GEOGRAPHY 210

Introduction to Physical Geography

TR 12:00-13:50 371 Cramer Hall

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the forces and processes that shape landscapes on the earth's surface. It is intended to provide you with insights that will enable you to better interpret and understand the complex interactions between the physical and societal processes that are influencing our planet. Topics include weather and climate, water resources, weathering, landforms, and vegetation. Example used in class will illustrate the usefulness of a knowledge of physical geography in everyday life experience and in travel.

Instructor

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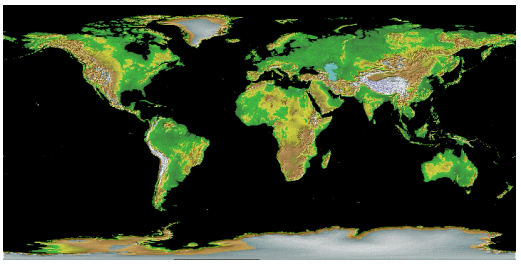

Textbook

Required: ***Elemental Geosystems*** 2004, 4th edition, by Robert W. Christopherson, Prentice Hall.

Course webpage: http://www.web.pdx.edu/~changh/physical.html

Grading

Assignments (30%), Quizzes (15%), In-class exercises (10%), Exams (45%)

Assignments: There are four assignments during the term. The assignments are designed to teach various aspects of physical geography in relation to the human environment. Please be sure to submit assignments on the due date in class. Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless you have medical or family emergencies. Details of the assignments will be posted on the web. Be sure to have your student ODIN account or other Internet access ready to access computing facilities.

Exams: There are two scheduled in-class exams (February 3rd for the mid-term. The tests will not be cumulative, but you will do better on the second, if you have remembered basic material in the first. Exams will consist of all multiple-choice questions. Material will be from the lectures and readings. There will be no make-up exams unless you have medical or family emergencies. University policies on academic honesty apply.

Quizzes: There are four quizzes during the term (see below for the dates). You will get no credits if you are not present in class. I will count three best quizzes scores out of four (each quiz is 5% worth). The main purpose of the quizzes is to keep you up to date with the material. Some quiz questions will be recycled for mid-term and final exams.

In-class exercises: There are six in-class exercises during the regular class time. I will count five in-class exercises that are assigned randomly during the term. In-class exercises will be graded on a Pass (A) and Failure (F) basis.

Bonus points: You can get extra points by simply reporting and posting any scientific news associated with physical geography appeared in media each week. Write the title of the news, source of media (URL), time, and your own thoughts of the article in a paragraph not more than 200 words. Due dates are before class on every Tuesday (except the first week). You can also report it on the class webCT before the due date. Each submission is worth 1% of your grade (A or F), so you can get up to 10 % extra points.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings (book chapter)
1	1/04– 1/06	Introduction to physical geography Earth-sun relationship	pp. 1 – 12 pp. 35 – 46
2	1/11– 1/13 Quiz 1 (1/13)	Atmosphere Atmospheric Energy	pp. 47 – 66 pp. 71- 83
3	1/18– 1/20	Global temperatures Atmospheric and Oceanic circulation	pp. 84 – 100 pp. 105 – 129
4	1/25 – 1/27 Quiz 2 (1/27)	Atmospheric water and weather	pp. 135 - 146 pp. 149 – 174
5	2/01– 2/03	Water Resources Mid-term exam (2/3)	pp. 221 – 243
6	2/08– 2/10	Global Climate systems	pp. 179 – 217
7	2/15– 2/17 Quiz 3 (2/17)	The Dynamic planet Earthquakes, volcanism	pp. 249 - 273 pp. 277 - 311
8	2/22– 2/24	Weathering River systems and landforms	pp. 317 – 336 pp. 343 - 368
9	3/01– 3/03 Quiz 4 (3/03)	Coastal processes and landforms	pp. 397 – 420
10	3/08– 3/10	Ecosystems and biomes	pp. 483 – 522
11	3/17(Thu)	Final exam (10:15 – 12:05)	