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GEOG 101: Physical Geography
5 credit hours
Spring 2007-2008
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 and Mathematics.

Text: *Elemental Geosystems* (5th ed.), by R.W. Christopherson, 2007 (For an online study guide to the text, visit <http://www.prenhall.com/christopherson>)

Student Response System (“Clickers”): You will be required to use a clicker for this course, which will be provided to you free of charge (though you will be responsible for paying for it if it is lost, broken, or stolen). After the first day of class, go to Computer Services Center (CSC), Room 003B, to pick up and register your clicker. (They are open M-F, from 8-5.) Bring your clicker to lecture everyday.

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. **You must complete all requirements for lab and all exams in lecture to pass the course.** Regular in-class activities covering topics of general relevance to the lectures (usually using your clickers, some requiring a calculator) will be worth 1 point apiece. It is a good practice to save all of your graded and returned assignments until you receive your grade for the course.

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. Make-up exams will be essay format. There will be no make-ups for any in-class assignments without an excused absence. No “extra credit” will be offered.

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

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.

⚠ Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment, and may be reported to the Director of University Judiciaries for further action.

A lot of information will be covered in class, and it is important to keep on top of the material; good attendance is essential, although not a basis for student grades. 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. Turn off your cell phones during class, and please don't read newspapers during lecture. Laptop computers are not permitted during class.

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
Th 10:10am – 12:00 pm	03267
Th 12:10 – 2:00 pm	03268
W 2:10 – 4:00 pm	03269
F 11:10 am – 1:00 pm	03270
F 3:10 – 5:00 pm	03271

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 (including taking the final exam).

Labs will start the second week of the quarter (W/Th/F April 9/10/11); 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 Bobcat Books, 11 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, textbook (*Elemental Geosystems*), and course lecture notes. A ruler (engineer's scale in 10ths of an inch) will be needed for Labs 2 and 7. 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:	Pages:	LAB:
Mar 31	Course Introduction	1	2-4; 12	<i>No Lab</i>
	Latitude and Longitude	1	15-25	
	Earth-Sun Relationships	2	43-50	
	Atmosphere Composition & Structure	2	51-56	
Apr 7	Atmosphere <i>cont.</i> : Matter & Energy			1: Location on the Spherical Earth
	Solar Radiation	3	76-81	
	Radiation Balances	3	81-85	
Apr 14	Global Temperature Patterns	3	88-99	2: Surveying & Plotting Location
	Atmospheric Stability	5	152-155; 162-166	
	Atmospheric Moisture	5&6	144-152; 192-193	
Apr 21	MONDAY: EXAM 1 (covering material through “Global Temperature Patterns”)			3: Solar Radiation, Temperature, & Atmospheric Moisture
	Atmospheric Pressure	4	113-118	
	Global Circulation	4	118-134	
Apr 28	Air Masses and Fronts	5	157-162	4: The Water Budget
	Midlatitude Weather Patterns	5	166-170	
	Severe Weather	5	170-185	
May 5	MONDAY: EXAM 2 (covering material through “Severe Weather”)			5: Biogeography at the Ridges Land Lab
	Global Climate Patterns	7	218-246	
May 12	Biogeography (Soils & Biomes)	15&16	490-511; 540-557	6: Soil Analysis
May 19	MONDAY: EXAM 3 (covering material through “Biogeography”)			7: Topographic Maps
	Earth Structure and Rock Types	8	264-277	
	Plate Tectonics	8	277-287	
	Earthquakes & Volcanoes	9	310-329	
May 26	NO CLASS MONDAY-MEMORIAL DAY			8: Hydrology of the Hocking River
	Folding & Faulting	9	299-305	
	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	11	362-379	
Jun 2	Glacial Processes and Landforms	14	452-463; 468-477	<i>Lab Final Exam</i>
	Coastal Processes and Landforms	13	427-437	

FINAL EXAM (covering material since “Biogeography”):