

Geography 1050 – Physical Geography

Summer 2009, 4 credits. CRN: 22136

Lecture: M & W 8:00 to 11:20 Wood Hall 2722

Instructor: Lucius F. Hallett, IV, Ph.D.

Email: lucius.hallett@wmich.edu

Office Hours: 12 – 2 M/W or by appointment

Office: Wood Hall Room 3232

Course Overview and Objectives

As a study of the earth's physical environment, this course examines the seasonal and latitudinal distribution of solar energy; analyzes the many elements of weather, climate, vegetation, and soils; and considers the earth's major landforms and the processes that shape them. Though each topic is treated separately, this course demonstrates the basic relationships among these topics and points out the human implications in all physical earth systems. Map use and laboratory work is an integral part of this course. There is a lab component to this class that must be successfully completed in order to pass the over-all course. As such, we will be changing classrooms and generally moving around throughout the semester. Please bring appropriate materials including clothing.

By the end of the course, students should:

- *Be able to understand the basics of how the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere interact in the earth's system*
- *Be exposed to and able to interpret various types of data, imagery and maps that relate to earth process*
- *Be able to understand how various geomorphic agents shape the earth's surface*
- *Be able to understand the introductory principles of earth-sun relationships*
- *Be able to understand how the interrelationships between the earth's energy balance and belts of pressure and wind influence weather, climate and the location of biomes.*

Text & Materials:

Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography. Christopherson, 7th Ed.

Physical Geography Lab Manual Supplement. Hallett, Summer 1 Edition.

-Available at the Western Michigan University bookstore in the Bernhard Center

Study questions: if you are interested in answering practice questions for quizzes and exams, the Geosystems website: http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_christopherson_geosystems_7 has a series of questions that accompany every chapter in the text.

For assistance in locating articles, books and additional reference materials relevant to the class contact Michael McDonnell, Library Liaison to the Geography Department. Phone: 387-5208. Email: Michael.McDonnell@wmich.edu, Room 2030, Second Floor, Waldo Library.

Course background

As a student, I most respected those teachers who seemed organized, but also allowed time and opportunities for discussion. I very much hope that this course will meet these dual goals. The syllabus is intended to let you know where we are at and where we are going during the course year, but I also want students to feel free to ask questions and share opinions in every class. If discussions take us a bit off schedule, that is fine. I have responsibilities to the class as a whole. I will be well prepared and open to discussion at any time in the lecture, right after class, or during office hours. You can raise your hand to speak at any time. I will also spend as much time as you wish out of class helping you in any way I can to master the material. It is far better to spend some moments with me early than to get lost and struggle, so feel free to speak with me.

Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Ms. Beth Denhartigh at 387-2116 or email beth.denhartigh@wmich at the beginning of the semester. That office must make a disability determination before the instructor provides any accommodations.

A Quick note on cheating

The Faculty Senate Executive Board has suggested that the following statement regarding academic integrity be included in all syllabi:

“You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabricating, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse [policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is a reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.” Please don’t do it!!

Grading:

Exams: there will be two exams; one on Wednesday, May 20th at the end of class and the second, a ‘final’ on the last day of class. While the final is not cumulative in the strictest sense, understanding of processes builds throughout the semester and so you will be expected to keep this in mind. Both exams will be worth 35% of your total grade.

Lab Exercises: 25% 25 points

Participation: 5% 5 Points

Exams: 35% each 70 points

Total Points available: 100 for semester grade. Divide by number accumulated for percentage grade

Course Grading

A	90 % or more
BA	88.0 – 89.9
B	80.0 – 87.9
CB	78.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 77.9
DC	68.0 – 69.9
D	60.0 – 67.9
E (Fail)	Below 59.9

Course Schedule		Chapter	Lab #
Monday May 4	Introduction to course, Lab materials and set-up.	CH. 1: pp. 1-7. 13-27, CH. 11: 323-339.	
Wednesday May 6	Rocks and earth structure	Ch. 11: 323-339	Part 1
Monday May 11	Plate Tectonics, earth quakes	Ch. 11: 341-354, Ch. 12: 358-384.	Plate tectonics
Wednesday May 13	Volcanoes	Ch. 12: 385-397.	
Monday May 18	Weathering and Mass wasting	Ch. 13: 400-426.	Topograph
Wednesday May 20	Fluvial Systems	Ch. 14: 430-465	Exam 1
Monday May 25	no class, Memorial day break		
Wednesday May 27	Glacial and Periglacial Processes	Ch. 17: 530-565	Glacial landscapes
Monday June 1	Earth/Sun Relations	Ch. 2: 38-57	
Wednesday June 3	Atmosphere and Energy	Ch. 3: 60-85, Ch. 4: 88-108	Earth/sun
Monday June 8	Temperature	Ch. 5: 114-135, Ch.6: 140-170	
Wednesday June 10	Water and Atmospheric Moisture	Ch. 7: 174-203, Ch. 8: 206-240, Ch. 9: 246-248	Insolation/ Surface
Monday June 15	Global Climate Systems	Ch. 10: 276-317	Relative Humidity
Wednesday June 17	The Geography of Soils	Ch. 18: 572-585	
Monday June 22	Ecosystem Essentials, Terrestrial Biomes	Ch. 19: 604-644, Ch. 20: 648-673	Satellites and Storms
Wednesday June 24	End of Semester – Final and all Labs due		