**GEOG 125: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

Lecture: MWF 10:20-11:20am in room 1065

Lab: M 1:50-4:00pm *or* W 1:50-4:00pm in room 1065

Instructor: Dr. Erin DeMuynck

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Office: room 1061

Office hours: MWF 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

**Course Description**

The geography of Earth’s physical characteristics, including weather and climate, climate types, water, soils, Earth materials, landforms, and Earth resources; study of the processes and interactions creating Earth’s physical geographic patterns. 4-credits. NS/LS.

**Objectives**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

* Explain the fundamentals of four major systems (atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere) and their characteristic processes and forms.
* Recognize how these systems interact to shape patterns, processes, and landscapes found on Earth.
* Identify how physical geography concepts relate to everyday encounters with the natural world.
* Understand how physical geography impacts humans and vice versa.

**Textbook**

R.W. Christopherson and G.H. Birkeland. 2014. *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 9th Edition.*

Two copies of the textbook are available on reserve in the library if you prefer not to purchase a copy..

**Evaluation**

Your grade for the class is based on the following:

*Exams 45%:* three exams consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions.

*Lab assignments 30%:* weekly lab assignments involving some group work. Most are designed to be completed during lab, but will occasionally require some preparation prior to lab or additional work after lab. In addition to more traditional physical geography lab assignments, students will also participate in news discussions which involve the identification and discussion of current news stories with direct relevance to the topics we cover in class.

*Art/science collaborative project 15%:* a group project that will culminate in an exhibit in the Aylward Gallery. Groups will identity a physical process or environmental impact related to climate change. Geography students will contribute text panels and art students contribute corresponding paintings. All group members will give feedback on all aspects of the project. Lab time will be devoted to working on the project. You will also need to spend some time outside of class.

*Reading questions and discussions* *10%:* small group discussions or other in-class activities based on the reading questions I will hand out to be completed in advance. You will not be asked to turn in your reading question responses, but you must bring them to class and have them accessible in your notebook or on your laptop.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A              94-100 | B          84-86 | C           74-76 | D          64-66 |
| A-               90-93 | B-         80-83 | C-         70-73 | D-         60-63 |
| B+        87-89 | C+        77-79 | D+        67-69 | F          <  60 |

**Policies and Expectations**

Learning environment: Our purpose in this class is to learn and I expect that you will participate in building a classroom environment that promotes learning. Behavior that prevents or disrupts your learning or the learning of your classmates in any way is not allowed. This includes talking out of turn, engaging in activities not related to the course such as texting, checking social media, working on homework for another class, unhelpful responses to other students’ participation, etc. Any student who fails to contribute to a respectful learning environment will result in being asked to leave the classroom. If there is a reason you may need to check your phone during class (e.g. childcare issues or pending health emergency of a family member), that is fine - just let me know prior to class.

Attendance: I expect students to be at every class on time, ready to listen, think, and actively participate. That being said, I also understand that life happens and there are a variety of reasons we may occasionally not be able to arrive on time or fully prepare prior to class. If/when this happens, please still come to class if at all possible. Nobody is perfect - what is important is that we continue to put in effort to do our best. Note to students who are parents: if a childcare issue arises that would normally keep you from attending class, you are welcome to bring your child to Physical Geography lecture or lab.

Late work: My policy on late work is to accept it for partial credit. However, if you habitually miss deadlines without explanation, I reserve the right to stop accepting late work. News discussions cannot be made up since they require in-class participation. If you are ill or have an emergency on the day an assignment is due or miss a due date for any reason, let me know right away.

Makeup exams: If you need to schedule a makeup exam, please do so in advance. If you are sick or experience an emergency on the day of an exam, get in touch with me as soon as possible. No makeup exams are allowed after exams have been graded and handed back to students.

Contacting me: You are welcome to stop by my office any time my office door is open to ask questions, discuss course content, or just to say hi. If I am not in my office, email is the best way to get in touch. Please allow 24 hours for a response M-F 8am-5pm only.

Check your school email: I send announcements, schedule updates, and reminders via email. Check your school email regularly. If you have a problem accessing your school email it is your responsibility to get the problem fixed. The Solution Center is always a good place to start when you have a question or problem that is not specifically related to a class.

Grades: Grades will be updated regularly on D2L. Please let me know right away if you believe a grade is incorrect or missing.

Academic integrity: Our campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which will result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. Please see me if you have questions or need further explanation on what constitutes academic misconduct.

Accessibility and additional assistance: Any student who may need extra assistance meeting any requirements of this course should speak with me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations to ensure your success in the course. This policy applies to learning and physical disabilities as well as other family or personal situations that may hinder students’ ability to meet course requirements. If this applies (or may apply) to you, please talk to me about this within the first two weeks of class. If any kind of problem arises later in the semester, or if you simply find yourself struggling in the course, please talk to me as soon as possible so we can work together to help resolve any issues and/or I can put you in touch with resources that can help.

Student consumer information: Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/.

**Tentative Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Lecture** | **Lab** | **Reading** |
| M Feb 3 | Introduction, Systems | Location | --- |
| W Jan 5 | Location, scale, and projection | CH 1 |
| F Feb 7 | Seasonality | CH 2 |
| M Feb 10 | Earth’s modern atmosphere |  | CH 3 |
| W Feb 12 | Earth’s modern atmosphere | Seasonality | --- |
| F Feb 14 | Energy balance |  | CH 4 |
| M Feb 17 | Temperature controls |  | CH 5 |
| W Feb 19 | Temperature controls | Temperature patters | --- |
| F Feb 21 | Atmospheric and oceanic circulations |  | CH 6 |
| M Feb 24 | Atmospheric and oceanic circulations | News discussion #1 Atmospheric and oceanic circulations | --- |
| W Feb 26 | Catch-up and review | --- |
| F Feb 28 | EXAM 1 | --- |
| M Mar 2 | Adiabatic processes | Weather | CH 7 |
| W Mar 4 | Weather | CH 8 |
| F Mar 6 | Weather | --- |
| M Mar 9 | Climate change | News discussion #2 Climate change | CH 11 |
| W Mar 11 | Climate change | --- |
| F Mar 13 | Climate change | --- |
| M Mar 16 | Human dimensions | Art/science collaboration | --- |
| W Mar 18 | Water resources | CH 9 |
| *F Mar 20* | No lecture | --- |
| M Mar 23 | --------------------------------------------------- SPRING BREAK! --------------------------------------------------- | | |
| W Mar 25 |
| F Mar 27 |
| M Mar 30 | Dynamic planet | News discussion #3 Library | CH 12 |
| W April 1 | Dynamic planet | --- |
| F April 3 | Tectonics, earthquakes, & vulcanism | CH 13 |
| *M Apr 5* | No lecture (work on text panel) ---  -  No lecture (work on text panel) Meet w/ art students in art room (no lab) ---  EXAM 2 --- | | |
| *W Apr 8* |
| F Apr 10 |
| M Apr 13 | Weathering | News discussion #4 Weathering & mass movement | CH 14 |
| W Apr 15 | Mass movement | --- |
| *F Apr 17* | No lecture | --- |
| M Apr 20 | Rivers | Rivers, flooding, topographic maps; Meet w/ art students | CH 15 |
| W Apr 22 | Rivers | --- |
| F Apr 24 | Aeolian and coastal processes | CH 16 |
| M Apr 27 | Glacial and periglacial landforms | News discussion #5 Documentary | CH 17 |
| W Apr 29 | Glacial landforms of WI w/ Dr. Johnson | --- |
| F Apr 1 | Discussion w/ filmmaker Dave Malkoff | --- |
| M May 4 | Soils | Systems | CH 18 |
| W May 6 | Soils | --- |
| F May 8 | Ecosystems | CH 19 |
| M May 11 | Catch-up and review | News discussion #6 Lab wrap-up | --- |
| W May 13 | EXAM 3 | --- |
| F May 15 | No lecture  Gallery Show 5-7 | --- |