

University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)



Department of Earth, Environmental and Resource Sciences
Spring 2023
Online

Physical Geography - GEOG 1306 - CRN: 25608

Instructor: Dr. Musa Hussein

Office: Geology Building 306B

Office hour: Virtually via MS Team. Only by an appointment.

Phone: (915) 747-5424

Email: mjhusein@utep.edu (respond time 24-48 hours) or
via class messages on Blackboard (respond time 24-48 hours)

Course Description

The class will study the Earth's atmosphere, weather, climate; and earth geological structures and surface features – focusing upon landforms, soil, and ecological systems. We as class will examine the interactions between humans and our natural environment, mainly here in the United States and globally. We will begin to understand concepts of balance and equilibrium in complex environmental systems that are subject to change over several time scales. Our focus will be geographical and spatial: where things are, why they are there, and how place and spatial relationships make a difference.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe how locations and spatial relationships of properties of the earth's atmosphere and surface are displayed on maps.
2. Explain the Earth's radiation energy balances and their relationships to temperatures.
3. Describe the circulations of the lower atmosphere and upper oceans, and relate them to associated weather systems.
4. Explain the global hydrologic cycles and the distribution of global and US water resources.
5. Describe how soils and ecological communities develop and are structured;
6. Describe how the gross topography of the Earth is related to its plate tectonic framework.
7. Explain how landscapes are shaped by rivers, wind, ice, and coastal ocean waters.
8. Identify how human activity is affecting environmental change.
9. Explain how scientific methods, models, and theories are used to describe and explain environmental processes and patterns, and
10. Understand the framework for the scientific consensus on global climate change.

Text:

“McKnight’s Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation” by Darrel Hess & Dennis Tasa, 13th edition. Published by Pearson Prentice Hall. Earlier editions are accepted.

Attendance:

This is a 100% online class. The class is asynchronous which means you can do the assignments, exams, and quizzes on your best convenient time as long as you submit within the time limit I give you.

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements

Grading:

1. Four exams (40 points each): 60% of your overall grade.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. The questions will relate to the textbook. Please don’t miss the exam REOPEN IS NOT AN OPTION.

2. Reading assignments (10 points each): 30% of your overall grade.

Every week you will complete one reading assignment. I expect that you will provide full detailed answer for each question, short brief answers are not preferred and will not get the full grade, Beside the correct answer I will be looking for the way you express your answers. Late assignment will lose some points, assignment that is two weeks late will not be graded and will earn 0 points.

3. Quizzes and class activity (5 points each): 10% of your overall grade.

Every week you will complete one short quiz. The quizzes serve to reinforce material. I assign them based on how you are doing with the material. If you miss more than two, you might lose up to a letter grade.

Your final lecture grade is based on the total of exams and quizzes

- 90-100=A
- 80-89.9=B
- 70-79.9=C
- 60-69.9=D
- less than 60 =F

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Students with Disabilities

If you think you may have a disability or if you are experiencing learning difficulties, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) you contact them Monday through Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Phone:(915) 747-5148 Union Building East Room 106 cass@utep.edu. They will provide any necessary accommodations. You should also meet with me in order to facilitate your needs. You are expected to provide documentation of your disability in order to make special arrangements in this class.

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty will be not tolerated in this class (please refer to the student conduct code handbook for details regarding university policy and definitions).

Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism on term papers, unauthorized notes brought into an exam; copying answers from another student or letting another student copy your answers. The penalty for the first offense will be a grade of zero points on the exam or assignment. Penalty for the second offense will be an F for the course.

When someone in an audience is talking, or even whispering, it can be very distracting to those nearby. Since this type of behavior is quite rude and impedes the progress of other students, it will not be tolerated and anyone doing so will be asked to leave the classroom.

Your continued enrollment in this course implies that you have read and understand this syllabus, and that you agree to abide by the conditions herein.

Helpful Hints:

- Review material regularly - multiple short study sessions over a period of weeks are more effective than a single "cram" the night before an exam.
- Form a study group online. Each member should study material on their own before meeting with the group for discussion and comparison.
- Write out definitions and answers to essay questions; use a computer or something else- don't just passively read your notes!
- Ask questions when you have any
- Combine class notes, textbook, web materials, and old exams when studying – each provides a different perspective.
- Pay attention to the news and current events to see how they related to Geology.
- Do the homework assignments. They will help your grade.
- Read your text in SMALL doses; don't plan on one massive reading session the night before the exam.
- Be sure to look at the pictures and diagrams in the text.

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

COURSE OUTLINE: this schedule is subject to change.

Block No.	Chapter &Topic	Due date
Block 1	Ch. 1- Introduction to earth	01/26/2023
	Ch. 2- Portraying Earth	02/02/2023
	Ch. 3 - Introduction to the atmosphere	02/09/2023
	Ch. 4- Insolation and Temperature	02/16/2023
Exam (Friday 02/17/2023)		
Block 2	Ch. 7- Atmospheric Disturbance	02/23/2023
	Ch. 8 - Climate and Climate Change	03/02/2023
	Ch. 9 - The Hydrosphere	03/09/2023
	Ch. 10- Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere	03/23/2023
Exam 2 (Friday 03/24/2023)		
Block 3	Ch. 12- Soils	03/30/2023
	Ch. 14- The Internal Processes	04/06/2023
	Ch. 15- Weathering and Mass Wasting	04/13/2023
Exam 3 (Friday 04/14/2023)		
	Ch. 16- Fluvial Processes	04/20/2023
Block 4	Ch. 18- The Topography of Arid Lands	04/27/2023
	Ch. 20- Coastal Processes and Terrain	05/04/2023
Exam 4 (Friday 05/05/2023)		

Important Academic Calendar Dates:

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| • Classes begin | Jan 17 |
| • Census day | Feb 01 |
| • Spring Break | Mar 13 -17 |
| • Course drop | Mar 30 |
| • Dead Day | May 05 |
| • Final Exams | May 8 - 12 |