

GEOG 103 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT Fall 2011

<http://faculty.unlv.edu/ganqing/GEOG103>

Section 004, T-Th 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM, LFG102

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Course Format: Lecture, twice a week
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 – 4:30 pm or by appointment (walk in is fine)
Required Textbook: Christopherson, Robert W., 2011, *Geosystems – An Introduction to Physical Geography*, Eighth Edition, Prentice Hall, 623p. ISBN: 978-0-13-321-70622-5
[If you have the 7th or 6th edition of the book, it would be fine as well]

Purpose of this Class:

Upon completion of this course, students should have a comprehensive understanding of physical geography, including: (1) the concept of “systems”; (2) principles of mapping; (3) Earth as a planet; (4) the concept of weather; (5) the concept of climate; (6) Earth’s internal structure and plate tectonic theory; (7) the hydrologic cycle and erosion; and (8) the processes that occur near the Earth’s surface such as groundwater, rivers, wind, waves, and glaciers.

Grading policy:

Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule. I reserve the right to curve the final grades in the students’ favor.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>
A	over 93	C	between 73 and 77
A-	between 90 and 93	C-	between 70 and 73
B+	between 87 and 90	D+	between 67 and 70
B	between 83 and 87	D	between 63 and 67
B-	between 80 and 83	D-	between 60 and 63
C+	between 77 and 80	F	less than 60

Final Grades will be computed as follows:

Three exams	20% each
Final Exam (comprehensive)	30%
Attendance, Quizzes/homework	10%

Notes: No make-up exams, make-up quizzes, or make-up homework will be given unless you provide a written medical, military, or university excuse. So plan to attend class.

Changes to Syllabus: The attached lecture schedule is tentative; adjustments to the schedule of topics and reading assignments may be made in accordance with the rate of progress in the classroom. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary.

CLASS SCHEDULE – GEOG 103 (section 004) Fall 2011

Date	Lecture Topic	Required Reading
Week 1		
T Aug. 30	Introduction	Ch. 1
Th Sep. 1	Essentials of Geography	Ch. 1
Week 2		
T Sep. 6	GPS, Magnetic Field and Navigation	Ch. 1
Th Sep. 8	Solar Energy	Ch. 2
Week 3		
T Sep. 13	Earth's Atmosphere	Ch. 3
Th Sep. 15	Energy Balances	Ch. 4
Week 4		
T Sep. 20	Global Temperatures	Ch. 5
Th Sep. 22	Atmospheric Circulation	Ch. 6
Week 5		
T Sep. 27	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-5)	Ch. 1-5
Th Sep. 29	Water and Atmospheric Moisture	Ch. 7
Week 6		
T Oct. 4	Water and Atmospheric Moisture	Ch. 7
Th Oct. 6	Weather	Ch. 8
Week 7		
T Oct. 11	Water Resources	Ch. 9
Th Oct. 13	Review on Chapter 6-9	Ch. 6-9
Week 8		
T Oct. 18	Exam 2 (Ch. 6-9)	Ch. 6-9
Th Oct. 20	No Class	No class
Week 9		
T Oct. 25	No Class	No class
Th Oct. 27	No class	No class
Week 10		
T Nov. 1	Global Climate	Ch. 10
Th Nov. 3	The Dynamic Earth	Ch. 11
Week 11		
T Nov. 8	The Dynamic Earth	Ch. 11
Th Nov. 10	Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism	Ch. 12
Week 12		
T Nov. 15	Weathering, karst, and mass movement	Ch. 13
Th Nov. 17	Exam III review	Ch. 10-13

Week 13		
T Nov. 22	Exam 3(Ch. 10-13)	Ch. 10-13
Th Nov. 24	Thanksgiving holiday; No class	No class
Week 14		
T Nov. 29	River Systems and Landforms	Ch. 14
Th Dec. 1	Deserts and Desert Landforms	Ch. 15
Week 15		
T Dec. 6	Oceanic and Coastal Processes	Ch. 16
Th Dec. 8	Final Exam Review	Ch. 1-16
Week 16		
T Dec. 13	Final Exam (1:00 – 3:00 pm, classroom)	

Logistics and Policies

1. Participation

Students in this class will have different backgrounds and levels of educational training. As a result, you may find some material difficult, feel that you are already familiar with some of the concepts, or have personal experiences that can inform us all. Whatever your situation, please share your position with us through class participation. Most importantly, however, if you are confused about a concept, **please ask questions** in class for clarification and further explanation. You will not be alone in your confusion. There are many ways to present this material, and I will attempt to find one that works for you. If you do not feel comfortable asking questions in class, please contact me.

2. Attendance

It is important that you attend class daily because we cover a lot of material, and I will provide guidance for reading assignments and exam questions regularly. You are responsible for all material covered in lectures no matter what causes your absence. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from a classmate. Topics covered may vary from the schedule somewhat, but the exam dates will remain fixed. **Neither make-up lectures, make-up exams, make-up quizzes nor make-up exercises will be given.** If you are absent from a scheduled exam without a written medical, military, or university excuse, you will receive a zero for that exam. If a make-up exam is required due to the excuses listed above, the nature of the make-up exam will be at my discretion. The final exam is required of all students.

3. Academic Misconduct

As stated on page 63 of the UNLV 2006-2008 Undergraduate catalog: "Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution."

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. This course operates under a "zero tolerance" policy, meaning that if a student commits cheating or plagiarism they will receive a grade of F for the class.

4. Administrative Drops/Classroom Conduct

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Administrative Drops/Classroom Conduct that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Any student that does not comply with these requirements and conducts themselves in a manner that is disruptive and interferes with the right of other students to learn or of the instructor to teach will be administratively dropped from the course.

5. Learning Environment

The classroom is intended to be a place of learning. As such, and as specified in the UNLV Undergraduate Catalog, no pagers, cell phones, or other potentially disruptive devices are allowed in lecture. Student usage of laptop computers or similar devices is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor, and is restricted to taking notes

for this course. Disruptive behavior such as those described above, chatting, sleeping, watching video, playing games or texting may result in an administrative withdrawal from the course.

6. Bringing children to class

Students are not allowed to bring guests, including children to lecture.

7. Disability Services (DS)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

8. Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

9. Religious Holidays

As a general rule, a student missing a class because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. You must notify me by the last day of late registration if this pertains to you and a clear deadline will be set for completion of work.

10. Official Extracurricular Activity

All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide official written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

11. Nondiscrimination

The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

12. Copyright Issues

The university requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect you, nor defend you, nor assume responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations could subject you to federal and state civil liabilities as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

13. Succeeding!

To do well in this class you should study and work with the material daily. At the end of each day, read your notes and make sure that you understand what you wrote. Better yet, re-write your notes in a second notebook using complete sentences: if something isn't clear in your own mind it will be readily apparent to you. For best results, do this within 24 hours of when class ends. Even though not assigned, answer the questions at the end of each chapter. Quiz yourself – use the CD in your text. Develop a study group, you'll learn more and it will be more enjoyable. Keep up with reading assignments, and lecture material. It is harder to come from behind than to stay engaged daily. If you get confused or have questions that have not been resolved in lecture, then do not hesitate to contact me. Meeting with me during office hours is best because I have set aside this time for you. If you cannot make any of my office hours, call or email for an appointment. I am here to help you learn and succeed, but you have to be pro-active in this endeavor. **Cramming for exams is the least productive thing you can do!** In previous classes, over 90% of the students who fail the class didn't attend class regularly.