
COURSE SYLLABUS
Principles of Physical Geography
GEOG 104
Spring 2007
10:00-10:50 MWF
412 Lindley
Enrollment Section 54315

Instructor: William C. (Bill) Johnson
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Office Hours: hour before and after class, and by appointment (use email)

Textbook: *Introducing Physical Geography* (4th edition) by Alan and Arthur Strahler. This text is well-written, concise, and well-illustrated; it is particularly well-suited for our introductory course. There are 3 ways you can get the textbook: new or used paperback, OR as an E-Book from the publisher's (Wiley & Sons) website.

Optional Only: *Goode's World Atlas* OR *Goode's Atlas of Physical Geography* (Rand McNally) or facsimile
Outline Maps (Rand McNally; available at bookstores)

Online source: Blackboard (announcements, PowerPoint lecture outlines, review materials, grades, etc.)

Objectives: The primary purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the physical environment in which we live. Specifically, this course aims to provide you with ...

- (1) increased awareness of the important concepts, facts, and terminology of your physical environment,
 - (2) an introduction into the way natural systems function at global, regional and local scales, and
 - (3) improved appreciation of the interrelationships between humans and their environment.
- All of these are intended to make you a more informed member of society, which is an absolute necessity in these days of global warming, population growth, extremist politics and rapid advances in science.

Lecture: Lectures will be presented through PowerPoint. You must take quality notes in that the examinations are constructed primarily from lecture material, i.e., the textbook serves as a supportive, reference source, with most of the PowerPoint images coming from the textbook. Student versions of the PowerPoint lectures are available as PDF documents on Blackboard.

Examinations and Grading: Five 1-hour examinations will be given during the semester. Each examination will be worth a possible 50 points and consist of multiple choice questions in a machine-scored format (soft-lead pencil required). Each of the examinations (including the 5th) will cover only those lecture topics covered since the previous examination and will include 7 to 10 map (place/feature) questions. All examinations will be graded on a curve, with both numerical and letter grades assigned. A review session will be held prior to each examination.

To determine your final grade in the course, I will drop the lowest grade of the first four examinations (if you took all four). Note that you must take the 5th/final exam, and it may NOT be dropped. If you take three or fewer examinations or miss the 5th examination, you will automatically receive a grade of **F** regardless of point total. Exam scores will be available in the grade book on Blackboard. Do NOT rely on the averages, totals, and any other summary statistics that Blackboard provides.

Extra Credit: None.

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 and facilitate the educational process.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Lecture Topic	Text Readings
Jan19	Course introduction and nature of Physical Geography	Prologue
Jan22	Earth as a Rotating Planet	C1
Jan24	Global Energy Balance	C2
Jan26	Global Energy Balance	C2
Jan29	Global Energy Balance and Air Temperature	C2, C3
Jan31	Global Energy Balance and Air Temperature	C2, C3
Feb2	Air Pressure and Winds	C5
Feb5	Air Pressure and Winds	C5
Feb7	Global Circulation	C5
Feb9	Examination One (includes North American place names)	
Feb12	Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation	C4
Feb14	Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation	C4
Feb16	Air Masses, Clouds, Midlatitude (Extra-tropical) Storms	C4, C6
Feb19	Air Masses, Clouds, Midlatitude (Extra-tropical) Storms	C4, C6
Feb21	Tropical Storms	C6
Feb23	Global Climates	C7
Feb26	Biogeographic Processes	C8
Feb28	Global Biogeography	C9
Mar2	Examination Two (South American place names)	
Mar5	Global Biogeography	C9
Mar7	Global Soils	C10
Mar9	Global Soils	C10
Mar12	Climatic Change	pp. 64-65, 110-111, 178-179
Mar14	Climatic Change	pp. 64-65, 110-111, 178-179
Mar16	Climatic Change	pp. 238-39, 624-627

Mar19	No Class—Spring Break	--
Mar21	No Class—Spring Break	--
Mar23	No Class—Spring Break	--
Mar26	Earth Materials	C11
Mar28	The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics	C12
Mar30	Examination Three (African place names)	
Apr2	The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics	C12
Apr4	Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms	C13
Apr6	Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms	C13
Apr9	Landforms and Rock Structure	C17
Apr11	Weathering and Mass Wasting	C14
Apr13	Fresh Water on the Continents	C15
Apr16	Fresh Water on the Continents	C15
Apr18	Landforms Made by Dissolution of Limestone	C15
Apr20	Examination Four (Asian place names)	
Apr23	Landforms Made by Running Water	C16
Apr25	Landforms Made by Running Water	C16
Apr27	Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age	C19
Apr30	Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age	C19
May2	Landforms Made by Waves	C18
May4	Landforms Made by Wind	C18
May7	Digital Elevation Models and GIS Rendering of the Earth's Surface	--
May9	Epilogue	Epilogue
May14	Examination Five (European place names)	9:00-10:00am

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.