GPH 111: Introduction to Physical Geography
Fall 2009 – Sections #15504 & #34561
MWF 8 to 9:50am – Classroom HU-112

"Nobody climbs mountains for scientific reasons. Science is used to raise money for the expeditions, but you really climb for the hell of it". – Edmund Hillary

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better". – Albert Einstein

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Office Hours: **7:00-8:00am or immediately after class**

*Note: You may contact me using the above phone number or email address. You may also choose to speak with me in person either before or after class or during my office hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Physical Geography! This course examines the interrelated systems that continually modify and mold the surface of the Earth. Topics include map and image analysis, weather, climate, landform development, soils, erosion, water, glacial processes, desert processes, fluvial processes, and coastal processes. The course includes lab exercises that compliment lecture material.

REQUIREDTEXTS

- McKnight, T. and Darrel Hess. Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, Ninth Ed. Prentice Hall, 2007

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Identify patterns of the Earth's weather, climate, soils, landforms, and water using maps and satellite/aerial images.
- Explain the origins of these patterns, the relationships among these patterns, and the role of man as part of the physical environment.
- Describe the processes responsible for the creation of various natural landforms on the Earth's surface.
- Explain the need for classification in scientific inquiry and the basis used for classifying climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms.
- Apply skills using maps, graphs, and charts as tools of geographic study.
- Identify specific landforms using maps and satellite/aerial images.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Textbook will supplement lectures. Therefore, students should be prepared to read related chapters, as outlined below, before each lecture!
2. There will be three midterm exams scheduled for **9/25/09, 10/23/09,** and **11/20/09**. A final exam will be given on **12/14/09** (See final exam schedule in Student Catalog). Examinations will draw upon material from lectures, textbook readings, assignments, and lab activities. The exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions, short answer, photo recognition, and lab activities designed to test your grasp of concepts, definitions, key examples, and broad regional patterns. Short Essay and/or Lab Activity questions will comprise a portion of each exam. Each exam will contribute 50 points toward the course grade.
3. As part of this course, you will be required to perform laboratory experiments and/or exercises. Lab exercises are designed to supplement lecture and readings with hands-on experiences. For most labs, **collaborative learning is required and I insist the all group members work together**. No late work or make up labs will be accepted. The lab activities will take place during class time. Lab activities/assignments will contribute a total of 75 points toward your grade (Two lowest grades dropped).
4. Attendance will be used to determine borderline grades. Tardiness is considered an absence and is strongly discouraged as it represents a disruption to the classroom learning environment. All absences are considered unofficial, with the exception of those described in the GCC Student Catalog.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The instructor is willing to make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to documented disability, including learning disabilities. Please see me during the first week of class to discuss any special needs.

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COURSE CONDITIONS

1. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus at any time. All changes will be announced during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of any such announced changes.
2. Students are responsible for processing a withdrawal form should they wish to discontinue enrollment in this class.
3. Students are responsible to be on-time for and attend all classes, unless otherwise excused as described in the Student Catalog. I start class on-time, therefore I expect you to be on-time. Excess tardiness will result in that student's dismissal from the class for Academic Misconduct and a course grade of F.
4. **TURN OFF all cellular phones and refrain from noisy/disruptive behavior during class.** Feel free to make yourself as comfortable as is appropriate in a classroom setting but do not read newspapers or magazines during class, or engage in other activities that are distracting to your classmates or myself (i.e. personal stereo equipment, talking, sleeping, tardiness, Sudoku). Students habitually violating these rules are subject to dismissal from the class for Academic Misconduct and a course grade of F. Furthermore, no electronic devices of any kind, except a calculator, are permitted during exams.
5. **Above all, the instructor expects a civilized, respectful, professional, and open-minded attitude to prevail in the classroom. Students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly, and the instructor strives to set a good example and to manage classroom discussions so they remain appropriate to the setting.**
6. Students agree to accept and comply with these requirements by choosing to remain enrolled after learning of these course conditions.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS ("Keep Your Eye on the Ball")

Come to class. Attendance and performance tend to be positively correlated. For most students, regular attendance is the best means of succeeding in the class. Lectures reinforce reading assignments and provide the opportunity for clarification.
Be on time. Tardiness disrupts the learning process of others.
Read assignments. You paid for the book – use it! This includes the index and glossary sections. An accompanying web site is located at www.prenhall.com/mcknight. A list of key terms will be provided for each chapter to assist you in picking out "the important stuff". These also serve as review sheets for exams.
Take notes. You are responsible for material whether it is presented in lecture, reading or visual format. Develop a habit of taking notes over reading assignments, slide presentation, videos, review sessions and other less traditional modes of learning.
Keep up. If absent, contact your instructor and ask what material is being covered. When you return be certain to pick up any handouts and announcements from the instructor and any notes from classmates. Make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances with prior approval of the instructor.
Ask questions. Immediately before and after class are the best times for clarification of material. I value your input – raise your hand to ask a question relevant to the discussion or to contribute your knowledge to the discussion. Make use of office hours to discuss course content, study skills or academic counseling.
Begin studying early. This is a survey course. We cover a tremendous amount of material in a short time. Reading over your notes immediately before or after class will serve as an aid to you, and help you to remember the material and to formulate questions over unclear topics. The intent of offering only four exams during the semester is to encourage students to synthesize as well as to analyze material. An exam per chapter emphasizes memorization. An exam over several chapters necessitates integration of specific facts into a unified earth system. Remember, geography is the study of earth. There is a lot to learn.

GRADES

Exam I	50 points
Exam II	50 points
Exam III	50 points
Exam IV	50 points
Lab Exercises	75 points
Total Points:	275 points

The tentative grading scale is as follows:

100-90%	= A
89-80%	= B
79-70%	= C
69-60%	= D
59-0%	= F

**Note: I reserve the right to raise grades that are on or very near the cusp of each letter grade.*

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COURSE OUTLINE

Dates:	Textbook Readings:	Monday Topic & Exercises:	Wednesday Topic & Exercises:	Friday Topic & Exercise:
Week 1: 8/24/09	▪ Ch. 1: Intro to Earth	▪ Class Introduction ▪ Student Information Sheet ▪ Lecture – Introduction to Earth	▪ Lecture – Intro to Earth (cont.)	▪ Lab A – System of Units & Graphs/Isolines
Week 2: 8/31/09	▪ Ch. 2: Portraying Earth	▪ Lecture – Earth's Energy Balance	▪ Lab B – Earth-Sun Rel.	▪ Lecture – Intro to the Atmospher
Week 3: 9/7/09	▪ Ch. 3: Intro to the Atmosphere ▪ Ch. 4: Insolation and Temperature	▪ Labor Day – NO CLASS!	▪ Lab C – Geographic Grid	▪ Lecture – Intro to the Atmospher (cont.)
Week 4: 9/14/09	▪ Ch. 4: Insolation and Temperature	▪ Lab D – Intro to Geo Tools-Atlases	▪ Lecture – Atmosphere & Oceanic Circulation	▪ Lab G – Atm. & Climate I ▪ Part I
Week 5: 9/21/09	▪ Ch. 5: Atmosphere Pressure & Wind	▪ Lecture – Atmosphere & Oceanic Circ. (cont.)	▪ Lab G – Atm. & Climate I ▪ Part II ▪ **Review**	▪ **Exam I (9/25/09)**
Week 6: 9/28/09	▪ Ch. 6: Atmosphere Moisture	▪ Lecture – Atmospheric Moisture ▪ Intro to Sling Psychrometer	▪ Lab H – Atm. & Climate II ▪ Part IV	▪ Lecture – Atmospheric Moisture (cont.)
Week 7: 10/5/09	▪ Ch. 7: Atmospheric Flows & Disturbances	▪ Lab H – Atm. & Climate II ▪ Parts I – III	▪ Lecture – Weather	▪ Lab I – Atm. & Climate III
Week 8: 10/12/09	▪ Ch. 7: Atmospheric Flows & Disturbances ▪ Ch. 8: Climatic Zones & Types	▪ Lecture – Weather (cont.)	▪ Lecture – Climate	▪ Lab J – World Climate Zones
Week 9: 10/19/09	▪ Ch. 9: Hydrosphere	▪ Lab J – World Climate Zones (cont.)	▪ Lecture – Hydrosphere ▪ **Review**	▪ **Exam II (10/23/09)**
Week 10: 10/26/09	▪ Ch. 13: Intro to Landform Study	▪ Lecture – Dynamic Earth	▪ Lecture – Dynamic Earth (cont.) ▪ Lab E – Intro to Geo Tools-Topo Maps	▪ Lab E – Intro to Geo Tools-Topo Maps (cont.)
Week 11: 11/2/09	▪ Ch. 14: Internal Processes	▪ Lecture – Earthquakes & Volcanoes	▪ Lab F – Intro to Geo Tools-Contour Lines & Profiles	▪ Lecture – Earthquakes & Volcano (cont.)
Week 12: 11/9/09	▪ Ch. 15: Weathering & Mass Wasting	▪ Lab F – Intro to Geo Tools-Contour Lines & Profiles (*if needed*) ▪ Lab M – Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes…	▪ Veteran's Day – NO CLASS!	▪ Lecture – Weathering, Mass Wast & Karst Topography
Week 13: 11/16/09	▪ Ch. 17: Solution Processes & Karst	▪ Lecture – Weathering, Mass Wasting & Karst Topography (cont.)	▪ Lab – Karst & Mass Wasting Part I ▪ **Review**	▪ **Exam III (11/20/09)**
Week 14: 11/23/09	▪ Ch. 19: Glacial Modification of Terrain	▪ Lecture – Glacial Processes	▪ Lab – Glacial Processes	▪ Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLA
Week 15: 11/30/09	▪ Ch. 20: Coastal Processes	▪ Geo Comp Post Test	▪ Lecture – Coastal Processes	▪ Lab – Coastal Processes
Week 16: 12/7/09	▪ Ch. 10: Cycles & Patterns in the Biosphere	▪ Lecture – Biogeography	▪ Lab – Plant Geography	▪ **Review** ▪ GeoJeopardy!
Week 17: 12/14/09	▪ None	▪ **Final Exam (12/14/09)**		