Geography 107: Introduction to Physical Geography

Fall 2013: Lecture Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10:00-10:50am in 106 Dean Hall

Instructor: Dr. Megan Walsh, 308 Dean Hall, 963-3699; email: walshme@cwu.edu, office hours: Monday 3-4 pm and Thursday 9-10 am, or by appointment.

Overview and objectives: Introduction to Physical Geography is an introductory physical geography course in which we will discuss and explain the spatial dimension of Earth's dynamic systems- its energy, air, water, weather, climate, tectonics, landforms, rocks, soils, plants, ecosystems, and biomes. We will also discuss many human-Earth relations and concerns such as global warming and the ozone hole. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Text and other resources: The required textbook for this course is Christopherson, R.W., *Elemental Geosystems*, 7th edition, 2013, Pearson. Digital copies are available for purchase through the bookstore or online at mygeoscienceplace.com.

Grades, lecture notes, reading reaction assignments, announcements and other information will be posted on blackboard (courses.cwu.edu). Make sure you check this regularly to insure you know what is going on in class!

Grading/assessment: Your final grade will be based on your performance on three exams, ten quizzes, eight reading reactions, several in-class exercises, and class attendance/participation.

Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3: 25%
Quizzes: 15%
Reading reactions: 10%
In-class exercises: 5%
Class attendance and participation: 5%

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 100-94, A- = 93-90
B+= 89-87, B= 86-83, B- = 82-80
C+= 79-77, C= 76-73, C- = 72-70
D+= 69-67, D= 66-63, D- = 62-60
F = 59 and below

Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. The exams will not be comprehensive. **You will not be allowed to miss or make up an exam unless you notify me ahead of time, and then only at my discretion.** Exceptions will only be made in the case of an emergency and with proper documentation. Exams will cover all lecture material, including discussions we have in class, the assigned readings in the book, and any in-class exercises.

Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions. You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade. See the schedule below for the quiz dates. **You will not be allowed to make up missed quizzes.**

Eight times during the quarter you will be asked to read a selection from the textbook and answer a set of questions. You will submit your answers via Blackboard (Course Assignments—Reading Reactions). You must use complete sentences and you must submit your answers before the due date listed (11:59pm Sunday night). Late submissions will receive no credit. You are allowed to work on these with other students (in fact I encourage you to do so), but you must hand in your own work. **This means no identical answers should be submitted!**

Class attendance and participation will be recorded through random attendance taking and in-class activities/discussions. These activities will **not** be announced beforehand and it will **not** be possible to make up these points if you miss class. Please make sure to bring a pencil/pen and a notebook with you to every class.

Policies: You will need to arrive to class on time and leave only when dismissed. Please do not arrive or leave in the middle of lecture. It is distracting for many people, including myself. When in class you are expected to pay attention (please do not engage in unrelated conversations) and participate in all activities and discussions. Cell phones and other communication devices should be turned OFF during class. Anyone talking on the phone, texting, surfing the web, or emailing during class will be asked to leave and will automatically lose all attendance/discussion points for the day. Please be respectful of your fellow students and instructor by following these rules.

Cheating or any other academic misconduct/dishonesty will **NOT BE TOLERATED**. Examples of these behaviors include (but are not limited to):

- Plagiarism (passing off the work of another as that of your own)
- Copying answers from your neighbors during exams/activities or using a "cheat sheet"
- Dishonesty concerning reasons for absence from class or your presence in class
- Any other actions that might give you an unfair advantage over your classmates

All cases of academic dishonesty/misconduct will be treated very seriously. The penalties for engaging in academic dishonesty and/or misconduct can range from a grade of "F" for an assignment/exam to an automatic failure of the course. Please consult the university policy at http://www.cwu.edu/~saem/index.php?page=student-conduct-code if you have additional questions/concerns regarding academic dishonesty or CWU's Student Conduct Code.

Students with disabilities who require academic adjustments in this class are encouraged to meet with me during my office hours to discuss their disability-related needs. Please bring a copy of your Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments and your current class schedule to this meeting. If you are unable to meet during office hours due to class schedule conflicts, please call me at 963-3699 or email me at WalshMe@cwu.edu to schedule an appointment. Students with disabilities who have not registered with the Center for Disability Services are not eligible to receive accommodations/academic adjustments. Please contact the CDS for additional information. Contact info: Center for Disability Services, Boullion room 205, phone: 963-2171, email: dahlberc@cwu.edu website: http://www.cwu.edu/~dss/cms/

Additional resources: Other useful links can be found at http://www.cwu.edu/~acadadv/programs.php and http://www.cwu.edu/~acadadv/

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the quarter, please email me or come see me! Don't wait until the end of the quarter to voice your concerns. I am here to help you get the most out of this course, so please let me know how I can help.

Note: I consider this syllabus a contract between myself and the students in this course. In writing this syllabus, I have obligated myself to follow the policies and procedures contained herein. By being a student in this course, you are responsible for understanding and following these policies as well. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. You will receive verbal and written notification of major changes to course policies, procedures and content.

Lecture topics and tentative schedule:

Date	Day	Topic	Reading	Quizzes
Week 0-				
9/25	W	Course overview and introduction	Chapter 1	-
9/26	Th	Essentials of Geography	Chapter 1	-
9/27	F	Solar Energy, Seasons, Atmosphere	Chapter 2	Quiz 1
Reading Reaction 1: due 11:59pm 9/29				
Week 1-				
9/30	M	Solar Energy, Seasons, Atmosphere	Chapter 2	-
10/1	T	Solar Energy, Seasons, Atmosphere	Chapter 2	-
10/2	W	Atmospheric Energy and Global Temps	Chapter 3	-
10/3	Th	Atmospheric Energy and Global Temps	Chapter 3	
10/4	F	Atmospheric Energy and Global Temps	Chapter 3	Quiz 2
Reading Reaction 2: due 11:59pm 10/6				
Week 2-				
10/7	M	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	Chapter 4	-
10/8	T	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	Chapter 4	-
10/9	W	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	Chapter 4	-
10/10	Th	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5	
10/11	F	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5	Quiz 3
Reading Reaction 3: due 11:59pm 10/13				
Week 3-				
10/14	M	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5	-
10/15	T	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5	-
10/16	W	No Class (Faculty Development Day)		
10/17	Th	Water Resources	Chapter 6	Quiz 4
10/18	F	Water Resources	Chapter 6	
No homework: study for exam 1				
Week 4-				
10/21	M	**Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)**		
10/22	T	Water Resources	Chapter 6	-
10/23	W	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Chapter 7	-
10/24	Th	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Chapter 7	
10/25	F	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Chapter 7	Quiz 5
Reading Reaction 4: due 11:59pm 10/27				
Week 5-				
10/28	M	The Dynamic Planet	Chapter 8	-
10/29	T	The Dynamic Planet	Chapter 8	-
10/30	W	The Dynamic Planet	Chapter 8	-
10/31	Th	Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes	Chapter 9	
11/1	F	Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes	Chapter 9	Quiz 6
Reading Reaction 5: due 11:59pm 11/3				
Week 6-				
11/4	M	Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes	Chapter 9	-
11/5	T	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, etc.	Chapter 10	-
11/6	W	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, etc.	Chapter 10	Quiz 7
11/7	Th	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, etc.		
11/8	F	River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11	-
No homework: study for exam 2				

Week 7-

11/11	M	**No Class (Veteran's Day)**		
11/12	T	**Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)**		
11/13	W	River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11	-
11/14	Th	River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11	
11/15	F	Oceans and Coastal Processes	Chapter 12	Quiz 8

Reading Reaction 6: due 11:59pm 11/17

Week 8-

11/18	M	Oceans and Coastal Processes	Chapter 12	
11/19	T	Oceans and Coastal Processes	Chapter 12	
11/20	W	The Work of Wind	Chapter 12	
11/21	Th	The Work of Wind	Chapter 12	
11/22	F	Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 13	Quiz 9

Reading Reaction 7: due 11:59pm 11/24

Week 9-

11/25	M	Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 13	
11/26	T	Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 13	
11/27	W	**No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**		
11/28	Th	**No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**		
11/29	F	**No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**		

Reading Reaction 8: due 11:59pm 12/1

Week 10-

12/2	M	Geography of Soils	Chapter 14	-
12/3	T	Geography of Soils	Chapter 14	-
12/4	W	Ecosystem Basics	Chapter 15	Quiz 10
12/5	Th	Terrestrial Biomes	Chapter 16	-
12/6	F	No class (study for final)		

Homework: None, study for exam 3

12/9 M **Exam 3: 8-10 am (Chapters 11-16)**