



Winter 2010

**GEOG 101, Section 05
INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

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Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Class Meeting Time: Monday/Wednesday 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m., in Brown 128

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical Geography (GEOG 101) is designed to acquaint students with climates and weather, biomes, and landforms, especially as they relate to human-environment interactions. Students will be able to understand the basic science underlying environmental and geographical issues in the news. This course is primarily a lecture course but it also involves student activities and demonstrations accompanied by in-class activities within laboratory designed to develop specific skills, including interpretation of topographic maps/Air Photo/Satellite image, and Geographic Information System (GIS). As a General Education Category 4 (Natural Science) course, GEOG 101 will:

- consider different ways of experiencing and acquiring knowledge through the scientific method
- study the structure and order of the natural world
- develop abilities in problem-solving and abstract reasoning
- consider the ways in which technological societies affect individual values and ethics and the ways in which individual values and ethics function in technological societies
- include practice in the written and/or oral reporting and analysis of methods and conclusions

The General Education Communication Intensive requirements are fulfilled through activities and exercises, and a course project.

TEXTBOOKS- RECOMMENDED

McKnight, T., Hess, D. 2008. Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation. 9th edition, Pearson Prentice Hall

Gabler, R.E., J.F.Petersen, and L.M. Trapasso. 2007. Essentials of Physical Geography. Eight Edition. Thomson Brooks/Cole

Christopherson, R.W. 2007. Elemental Geosystems. Fifth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Strahler A. & Strahler A. 2006. Introducing Physical Geography. Fourth Edition, Wiley

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, you will:

- understand how the earth's physical systems (i.e., atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere) interrelate and interact
- be able to demonstrate knowledge of the relationships between the sun and the earth and how they produce day and night and the four seasons
- be able to analyze the interrelationships of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere variables that produce the daily weather
- to be able to describe the geologic processes that operate within the earth and how they are related to plate Tectonics
- The fluvial processes, fluvial landforms and human Interaction with fluvial system
- understand how the activities of running water and glaciers produce sequential assemblages of topographic features
- be able to demonstrate knowledge of the global distribution of major vegetation zones and processes underlying these distribution patterns

This course also introduces the fundamental concepts of GIS and the major functionality contained in ArcGIS® Desktop software. In the interactive course exercises, you will work with a variety of ArcGIS tools as you learn how to create maps, find information, create and edit geographic data, and solve a variety of geographic problems.

METHODOLOGY

A variety of instructional approaches are adopted in this course: assigned readings, lecture, quizzes, examinations, lab exercises, individual and group projects

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:

Grading is on a 600-point scale, allocated as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <u>Exam 1:</u> | <u>100 pts</u> |
| <u>Exam 2:</u> | <u>100 pts</u> |
| <u>Exam 3:</u> | <u>100 pts</u> |
| <u>Video Responses:</u> | <u>25 pts</u> |
| <u>News Summary-1</u> | <u>25 pts</u> |
| <u>Research Paper:</u> | <u>125 pts</u> |
| <u>Participation & Attendance:</u> | <u>50 pts</u> |
| <u>Topographic Map</u> | <u>25 pts</u> |
| <u>Image Interpretation</u> | <u>25 pts</u> |
| <u>GIS Project</u> | <u>25pts</u> |
| <u>Total Points</u> | <u>600Pts</u> |

OFFICIAL GRADING SCALE:

Students should keep a record of all returned assignments. The frequent grade will be informed to students to demarcate their position in class. Course grades will be assigned using the following system, based on overall percentage:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 70-76 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | <60 |

Attendance & Participation: is very important. Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who do not attend class regularly will not do well in this course. You are given two free absences. If you miss more than two class periods then you will be penalized with five percent of your final grade for per absence. To be considered for an excused absence you must turn in a written explanation of the absence. It is also expected that students will ask questions, take

notes, and contribute toward class discussions. Active participation is also required in assigned group projects.

Exams: are conducted to test your knowledge in all materials from the lectures and readings. The exam format will consist of multiple choices, true/false, short questions, and Essay questions. The exact format of examinations will be announced during the week prior to the examinations. Final Exam schedule is here <http://www.svsu.edu/registrar/registration/exam-schedule>.

Video Responses: will be assigned for some of the videos we watch in class. Instructions will be given for each assignment.

MISSED or LATE ASSIGNMENTS: All miss or late assignments (except the Final Exam) can be turned in with 50% late penalty. There are no make-up exams unless under extraordinary circumstances.

DEVIATIONS FROM THE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE WILL REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

During Exams: No electronic devices are permitted including, but not limited to cell phones, PDAs or handbooks, laptops, notebook computers, calculators, and cameras.

Use of e-mail: you must use your SVSU e-mail account for all class e-mail correspondence

Use of VSpace: is recommended. PowerPoints and study guides for each chapter will be posted on VSpace. It is the responsibility of each student check VSpace on a regular basis.

Laptop policy: if you bring a laptop to class, I assume you are using it to take class notes and not to edit photos, check e-mail, or check websites. No misuse of laptops in class!

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is directly copying an author's work without proper citation. Copying another student's work with or without his/her knowledge, or giving/receiving aid during any test or examination is cheating. So don't copy phrases, sentences or thoughts from a book, magazine article or from the internet resources into your assignments without citing them. Violations of Academic Integrity will be addressed according to the code of Student Conduct. This URL is: <http://www.svsu.edu/academicintegrity>

WORK EXPECTATION & ADVICE:

- A typical **course requires** two hours of "homework" for every one hour spent in class. (You spend about 3 hours a week in this class, so theoretically you would spend about 6 hours (minimum) a week outside of this class working on the course). If you subscribe to this theory you will be very successful in this class.
- Print off PowerPoint and Study Guides and bring them to lecture for note taking.
- Read over textbook chapters prior to class, and be familiar with figures, maps, and terms.
- Take notes during class, and ask questions if the material is not clear.
- Stop by to my office with your questions and course related problems.

ADMONITIONS:

- Turn off cell phones and other devices.
- No phone calls during class & **texting is prohibited** during class!
- Leaving the classroom during discussions/presentations is disrespectful.
- Arriving late to an exam may result in a score of "0".
- Eating in class is disrespectful.
- We will respect all forms of diversity and the opinions of others -- even if you disagree with them. Do not monopolize discussions.

Writing Assignments (Communications Intensive Component):

You have to choose one article from academic journals, magazines, or edited book and create a write up of a 1½-2 page (typed, double-spaced) summary/review). You have to write a seven-eight page paper. Detailed **guidelines** for writing assignments will be posted on Vspace. Separate instructions will be given for each writing assignment. **Failure to pass the CI part of this class will result in a failing grade for the entire class.**

Turnitin.com:

Students are required to submit some writing assignments, including research papers (both the final draft and final paper) to www.turnitin.com. Papers not submitted to turnitin.com will not be graded.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Writing Assistance: Students are encouraged to use the services of the Writing Center, located on the 3rd floor of the Melvin J. Zahnow Library. (www.svsu.edu/writingcenter). The Writing Center may be contacted at 989-964-6061. Its purpose is to help students in all disciplines to improve writing skills using tutorial sessions, workshops, and resources. Please visit this web site for more information <http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter/writing-resources.html>.

Computer/Technical Assistance: If you need assistance using VSpace, or have another software/technology issue, please contact the Student Technology Center located in Zahnow Library, second floor (964-2299 or techtutor@svsu.edu, or www.svsu.edu/stc).

Letter of Accommodation:

“Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by Contacting the Office of Disability Services located at Curtiss 112, or call (989) 964-7000. All accommodations must be approved by The Office of Disability Services”.

In order to create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to attaining our goals, this class abides by five policies:

1. Be punctual and prepare to do the scheduled activities during entire class.
2. Conduct yourself with maturity and personal self-management during the class.
3. You are expected to give your best effort to learn and understand what is being taught in the class.
4. Be attentive, disciplined and active in class and perform non-class related activities elsewhere.
5. Respect yourself, your colleagues and your instructor.

As your instructor, I commit to help every student achieve the class goals by:

1. Being enthusiastically organized for each class.
2. Implement the class policies.
3. Returning graded work within one week or two.
4. Starting class on time each day with enthusiasm.
5. Treating every student with fairness and respect.

Students ignoring the class policies risk losing that day’s attendance points.

COURSE OUTLINE (Subject to Modification)

| Week | Topic | Assignment |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 2 January 11 | Course Overview & Introduction | Introduction |
| January 13 | Introduction to Earth Discussion on Earthquake (Haiti) | Chapter 1 Chapter 14 started |
| 3 January 18 | <u>No Class- Martin Luther King Day</u> | |
| January 20 | Portraying the Earth Topographic map #1 | Chapter 2 Writing #1 assigned |
| 4 January 25 | Introduction to the Atmosphere Topographic map | Chapter 3 |
| January 27 | Introduction to the Atmosphere Discussion on Project | Chapter 3 |
| 5 February 1 | Insolation and Temperature Atmospheric Pressure and Wind | Chapter 4 & 5 <u>Topographic map</u> |
| February 3 | Atmospheric Pressure and Wind Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation | Chapter 5 & 6 |
| 6 February 8 | Exam -1 | 1-6 |
| February 10 | Geographic Information System (GIS) | Research proposal due |
| 7 February 15 | Atmospheric Flows and Disturbances GIS | Chapter 7 |
| February 17 | Air photo & Satellite Image interpretation | |
| 8 February 22 | Climatic Zone and types <u>Discussion on project</u> | Chapter 8 |
| February 24 | The Hydrosphere <u>Video Responses-Exam</u> | Chapter 9 |
| 9 | Cycles & Patterns in the Biosphere | Chapter 10 |

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| March 1 | | |
| March 3 | Terrestrial flora and fauna | Chapter 11 |
| 10 March 8 | No Class- Spring Break | |
| March 10 | No Class-Spring Break | |
| 11 March 15 | Soils | Chapter 12 |
| March 17 | Exam -II | Ch 7-12 |
| 12 March 22 | Introduction to Landform Study The Internal Processes | Chapter 13 & 14 |
| March 24 | The Internal Processes | Chapter 14 News Review due |
| 13 March 29 | Preliminaries to Erosion-weathering and mass Wasting | Chapter 15 |
| March 31 | The fluvial processes & fluvial landforms and human Interaction with fluvial system | Chapter 16 |
| 14 April 5 | The topography of Arid Lands | Chapter 18 |
| April 7 | GIS Project | |
| 15 April 12 | Glacial Modification of Terrain | Chapter 19 Draft paper due |
| April 14 | Final Paper preparation in Lab Exam Review | |
| 16 April 19 | Student Presentation Exam Review | Student Presentation |
| April 21 | Student Presentation | Student Presentation Final paper due |
| 17 April 26 | EXAM -III 13,14,15,16,18,19 | Final EXAM 2:30pm-4:20pm |