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**GEOG 101: Physical Geography**  
5 credit hours  
Spring 2008-2009  
M-Th 10:10-11:00  
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:** *Elemental Geosystems* (5<sup>th</sup> 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 are **required** to use a clicker for this course, and bring it to lecture every day. 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). Be sure to tell them that you are in the 10 am lecture.

**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.** 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; scores for two of these activities will be dropped to allow for malfunctioning or forgotten clickers, unexcused absences, etc.

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 credit for in-class activities without an excused absence. There will be no “extra credit” 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, 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. 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.

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; 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, 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 10<sup>th</sup>s 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 30	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 6	Atmosphere <i>cont.</i> : Matter & Energy			<b>1:</b> Location on the Spherical Earth
	Solar Radiation	3	76-81	
	Radiation Balances	3	81-85	
	Global Temperature Patterns	3	88-99	
Apr 13	Atmospheric Stability	5	152-155; 162-166	<b>2:</b> Surveying & Plotting Location
	Atmospheric Moisture	5&6	144-152; 192-193	
	<b>THURSDAY (4/16): EXAM 1</b> (covering material through “Global Temperature Patterns”)			
Apr 20	Atmospheric Pressure	4	113-118	<b>3:</b> Solar Radiation, Temperature, & Atmospheric Moisture
	Global Circulation	4	118-134	
	Air Masses and Fronts	5	157-162	
Apr 27	Midlatitude Weather Patterns	5	166-170	<b>4:</b> The Water Budget
	Severe Weather	5	170-185	
May 4	<b>MONDAY (5/4): EXAM 2</b> (covering material through “Severe Weather”)			<b>5:</b> Biogeography at the Ridges Land Lab
	Global Climate Patterns	7	218-246	
May 11	Biogeography (Soils & Biomes)	15&16	490-511; 540-557	<b>6:</b> Soil Analysis
May 18	Biogeography (Soils & Biomes) <i>cont.</i>			<b>7:</b> Topographic Maps
	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	11	362-379	
	<b>THURSDAY (5/21): EXAM 3</b> (covering material through “Biogeography”)			
May 25	<b>NO CLASS MONDAY (5/25) – MEMORIAL DAY</b>			<b>8:</b> Hydrology of the Hocking River
	Glacial Processes and Landforms	14	452-463; 468-477	
Jun 1	Coastal Processes and Landforms	13	427-437	<i>Lab Final Exam</i>
	Earth Structure, Rock Types, Plate Tectonics	8	264-287	
	Earthquakes & Volcanoes, Folding & Faulting	9	299-305, 310-329	

**FINAL EXAM** (covering material since “Biogeography”):