

Geography 105: Introductory Lab in Physical Geography

Spring 2008

Instructor: Ryan Good

Office: 500 Lindley

Email: ryangood@ku.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

Phone: 864-2473

Physical geography is a subject covering a wide range of topics, including the likes of climatology, river systems, and landforms. During this course we will discuss a number of these topics using a hands-on approach in order to obtain a deeper understanding of physical processes. This lab is designed to reinforce material covered in Geography 104, Physical Geography Lecture. While it is possible to take these courses at different times, it is encouraged that you take them concurrently. By the end of this course, you can expect to have a greater understanding and appreciation of the effects physical geography has on cultural landscapes, to understand spatial patterns of physical processes, and to have a greater understanding of the physical geography of Kansas.

Required Text:

Johnson, William. *Physical Geography Laboratory Exercises*.

Required Course Materials:

lab manual; pen/pencil; calculator; atlas

Blackboard

The course will have a site on KU's blackboard website (courseware.ku.edu) on which grades, announcements, and lecture notes will be posted.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. All cases will be penalized in accordance with Academic Senate and Geography Department guidelines.

Students with Disabilities

The KU office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted SSD, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 864-2620.

Please also see me as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation in the course.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following items:

Labs	50%
Quizzes	30%
Map Quizzes	10%
Attendance	10%

Final marks will be calculated on the following scale:

A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: 59 or lower

Labs

Lab exercises will be completed during class time and handed in before leaving. You are responsible for completing all labs as assigned and handing them in on time. **Late labs will not be accepted.** If you know that you will be absent, see me prior to the absence. You are still responsible for material covered in class when you are absent.

Quizzes

As this is a laboratory course, we will not have formal examinations. However, regular quizzes will still be held in order to evaluate your learning in the course. We will have four scheduled quizzes, approximately every four weeks. None will be cumulative. I reserve the right to also give pop quizzes if class participation warrants them.

Map Quizzes

While the main goal of this course is to elaborate and expand upon materials covered in lecture, we will also look at specific physical geographic features from around the world. It is important that you become familiar with these features; thus, several short map quizzes will be given through the semester. Materials and content of these quizzes will be announced in class ahead of time.

Attendance

The nature of this course requires you to be present every class. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet each day. This is a hands-on course that uses equipment and supplies only available in the lab. I do not teach labs during office hours, but I am happy to discuss material and answer questions in my office.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Important Notes
1.24	Introductions	
1.29 & 1.31	Maps	
2.5 & 2.7	Solar Radiation	
2.12 & 2.14	Moisture in the Atmosphere	
2.19 & 2.21	Weather Systems	Quiz 1
2.26 & 2.28	Climate	
3.4 & 3.6	Vegetation	
3.11 & 3.13	Biomes	Quiz 2
3.18 & 3.20	Spring Break – No Classes	
3.25 & 3.27	Climate Through Time	
4.1 & 4.3	GIS/GPS	
4.8 & 4.10	Soils	Quiz 3
4.15 & 4.17	Geology	
4.22 & 4.24	Rivers	
4.29 & 4.30	Landforms	
5.6 & 5.8	Glaciers	Quiz 4

This schedule is tentative at best. Should any changes need to be made, notice will be given as soon as possible in class and via Blackboard.