

GEOG 104: Principles of Physical Geography

Course Syllabus

Fall 2011

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:15 pm Lindley 412

Instructor

Dr. Daniel Hirmas

Lindley 415A (Office hours: Mondays 1-2 pm and Wednesdays 2-4 pm or by appointment)

(785) 864-5542

hirmas@ku.edu (If emailing, please write "GEOG 104" in the subject line.)

Textbook

Discovering Physical Geography 2nd Ed. by Alan F. Arbogast (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

Blackboard

Lecture notes, announcements, grade information will be posted. It is your responsibility to print off your lecture handouts prior to class and bring them to lecture. In addition, I will administer your lecture exams through Blackboard.

Objectives

We will explore the status and dynamics of the major Earth systems—Atmosphere (weather, climate and climate change), Biosphere (plant communities), Lithosphere (geology and landforms), Pedosphere (soils), and Cryosphere (ice caps and glaciers).

Lecture

Lectures are presented through Keynote, the outlines of which are available on Blackboard. You must take quality notes in that examinations are largely based on lecture material. **Talking, texting, newspaper reading, internet surfing, etc., or walking out early will not be tolerated during the class period.** You will lose 5 pts on the following exam for each incident.

Clickers and 3-D Glasses

One clicker will be available for each student enrolled in this class free of charge. Clickers will be distributed to you the first day of class. **You must register your clicker through Blackboard** (select "Student Tools" from the left tab menu and click on "Register Your i>clicker Remote ID"). For more detailed instructions, click on "Clicker Instructions" in the left tab menu in Blackboard. **Please complete the registration by the beginning of the next class period.** Students who miss the first day of class or enroll late must pick up a clicker at Budig 16; you will need to bring a printout of your class schedule and your student ID. Students that drop the course will need to bring their clicker back to Budig 16.

We will be examining some of the lecture material in 3-D through the use of a newly installed stereo projection system. Pairs of 3-D glasses for viewing these images will be available at the beginning of each class **and must be returned at the end of the lecture!** You also have the option of purchasing these glasses from the KU Bookstore in the Union.

Grading

Five exams will be given during the course of the semester. Each will consist of 50 1-point multiple choice questions and will cover only the lecture material since the previous exam. **Exams will be administered**

through Blackboard and must be completed between 11 - 12:15 pm on the scheduled day of the exam. You will need access to the internet during that time and the class will not meet those days. The five exams will represent 85% of your final grade.

In addition to the five exams, you will be asked a series of clicker questions during each lecture. **It is your responsibility to bring your clicker to each class!** Your answer to each of these questions will be assessed as follows: correct response = 1 pt, incorrect response = 0.5 pt, no response = 0 pt. Your grade for these questions will be determined by summing your scores and dividing by the total number of clicker questions during the semester (to be determined). Participation in these clicker questions will be worth 10% of your final grade. *You will have the option of replacing your lowest lecture exam score with the average number of correct responses from your clicker questions.*

Finally, you will need to complete a pre-class concept quiz on Blackboard at the beginning of the semester worth 5% of your final grade. **This quiz must be completed by the beginning of the next class period (11 am, Thursday, August 25).** Once you begin, you will have 2 hours to complete the quiz. **Your grade on this quiz is assessed only by whether you participated in it or not, so please answer the questions on your own without the aid of fellow students, the text, or any online sources.** Participation in this quiz will guarantee all 5 percentage points of your final grade; failure to participate by the deadline will result in zero points.

Your final grade will be determined by your exam scores (85%), clicker questions (10%), and pre-class concept quiz (5%). I will not curve the final grade so if you find yourself struggling with the material – **Ask for help early!** Final grades will be assigned as follows: A= >89.5%, B= <89.5 - 79.5%, C= <79.5 - 69.5%, D= <69.5 - 59.5%, and F= <59.5% (e.g., 89.499 = B). **I do not use the +/- system.** It is my policy that if you answer at least 70% on the clicker questions correct throughout the semester and have taken all the exams, though you may be failing, you will make at least a D in the class. **Any student caught cheating will receive a final grade of F and be brought up on charges with the University Senate. (See University Senate Rules and Regulations for questions about what constitutes ‘cheating.’)**

Note: You will need proper documentation dated and timed appropriately in order to make up an exam!

Seating

You will be assigned a different seat for every lecture. Seat assignments will be posted on Blackboard in the morning prior lecture, sent to your email address in Blackboard, and posted inside the classroom on both the north and south walls of the room. Your assignment will be made with either a single letter (e.g., “K”) or a double letter (e.g., “KK”). A single letter refers to the south half of the classroom (the left-hand side of the room when entering from the hallway) and a double letter refers to the north half of the classroom (the right-hand side of the room when entering from the hallway). These letters correspond to a group of seats within each row beginning with “A” or “AA” at the front of the room and ending with “P” or “PP” at the back. The group of seats are indicated on the walls at the end of each row. In addition, individual seats are labeled with two yellow dots, one of which has the letter that corresponds to a group of seats. The other yellow dot has a unique number (1-191) which corresponds to that seat. (That same number is also displayed on the back of the seat.) **You may sit in any of the seats with the group that corresponds to your assignment (i.e., the seats with the proper single or double letters). After finding a seat, you will need to use your clicker to send me your seat number (i.e., 1-191).** This information will be assessed as one of your clicker questions.

Note: Some of the seats also have a red dot which is being used in another class. Please ignore that dot.

Disabilities

Any individual with a disability that may impair his or her performance in this course should talk with me as soon as possible in order to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation.

University of Kansas Policy Statement

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Course Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

Date	Topic	Chapter Readings
Aug 23	Course Overview	
Aug 25	Stereo test; Introduction; Geographer's Tools	1 and 2
Aug 30	Geographer's Tools (cont.); Earth-Sun Geometry	2 and 3
Sep 1	Earth-Sun Geometry (cont.); Global Energy System	3 and 4
Sep 6	Global Energy System(cont.); Global Temperature Patterns	4 and 5
Sep 8	Exam 1 (Blackboard)	
Sep 13	Global Temperature Patterns (cont.); Stereo test	5
Sep 15	Atmospheric Pressure, Wind, and Global Circulation	6
Sep 20	Guest Lecture: Winds and Global Circulation	6
Sep 22	Guest Lecture: Atmospheric Moisture	7
Sep 27	Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation	7
Sep 29	Exam 2 (Blackboard)	
Oct 4	Atmospheric Moisture (cont.); Cyclonic Weather Systems	7 and 8
Oct 6	Cyclonic Weather Systems (cont.); Global Climates	8 and 9
Oct 11	Fall Break - No Class	
Oct 13	Global Climates (cont.)	9
Oct 18	SSSA	
Oct 20	Plant Geography	10
Oct 25	Global Distribution and Character of Soils	11
Oct 27	Exam 3 (Blackboard)	
Nov 1	Earth Structure, Rock Cycle and Geologic Time	12
Nov 3	Tectonic Processes and Landforms	13
Nov 8	Weathering and Mass Wasting	14
Nov 10	Weathering and Mass Wasting (cont.)	14
Nov 15	Groundwater and Karst	15

Nov 17	Fluvial Systems and Landforms	16
Nov 22	Exam 4 (Blackboard)	
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break - No Class	
Nov 29	Fluvial Systems and Landforms (cont.)	16
Dec 1	Glacial Geomorphology: Processes and Landforms	17
Dec 6	Glacial Geomorphology (cont.)	17
Dec 8	Arid Landscapes and Eolian Processes	18
Dec 15	Final Exam 10:30 - 1 pm (Blackboard)	

This course lecture schedule is flexible and will likely change as the course progresses.