GEO1200 – Physical Geography
Syllabus - Spring 2024

Instructor Contact

Instructor: Brian Yeitz

Office: N/A

Office Hours: Virtual hours by appointment

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Course Information

Course Name: Physical Geography

Course ID & Section: GEO1200-0W61

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Semester: Spring 2024

Location: Online

Course Description

Basic physical elements of geography, including climate, landforms, soils, natural vegetation, minerals, and their integrated patterns of world distribution.

Prerequisite(s): None. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None.

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.

Required Text

- Living Physical Geography. Author: Bruce Gervais. Publisher: Macmillan. Edition: 2nd.

Course Requirements

- 5 Tests – each test will be worth 50 points for a total of 250 points. Questions will be multiple choice and/or true false. These tests will be based on the readings completed for each unit.
- 4 Assignments - each worth 30 points for a total of 120 points.
- 1 Syllabus Quiz - 10 points.

NOTE: Each assignment/test will have a specific due date to keep you on at a steady pace for the semester. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED OR DUE DATES EXTENDED.**

Evaluation and Grading

There will be a total of 380 points available in this course. The following chart shows a breakdown of the point range for the final grade in the course. Point values for individual assignments will show up in the Modules and Assignments tabs.

Letter Grade/Points

A: 342-380 points

B: 304-341 points

C: 266-303 points

D: 228-265 points

F: 0-227 points

UCF Financial Aid Statement

As of Fall 2014, all faculty 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 following academic activity (syllabus acknowledgement) by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday, August 25th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. The syllabus quiz will count for this requirement.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*<https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course

design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, asexual violence, asexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu. For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint process contact:

- Title IX - OEI - http://oie.ucf.edu/ & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodations - Student Accessibility Services
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events

- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombudsman Office

UCF General Education Program

UCF's General Education Program provides students with a cohesive, integrative learning experience. Students complete courses in five program areas, each with its own set of learning outcomes, that enable them to plan, connect, and reflect as they move through their foundational classes.

Our integrative general education experience allows students to relate the knowledge and skills they are learning across academic disciplines, connect foundational ways of knowing to their majors, and integrate those skills in new problem-solving contexts – all to prepare them for their academic, civic and professional worlds.

The purposes of the UCF General Education Program (GEP) are

- to introduce students to a broad range of human knowledge and intellectual pursuits
- to equip students with the analytic and expressive skills required to engage in those pursuits
- to develop their ability to think critically
- to prepare them for life-long learning.

The GEP curriculum provides students with the intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic foundations necessary to make informed choices; to accept the responsibilities of working and living in a rapidly changing world; and to lead a productive and satisfying life.

Note: This syllabus is tentative and students are responsible for keeping apprised of any changes.