

GEOGRAPHY 120  
Course Title: Global Physical Environments  
Spring 2008

INSTRUCTORS: Jack Williams, 213 & 421 Science Hall (first half of the semester)  
Jim Knox, 234 Science Hall (second half of the semester)

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: A Landscape Appreciation*, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed, McKnight and Hess, Prentice-Hall, 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 the discussion section. Each class exam will be worth approximately 30 points and the discussion section grade will count 50 points. Discussion section points will be earned from worksheets and activities described on the syllabus provided by the TAs at the first section meeting. The potential total number of points for the course is 170.

TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:

Week 1	W	Jan	23	1) Introduction to Physical Geography and Earth System Science, Chapter: 1
Week 2	M W	Jan	28 30	2) Solar Radiation & Earth-Sun Relations; Chapters 1, 4 3) Atmosphere: Composition and Structure, Chapter 3
Week 3	M W	Feb	4 6	4) Earth's Energy Balance, Chapter 4 5) Earth's Energy Balance, Chapter 4
Week 4	M W		11 13	6) Thermal Environments: Chapter 4 7) *** <b>FIRST EXAM</b> ***
Week 5	M W		18 20	8) Atmospheric Moisture: Chapter 6 9) Atmospheric Forces and Motion: Chapter 5
Week 6	M W		25 27	10) Air Masses, Fronts, and Mid-latitude Cyclones: Chapter 7 11) Global Climate Change, Chapter 8
Week 7	M W	Mar	3 5	12) Vegetation and Environmental Relationships I, Chapter 11 13) Vegetation and Environmental Relationships II, Chapter 11
Week 8	M W		10 12	14) *** <b>SECOND EXAM</b> *** 15) Soil Systems & Soil Forming Environments, Chapter 12

Spring Recess ----March 15 – March23

Week 9	M	Mar	24	16) Soil Systems & Soil Forming Environments, Chapter 12 and Chapter 18
	W		26	17) Surficial Properties & Characteristics of Earth's Surface, Chapter 13
Week 10	M	Mar	31	18) Surficial Properties & Characteristics of Earth's Surface, Chapters 13 and 17
	W	Apr	2	19) Earth's Tectonic Systems, Chapter 14
Week 11	M		7	20) Earth's Tectonic Systems, Chapter 14
	W		9	21) Volcanic and Earthquake Hazards, Chapter 14
Week 12	M		14	22) *** <b>THIRD EXAM</b> ***
	W		16	23) Mud & Debris Flows, Landslides & Related Natural Hazards: Chapter 15
Week 13	M		21	24) Hydrologic Cycle, Runoff, and Floods, Chapter 16
	W		23	25) River Processes and River Morphologies, Chapter 16
Week 14	M		28	26) Responses of Rivers to Human and Natural Environmental Changes: Chapter 16
	W		30	27) Responses of Glacier Systems to Global Environmental Change, Chapter 19
Week 15	M	May	5	28) Glacier Landforms and Sediments, Chapter 19
	W		7	29) *** <b>FOURTH EXAM</b> ***