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GEOG 101: Physical Geography
5 credit hours
Spring 2009-2010
M-Th 9:10-10:00
105 Porter

**Auxiliary content and materials for this course are available through Blackboard
This course utilizes “Clickers” (see below)**

Geography is a broad and integrating discipline that focuses on spatial distributions – why are things found where they are? It involves both the recognition of landscape patterns, as well as an understanding of the processes that create those patterns. Specifically, *physical* geography examines the interacting processes of the earth’s atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere, in order to understand the natural environment in which we live, as well as the role of humans in affecting that environment.

GEOG 101 satisfies 5 credits of Tier II General Education Requirements: Natural Sciences (2NS) [formerly Natural Sciences and Mathematics (2N)].

Text: *The Physical Environment: an Introduction to Physical Geography*, by Michael E. Ritter (2006). <http://www.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/ritter/geog101/textbook/> (A link to this online textbook is provided on the course Blackboard site.) Readings should be completed before the topic is presented in lecture.

Student Response System (“Clickers”): You are **required** to use a clicker for this course, and bring it to lecture every day. You will need a clicker to earn credit for in-class quizzes and participation. Therefore, as soon as possible, purchase one from the Technology Depot (Room 112) in Baker Center. Clickers can be charged to your student bill; they are \$26 used, \$32 new, and can be sold back at the end of the quarter for \$20 (full refund during drop-add). Any technical problems (including dead batteries) will be handled at the Technology Depot at no charge. When you pick up your clicker, you will need to provide your name/PID, and the class (GEOG 101). You might consider putting your name on a sticker/tape on the clicker, in case you misplace it. Once you obtain your clicker, you will need to register it through the course Blackboard site. (Otherwise I won’t know to whom the clicker belongs.)

Grading: There will be three exams during the quarter as well as a non-cumulative final. Each will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions, worth 1 point each. Your lab grade (see below) will contribute 60 points toward your final grade. It is a good practice to save all of your graded and returned assignments until you receive your grade for the course. **You must complete all requirements for lab and all exams in lecture to pass the course.** Participation will count 15 points toward your final grade, and will entail in-class activities covering topics of general relevance to the lectures (usually using your clickers, some requiring a calculator). These questions also allow you to judge how well you understand the material. You must “participate” in these activities in order to receive credit. Daily Participation scores will be posted on Blackboard; it is the student’s responsibility to check that his/her scores are being registered. Two in-class activities will be dropped to allow for malfunctioning or forgotten clickers, unexcused absences, etc. You cannot receive credit without your clicker.

Points	Activity
40	Exam 1
40	Exam 2
40	Exam 3
40	Exam 4
15	Participation (<i>in-class activities using clickers; drop 2</i>)
60	Lab (<i>270 points total, ÷ 4.5</i>)
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235	TOTAL POINTS

Grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93-100%	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	≤59

The “average” grade in this course is typically a C+

Extra Credit. To encourage you to look over your notes regularly (and to discourage folks arriving late to class!), a “clicker question” will be presented at the start of each class, reviewing the previous day’s lecture notes. (This is separate from the “participation” activities.) A running total of your correct answers will be compiled leading up to each exam, and posted on Blackboard. If you score $\geq 80\%$, you will receive +1 point (out of 40, or 2.5 percentage points) on that exam. The tally starts anew with each exam. You must remain for the entire class period in order for your score to register for the quiz.

If you are unable to take any exam on the specified date (e.g., because of an OU-sanctioned activity), notify me ASAP and you may be able to take the exam early. If you miss an exam for some highly compelling reason, you must contact me within a day of the missed exam about a possible make-up. (Note: Misrepresenting your reasons for missed exams, labs, or assignments constitutes academic dishonesty; see paragraph below.) Make-up exams will be essay format. There will be no credit for in-class activities without an excused absence. There will be no “extra credit” offered other than that described above.

Students who have any disability that might affect their performance in this class are encouraged to speak with the instructor at the beginning of the quarter. Accommodations may be possible to allow each student to perform to his or her potential.

⚠ Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and may be reported to the Director of University Judiciaries. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) misrepresenting your reason for a missed assignment, looking at another student’s answers (or allowing another student to look at your answers), presenting another person’s work as your own, or attempting to leave the classroom with a copy of a test. Hats, earphones, and electronic devices are not allowed during exams.

This course provides an in-depth overview of the Earth’s physical environment, which means a lot of information will be covered in class! It is important to keep on top of the material; good attendance is essential, and obviously required to receive participation credit for in-class activities. If any topic is unclear after lecture, please do not hesitate to see me as soon as possible, individually or in a group. Feel free to e-mail me with questions as well.

Classroom etiquette: It is disruptive to arrive late, or to get up and leave while class is still in session. If for some reason you can’t get to class on time or must leave early, please extend the courtesy of informing me beforehand. Laptop computers are not permitted during class. Turn off your cell phones (or set to vibrate) during class, no texting, and please don’t read newspapers during lecture. And don’t pack-up your things before the end of lecture!

Physical Geography Labs. All meet in 115 Clippinger

Students enrolled in Physical Geography must also attend the lab for which they've registered (which MUST be one of these listed):

Lab Time	Call Number
W 1:10 – 3:00 pm	03433
Th 10:10 – 12:00 noon	03434
Th 12:10 – 2:00 pm	03435
F 11:10 – 1:00 pm	03436
F 3:10 – 5:00 pm	03437

In calculating final grades for the course, your lab is equivalent to 1½ lecture exams (i.e., 60 points). In order to pass the course, you must complete the requirements for the lab.

Labs will start the second week of the quarter (W/Th/F April 7/8/9); at that time the teaching assistants will go over the syllabus, office hours, and grading procedures for the lab. Although the labs amplify and reinforce material covered in lecture, material from labs will not be included on the lecture exams.

Required Lab Book: *Physical Geography Lab Manual*, available at Copy Catz, 13 W. Union St. An atlas also is recommended, though not required.

READ OVER THE APPROPRIATE EXERCISE BEFORE ATTENDING THE WEEKLY LABS.
There will be a quiz during the first lab period, so be sure to come prepared!

Many of the exercises require data to be gathered outside, so you will need to dress accordingly. For each lab, you must bring a calculator and course lecture notes. An atlas (the inexpensive *Hammond's Comparative World Atlas*, or similar) is recommended, though assignments may be completed using the wall maps in Clippinger.

Questions about labs (such as excused absences) should first be directed to your TA. Contact information is available on the course Blackboard site.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE – Subject to Change

Week of:	Topic:	*Chapter:	LAB:
Mar 29	Course Introduction Latitude and Longitude Earth-Sun Relationships Atmosphere Composition & Structure	1 (“skim” <i>Air Photos – GPS</i>) 2 (stop at “ <i>Natural Systems</i> ”) 3	<i>No Lab</i>
Apr 5	Atmosphere <i>cont.</i> : Matter & Energy Solar Radiation Radiation Balances Global Temperature Patterns	 4 5	1: Location on the Spherical Earth
Apr 12	Atmospheric Pressure Global Circulation THURSDAY (4/14): EXAM 1 (covering material through “ <i>Global Temperature Patterns</i> ”)	6	2: Surveying & Plotting Location
Apr 19	Atmospheric Stability Atmospheric Moisture	7 10 (“ <i>The Hydrosphere</i> ” & “ <i>The Hydrologic Cycle</i> ”)	3: Solar Radiation, Temperature, & Atmospheric Moisture
Apr 26	Air Masses and Fronts Midlatitude Weather Patterns Severe Weather	8	4: Weather Map Analysis
May 3	MONDAY (5/3): EXAM 2 (covering material through “ <i>Severe Weather</i> ”) Global Climate Patterns	 9	5: The Water Budget
May 10	Biogeography (Soils & Biomes)	11	6: Soil Analysis
May 17	Biogeography (Soils & Biomes) <i>cont.</i>	12, 13	7: Biogeography at the Ridges Land Lab
May 24	MONDAY (5/24): EXAM 3 (covering material through “ <i>Biogeography</i> ”) Fluvial Processes and Landforms Glacial Processes and Landforms	 18 19	8: Hydrology of the Hocking River
May 31	<i>No Class Monday: Memorial Day</i> Glacial Processes and Landforms <i>cont.</i> Coastal Processes and Landforms	 21	9: Topographic Maps

*If you prefer a “real” (vs. online) textbook, I would recommend *Elemental Geosystems* by R.W. Christopherson. On the class Blackboard site under the Syllabus link, I have included appropriate readings from either the 4th, 5th or 6th edition of the textbook.

FINAL EXAM (covering material since “*Biogeography*”): **Friday, June 11th @ 2:50 pm**

Note – this is one of the last scheduled final exam time slots, but will not be changed. Do not make plans to leave Athens before the exam!