

GEOGRAPHY 120
Course Title: Global Physical Environments
Fall 2008

INSTRUCTORS: Jim Burt, 425 Science Hall (first half of the semester) jburt@geography.wisc.edu
Jack Williams, 208 Science Hall (second half of the semester) jww@geography.wisc.edu

REQUIREMENTS: Lecture 2 hours per week and discussion section 1 hour per week. Discussion sections elaborate the principal points of class lectures and provide opportunities to discuss topics of student interest related to lecture material.

CREDITS: 3 credits in physical science.

TEXT: *Physical Geography*, 9th Ed, McKnight and Hess, Pearson, 2008.

EXAMINATIONS: Four 50-minute in-class examinations will be given at roughly 4-week intervals. The last exam will be on the last day of instruction. Each exam will stress the material covered since the previous exam. There is no final comprehensive exam during the end-of-semester examination week.

GRADING: The final grade will be determined from a curve of cumulative points achieved on the class examinations, and in discussion section activities. Each class exam will be worth approximately 30 points and the discussion section grade will count 50 points. Discussion section points will be based on worksheets, participation in class discussion and short out-of class assignments. The potential total number of points for the course is 170.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

www.geography.wisc.edu/classes/geog120/ Publicly available course website, which includes the syllabus and links to other resources.
learnuw.wisc.edu/ Password-protected course materials, including 1) News, used by the instructors for class announcements, 2) Content, where the instructors post supplementary materials for download, 3) Discussion, containing bulletin boards for student questions and feedback, and 4) Grades.

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisite courses for this class, but students are expected to be geographically literate. You should know the location of the world's continents and oceans, the location of the 50 states and be able to read latitude and longitude on a map. Much of this information is included in the first two chapters of your textbook or in any student atlas.

HONORS: If you are registered for honors, please contact your TA early in the semester to discuss the project.

TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:

Week 1	W	Sep	3	1) Introduction and Earth-Sun Fundamentals, Chapters: 1, 3
Week 2	M W		8 10	2) Solar and Terrestrial Radiation; Chapter 4 3) Thermal Environments: Chapter 4
Week 3	M W		15 17	4) Atmospheric Forces and Motion I: Chapter 5 5) Atmospheric Forces and Motion II: Chapter 5
Week 4	M W		22 24	6) Atmospheric Moisture: Chapter 6 7) Air Masses, Fronts, and Mid-latitude Cyclones: Chapter 7
Week 5	M W	Oct	29 1	8) *** FIRST EXAM *** 9) Tropical Systems, Chapter 7
Week 6	M W		6 8	10) Global and Regional Climatic Patterns: Chapter 8 11) Global Climate Change: Chapter 8
Week 7	M W		13 15	12) Soil Systems & Soil Forming Environments, Chapter 12 13) Soil Systems & Soil Forming Environments, Chapter 12
Week 8	M W		20 22	14) *** SECOND EXAM *** 15) Terrestrial Ecosystems, Chapter 11
Week 9	M W		27 29	16) Terrestrial Ecosystems, Chapter 11 17) Characteristics of Earth's Surface and Interior, Chapter 13
Week 10	M W	Nov	3 5	18) Characteristics of Earth's Surface and Interior, Chapters 13 and 17 19) Earth's Tectonic Systems, Chapter 14
Week 11	M W		10 12	20) Earth's Tectonic Systems, Chapter 14 21) Volcanic and Earthquake Hazards, Chapter 14
Week 12	M W		17 19	22) *** THIRD EXAM *** 23) Mud & Debris Flows, Landslides & Related Natural Hazards Chapter 15
Week 13	M W		24 26	24) River Processes and River Morphologies, Chapter 16 25) River Processes, Chemical Erosion, and Karst, Chapters 16, 17
Week 14	M W	Dec	1 3	26) Arid and Aeolian Systems: Chapter 18 27) Glacier Landforms and Sediments, Chapter 19
Week 15	M W		8 10	28) Responses of Glacier Systems to Global Environmental Change, Chapter 19 29) *** FOURTH EXAM ***