be no make-up tests for the Final Exam without documented extreme emergencies, the consent of the professor, and in accordance with UCF Policy.

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	95 - 100	380-400
A-	90 - 94	360-779
B+	86 - 89	344-359
B	83 - 86	332-343
B-	80 - 83	320-331
C+	76 - 79	304-319
C	73 - 76	292-303
C-	70 - 73	280-291
D+	66 - 69	264-279
D	63 - 66	252-263
D-	60 - 63	240-251
F	< 60	239

UCF POLICY - ATTENDANCE:

It is important that you attend each meeting of this class. Attendance policy as described in the UCF Student Catalog will be followed.