

EARTH SCIENCE
Geography 1710
TTH 3:30pm-4:50pm ENV125
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Feifei Pan

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Class Website: http://www.geog.unt.edu/~fpan/phtml/geog1710_fall2012.html

Course Description:

Geography 1710 is an introduction to the interactions of the atmosphere, hydrosphere (lakes, oceans, rainfall, rivers), lithosphere (rocks, soil), and biosphere (animals, plants and humans). The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation for the discipline of Geography.

Text:

Christopherson, R. W., 2011. Geosystems, An Introduction to Physical Geography, 8th Edition, Prentice Hall.

Grade:

Lecture and participation 70% obtained from four exams. A roll sheet may be circulated during class; eight unauthorized absences may result in a student being dropped with a WF for non-attendance. The final will not be comprehensive. All exams will be in-class, closed book and multiple-choice, T/F, or fill in the blank. All students must take the final exam. Lab counts 30% according to your lab instructor's policy. All grades for the course will be final. No assignments or work will be considered after the final grade has been recorded.

(Exam1: 15%, Exam 2: 15%, Exam 3: 15%, Final: 15%, Participation: 10%, Lab: 30%)

Course grades will be assigned according to this scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F: < 60. A curve might be applied if the class average is lower than expected.

*******You must pass the lab to pass the course.*******

Additional Information:

Makeup exams will be given only with type written request and supporting documentation, otherwise a "0" will be assigned. Inform me of your absence before or within 48 hours after the examination date, either in person or by e-mail. I will need specific, written documentation to verify the nature and legitimacy of your absence. You must see me, in person, during my office hours (or make an appointment) before you may take a makeup exam. When you do, I will determine whether you are eligible to take a makeup exam.

Policy on incomplete:

An incomplete will be given only in the case of: (1) the student is passing the course; (2) has justifiable reason why work cannot be completed; (3) arranges to complete all work within one year of the ending date of the course in which the student was enrolled.

Academic Misconduct:

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Classroom Courtesy:

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the University of North Texas college code of student conduct. Please follow these guidelines to avoid disrupting the class:

- (1) Turn off cell phones before arriving.
- (2) Do not arrive late or leave early (except for a bathroom break or emergency).
- (3) Do not sleep or eat during class.
- (4) Do not work on other assignments during class.
- (5) Do not talk when the instructor is lecturing, unless prompted for feedback by the instructor.

Laboratory:

Refer all lab questions to your lab instructor.

Course Objectives:

Information presented in this course will provide you with a basic working knowledge of Physical Geography as a contemporary spatial science, and key concepts of geography. By the end of the semester you should develop critical thinking about various aspects of our Earth and be able to meet the objectives for the Natural Sciences Courses for the student, and are listed as follows:

1. To understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.
2. To recognize qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis and understand the differences

between these approaches and other methods of inquiry, to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.

3. To identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.
4. To demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics values and public policies.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to modern culture.

ODA:

The Department of Geography, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodations, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodations request before the 12th class day.

SETE:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

FALL CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC(s)	Reading Assignments
Aug. 30 --Sep. 25	Ch.1 Introduction, Essentials of geography Ch.2 Solar Energy and Seasons Ch.3 Earth's Modern Atmosphere Ch.4 Atmosphere and Surface Energy Balances Ch.5 Global Temperatures Ch.1-Ch.5 Review: Sep.20 Exam 1: Sep. 25 (covering parts of Ch.1-Ch.5)	1-5
Sep. 27 --Oct.18	Ch.6 Atmospheric and Ocean Circulations Ch.7 Water and Atmospheric Moisture Ch.8 Weather Ch.9 Water Resources Ch.10 Global Climate Systems Ch.6-Ch.10 Review: Oct.16 Exam 2: Oct. 18 (covering parts of Ch.6-Ch.10)	6-10
Oct.23 -- Nov.13	Ch.11 The Dynamic Planet Ch.12 Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism Ch.13 Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement Ch.14 River Systems and Landforms Ch.15 Eolian Processes and Arid Landscapes Ch.11-Ch.15 Review: Nov.8 Exam 3: Nov. 13 (covering parts of Ch.11-Ch.15)	11-15
Nov. 15 -- Dec. 6	Ch.16 Oceans, Coastal Processes, and Landforms Ch.17 Glacial and Periglacial Processes and Landforms Ch.18 The Geography of Soils Ch.19 Ecosystem Essentials Ch.20 Terrestrial Biomes Ch.16-Ch.20 Review: Dec.6 Final Exam: Dec.11 (1:30pm-3:30pm, covering parts of Ch.16-Ch.20)	16-20

This syllabus is definitely subject to change at anytime during the semester.

Check the class website frequently for changes that may occur due to weather, or other unforeseen events.