Course Syllabus

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SYLLABUS

Spring Term 2018

Physical Geography GEO 1200-0001 (17421)

Mo - We 3:00 - 4:15 CB1 - 0121

University of Central Florida

Political Science Department

Professor: John R. Swanson

Classes Begin 1/8/18 - Classes End 4/23/18 - Final Exam 4/25/18 3:00 - 4:15 pm

"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:

In this course, Physical Geography, you'll learn about the fundamental processes and patterns in the natural world - the kinds of things you can see whenever you walk outside: clouds in the sky, mountains, streams and valleys, and the plants and animals that inhabit the landscape. You'll also learn about human interactions with the natural environment - how events such as hurricanes, earthquakes, sinkholes and floods affect our lives and the world around us, as well as how human activities are increasingly altering our environment. By the time you finish this course you'll understand - in other words you'll appreciate - the landscape in new ways. 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, 12th ed. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Hess, Darrel, ISBN: 10: 978-0-134-19542-6. The textbook for this Physical Geography course offers detailed learning enhancement beyond the concepts delivered in each lecture and is an asset for the successful passing of each exam.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

Understand 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 and explains the patterns in the natural and physical world, the gaseous Atmosphere; the Hydrosphere (water in all forms); 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 1/08/18 Introduction to Physical Geography and Science

Class 2 W 1/1018 Chapter 1 Introduction to Earth

M 1/15/18 MLK Day No Class

Class 3 W 1/17/18 Chapter 2 Portraying Earth

Class 4 M 1/2218 Chapter 3 The Atmosphere

Class 5 W 1/24/18 Chapter 4 Insolation and Temperature

Class 6 M 1/29/18 Chapter 5 Atmosphere Pressure and Wind

Class 7 W 1/31/18 Test Review Chapters 1 - 5

Class 8 M 2/05/18 Test I. Chapters 1 -5

Animations:

Chapter 1 Earth Sun Relations - Inclination/Declination - Mid Latitude Cyclones

Chapter 3 Coriolis Effect - Deep Scatterting Layer - Earth Age

Chapter 4 Atmospheric Energy Balance

Chapter 5 El Nino La Nina - Hadley Cells - Global Wind Patterns - El Nino/La Nina,

Atmospheric Pressure and Wind

Module 2 Overview: Chapters 6 - 10. 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 W 2/07/18 Chapter 6 Atmospheric Moisture - Water Cycle

Class 10 M 2/12/18 Chapter 7 Atmospheric Disturbances

Class 11 W 2/14/18 Chapter 8 Climate and Climate Change

Class 12 M 2/19/18 Chapter 9 The Hydrosphere

Class 13 W 2/21/18 Chapter 10 The Biosphere

Class 14 M 2/26/18 Chapter 6 – 10 Review

Class 15 W 2/28/18 Test II Chapter 6 - 10

Animations:

Chapter 6 Atmosphere Stability

Chapter 8 Climate and Climate Change

Chapter 9 The Hydrosphere

Module 3 Overview: Chapters 11 - 15. 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 M 3/05/18 Chapter 11 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Class 17 W 3/07/18 Chapter 12 Soils

3/12/18 to 3/7/18 SPRING BREAK

Class 18 M 3/19/18 Chapter 13 Landform Study

Class 19 W 3/21/18 Chapter 14 The Internal Processes

Class 20 M 3/26/18 Chapter 15 Erosion: Weathering and Mass Wasting

Class 21 W 3/2818 Chapter 11/15 Review

Class 22 M 4/02/18 Test III. Chapters 11/15

Animations:

Chapter 10 Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere

Chapter 11 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Module 4 Overview: Chapters 16 - 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	W 4/04/18	Chapter 16	The Fluvial Processes
Class 24	M 4/09/18	Chapter 17	Karst and Hydrothermal Topography
Class 25	W 4/11/18	Chapter 18	The Topography of Arid Lands
Class 26	M 4/16/18	Chapter 19	Glacial Modification of Terrain
Class 27	W 4/18/18	Chapter 20	Coastal Processes and Terrain
Class 28	M 4/23/18	Chapter 1/20	Final Exam Review
Class 29	**W 4/25/18**	**Final Exam**	

Animations:

Chapter 16 Fluvial Process

Chapter 18 Topography of Arid Lands

Chapter 20 Coastal Processes and Terrain

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, 302 Howard Phillips Hall. or by web-mail; John.Swanson@ucf.edu. Office Hours from 12:00 to 2:30 pm, Mo. & We. or by appointment.

TESTING AND GRADING:

There will be a total of three (3) - fifty (50) question - multiple choice tests on readings from the textbook, lecture notes and classroom discussion, and one (1) fifty (50) cumulative multiple choice final exam (each worth 100 points). **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 except for extreme documented emergencies.**

GRADING SCALE:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	95 - 100	380-400
A-	90 - 94	360-379
B+	86 - 89	344-359
B	83 - 85	332-343

B-	80 - 82	320-331
C+	76 - 79	304-319
C	73 - 75	292-303
C-	70 - 72	280-291
D+	66 - 69	264-279
D	63 - 65	252-263
D-	60 - 62	240-251
F	< 59	0 - 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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Thu Jan 11, 2018	**Syllabus Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373371)	due by 11:59pm
	Final Exam-IV (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373372)	
	II - Test (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373374)	
	III - Test (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373373)	
	Test 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373375)	
	Test 4 Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373377)	
	Test-1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373376)	
	Test-II (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373378)	
	Test-III (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1261007/assignments/5373379)	