

GEOG 1301 151 Physical Geography

Summer I 2021

Course Syllabus is subject to modification and will be announced in class and/or posted to Blackboard

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Grafton

SPC E-Mail: dgrafton@southplainscollege.edu

WebEx Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course introduces Earth's natural environments including climates, soils, vegetation, water resources, and landforms, with emphasis on spatial characteristics and human-environment interactions. Included is a look at the effects environments have on human activities and how humans modify the environment.

Materials

Textbook: Strahler, Alan. *Introducing Physical Geography*, 6th ed. New York: Wiley, 2013.

Course Grading

Assignment	Points	%
Discussions (18 @ various points each)	350	44
Exams	450	56
Total	800	100

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Level of Mastery
A	90% - 100%	Superior mastery of the course competencies
B	80% - 89%	Above average mastery of the course competencies

Letter Grade	Percentage	Level of Mastery
C	70% - 79%	Minimum acceptable mastery of the course competencies
D	60% - 69%	Less than acceptable mastery of the course competencies
F	59% - below	Fails to demonstrate achievement of the course competencies

Discussions

250 points

Students will react to what they have learned in the assigned reading in the Discussion Board. Students must use their own words and not those of other students who previously posted. Students will then respond to at *least two other students*. See the Discussion Board for more details. There are no opportunities to make-up late discussions.

Exams:

450 points

All exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exam IV is cumulative, meaning that it will test on material from the entire semester.

Late Work:

Students will be excused from taking the first three exams only in extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.). Documentation of these circumstances must be provided. In such cases, the student must contact the instructor, either by phone or email, within two days of the exam due date. There will be no opportunity to make-up the final exam under any circumstance. A missed final exam will receive a zero grade.

Students may only make up one exam per semester. A student who misses an additional exam will receive an automatic zero for that exam.

Extra Credit:

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Study Expectations

Throughout this course, you will need to invest a significant portion of your time outside of class each week throughout the semester to successfully complete this course - **expect to spend at least 20 hours per week on this summer course.**

Instructional Method

This course will utilize the following instructional methods.

Online Instruction:

Lecture time for this course will be delivered via a web-based learning management system (Blackboard) that can be conveniently accessed anytime, anyplace. Students are expected to access the course weekly at a time of their convenience and maintain regular contact with the instructor and other students through Blackboard. For every credit hour, students should plan to spend an average of 2-3 hours per week for course-related activities in a 15-week course. For example, a 3-credit hour course would average 6-9 hours per week to read/listen to the online content, participate in discussion forums, complete assignments, and study the course material.

Course Expectations

Classroom Etiquette/Behavioral Expectations

1. Comments and questions about the material are encouraged; please feel free to share either in the Discussion Board.
 - i. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, **“You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts.”**
2. Assignments and Exams:
 - i. Assignments and exams will be graded and updated on Blackboard within two weeks of the due date.
3. “Intellectual Safe Space” and “Trigger Warnings”
 - i. Civility and respect are critical to any learning environment. Under no circumstances will harassment or hate-speech directed at the instructor or other students be allowed.
 - ii. The instructor believes that students must be challenged by and engage in healthy debate on subjects that may cause them discomfort. Students should feel able to respectfully express their opinions and beliefs

without fear of unjustified reprisals. Therefore, the instructor will NOT provide an “intellectual safe space” where students may withdraw from perspectives and thoughts contrary to their own. This course will NOT provide “trigger warnings” for unsettling or disturbing material.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated in this course. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on a quiz, exam, or homework assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero for the work and will not be allowed to redo the work. A student cheating or plagiarizing a second time will receive an “F” for the course.

Communication Policy

Email is the best way to contact the instructor. Email will be answered within 48 hours between Sunday afternoon and Friday afternoon. The instructor does not answer email between Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Students must use the e-mail account provided by South Plains College as their official means of email communication for all business related to this course. Any email that does not come directly from your SPC email may be filtered by SPAM or junk mail filters and may get deleted, and will not be excused. This means if you choose to forward your SPC email account to some other email account (such as Gmail, yahoo, Comcast, etc.), then do not send a response back to the instructor from that third-party account. All email correspondence for this course must come from your SPC email account.

The subject line of all email to the instructor must begin with the course number AND section number followed by the topic. The course number and section for this course is: GEOG1301-151.

Here are some examples:

Subject: GEOG1301-151, Missed class – Late Assignment

Subject: GEOG1301-151, When will my assignment grade be posted?

Subject: GEOG1301-151, Final Exam Date

Email without a subject may not be read and will probably be deleted.

Legal Notices

Notice of Copyright

Materials in this course—unless otherwise indicated—are protected by United States copyright law [Title 17, U.S. Code]. Materials are presented in an educational context for personal use and study and should not be shared, distributed, or sold in print—or digitally—outside the course without permission.

As a student your ability to post or link to copyrighted material is also governed by United States copyright law. The law allows for students to post or link to copyrighted materials within the course environment when the materials are pertinent to course work. Instructors—or other staff of the institution—reserve the right to delete or disable your post or link if in their judgment it would involve violation of copyright law.

Detailed Schedule

Module 1

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Syllabus Chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Chapter 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Earth as a Rotating Planet 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M1 Discussion 1: Student Introduction and What is “Physical Geography?” M1 Discussion 2: Intro and The Earth as a Rotating Planet	Jun 2
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M1 Discussion 1 M1 Discussion 2	Jun 4

Module 2

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Earth's Global Energy Balance Chapter 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Temperature 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M2 Discussion 1: Global Energy Balance M2 Discussion 2: Air Temperature	Jun 6
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M2 Discussion 1 M2 Discussion 2	Jun 8
Exam I Due Date	Jun 10

Module 3

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation Chapter 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winds and Global Circulation Chapter 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Systems 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M3 Discussion 1: Moisture and Precipitation M3 Discussion 2: Winds	Jun 12

M3 Discussion 3: Weather Systems	
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M3 Discussion 1 M3 Discussion 2 M3 Discussion 3	Jun 14

Module 4

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Climates and Climate Change 	
Chapter 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biogeographic Processes 	
Chapter 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Biogeography 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M4 Discussion 1: Climate Change M4 Discussion 2: Biogeographic Processes M4 Discussion 3: Global Biogeography	Jun 16
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M4 Discussion 1 M4 Discussion 2 M4 Discussion 3	Jun 18
Exam II Due Date	Jun 20

Module 5

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 10:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Soils <p>Chapter 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics <p>Chapter 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tectonic and Volcanic Landforms 	
<p>Discussion – Initial Post Due Date</p> <p>M5 Discussion 1: Global Soils</p> <p>M5 Discussion 2: Plate Tectonics</p> <p>M5 Discussion 3: Volcanic Landforms</p>	Jun 22
<p>Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date</p> <p>M5 Discussion 1</p> <p>M5 Discussion 2</p> <p>M5 Discussion 3</p>	Jun 24

Module 6

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
<p>Chapter 13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weathering and Mass Wasting <p>Chapter 14:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater of the Continents 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M6 Discussion 1: Weathering and Mass Wasting M6 Discussion 2: Freshwater	Jun 26
Exam III Due Date	Jun 28

Module 7

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landforms Made by Running Water 	
Chapter 16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landforms Made by Waves and Wind 	
Chapter 17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glacial and Periglacial Landforms 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M7 Discussion 1: Running Water M7 Discussion 2: Waves and Wind M7 Discussion 3: Glacial and Periglacial	Jun 30
Exam IV Due Date	Jul 1

All assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the due date.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule. Students will be notified of any changes.

World Regional Geography

Common Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Geography

Course Number: 1303

Course Title: World Regional Geography

Available Formats: Conventional; I-Net; ITV

Campuses: Levelland Campus and Reese Center

Course Description: Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices to be found in those regions. Course content may include one or more regions.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3

Textbook: *The World Today*, 7th Edition, Jan Nijman

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Social/Behavioral Science

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication Skills** – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Purpose: To provide students a better understanding of world regions, cultural diversity, dynamic changes in world populations, and human-environment interactions.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Recognize and explain the process of globalization
2. Comprehends maps and their role in geographical study

3. Identify and describe major world regions
4. Discuss various forms of economic and cultural diversity
5. Explain basic principles of population change and its relation to economic, cultural, and environmental considerations
6. Discuss the relationship between human activity and the natural environment
7. Discuss climate change and its impact on various locations around the world
8. Identify and describe various languages, religions, and political systems
9. Explain some of the similarities and diversity between world regions
10. Identify the interrelationships between world regions
11. Explain differences between less developed and more developed countries
12. Discuss and question cultural and economic inequalities and their effect on the local environment