

**EARTH SCIENCE**  
**Geography 1710 - 004**  
**TTH 12:30-1:50pm LIFE A304**  
**Fall 2024**

**Instructor:** Dr. Feifei Pan

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**Office hours:** TTH 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM or by appointment

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**Class Website:** All lecture slides and announcements will be posted at UNT Canvas.

**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.

**Recommended Textbook:**

Christopherson R., and Birkeland G., 2017: Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Pearson.

**Grade:**

Four exams count 60% of the grade. Attendance to the in-person classes is required and checked, and worth 10% of the grade. A roll sheet will be circulated during each class. Absences can be excused if the excuse notes are emailed to me ahead of time. To encourage student participation, students will receive one point if they answer one question correctly in class. One point is equal to 0.1 actual extra points that will be added to their final overall grades. The final exam will not be comprehensive. All exams will be in-class, closed-book and closed-notes tests with four types of questions: multiple-choice, True/False, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. 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. Weights for all assessments are given as follows: **Exam 1 = 10%, Exam 2 = 12%, Exam 3 = 18%, Final Exam = 20%, Attendance = 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.

**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; or (d) 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 Guidelines:**

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.

**SPOT:**

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) 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 SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class. To increase the participation rate of the SPOT, every student who completes a SPOT and forwards the confirmation email of the completion of the SPOT evaluation to [Feifei.Pan@unt.edu](mailto:Feifei.Pan@unt.edu) will receive one actual extra point toward his/her final overall grade.

**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](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC(s)</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
Aug. 20–Sep. 19	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 <b>Exam 1 on Sep. 19 (covering parts of Ch.1-Ch.5)</b>	<b>1-5</b>
Sep. 24 –Oct. 24	Ch.6 Atmospheric and Ocean Circulations Ch.7 Water and Atmospheric Moisture Ch.8 Weather Ch.9 Water Resources Ch.10-11 Global Climate Systems and Climate Change <b>Exam 2 on Oct. 24 (covering parts of Ch.6-Ch.10-11)</b>	<b>6-10&amp;11</b>
Oct. 29-Nov. 19	Ch.12 The Dynamic Planet Ch.13 Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism Ch.14 Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement <b>Exam 3 on Nov. 19 (covering parts of Ch.12-Ch.14)</b>	<b>12-14</b>
Nov. 21-Dec. 12	Ch.15 River Systems and Landforms Ch.16 Oceans, Coastal Systems, and Wind Processes Ch.17 Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes Ch.18 The Geography of Soils <b>Final Exam on Dec. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm (covering parts of Ch.15 -Ch.18)</b>	<b>15-18</b>

**This syllabus is definitely subject to change at anytime during the semester. Check the class website at Canvas and your UNT email frequently for changes that may occur due to weather, or other unforeseen events.**