

# Geography 141: The Natural Environment; Winter, 2012

**Instructor:** Erin Herring ([eherring@uoregon.edu](mailto:eherring@uoregon.edu))

**Office:** 217 Pacific Hall

**Office Hours:** Wed 10:15-11:15 in 217 Pacific, or by appointment

**Lecture:** Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-9:50 am, 282 LIL

## **GTFs and weekly lab meeting (all in 206 Condon)**

Tyler Duffy ([tduffy@uoregon.edu](mailto:tduffy@uoregon.edu))

-Labs: Wed 12:00; Fri 11:00 and 12:00

-Office hours: Mon 10:30-11:30 in 246 Columbia

Christopher Thomas ([cthomas3@uoregon.edu](mailto:cthomas3@uoregon.edu))

-Labs: Tues 1:00 and 2:00; Fri 10:00

-Office hours: Mon 10:00-10:50 in 202 Condon

Alanna Young ([avy@uoregon.edu](mailto:avy@uoregon.edu))

-Labs: Tues 12:00; Wed 1:00 and 2:00

-Office hours: Tues 1:30-2:30 in 248 Columbia

**Course description and goals:** This course introduces the major components of physical geography: climatology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography. Specific topics include:

- Climate: Solar energy and seasons, global warming and radiation budget; global and local winds; ocean currents; lapse rate; rain shadow; air masses and fronts
- Biogeography: ecosystems; vegetation patterns
- Geomorphology: Plate tectonics; volcanoes and earthquakes; weathering and mass wasting; rivers; glaciers

## **Required Materials:**

1. **Geosystems, 8th edition.** by Robert W. Christopherson (Pearson). (ISBN-10 0321706226). NOTE: This book is available as an e-book for a 180-day period for about 50% of the cost of the printed book. Search for the book at [CourseSmart](#).
2. **Laboratory Instructions.** These will be made available to you via Blackboard. We expect you to print them up and review them before the lab section.
3. **i>Clicker remote control** (available in the Bookstore). You must bring this to lecture everyday and register it on Blackboard under the "Course Information" folder.
4. [Google Earth](#), version 6 (free software).
5. Other material will be made available on [blackboard.uoregon.edu](http://blackboard.uoregon.edu)

This course uses several technologies that may be new to you. These technologies are described [http://geography.uoregon.edu/gavin/courses/Geog141/Geog141\\_technology.html](http://geography.uoregon.edu/gavin/courses/Geog141/Geog141_technology.html).

**Course evaluation:** Grades will be determined from five components:

- Exam 1 (15%)
- Exam 2 (15%)
- Exam 3 (15%)
- Labs (35%)
- Quizzes (20%)

## **Grade Distribution:**

A = >90  
B = 80-89  
C = 70-79  
D = 60-69  
F = <59

## General guidelines for this course

1. To do well in this course, you will need to come to lecture and keep pace with the readings. The information being taught is cumulative: you will not understand material if you skip sections. There will be examples provided during lecture that are not in the text but will nevertheless be on the exams.
2. Be sure to complete the required readings BEFORE coming to lecture and lab.
3. During lecture please be respectful of everyone's learning experience. This includes:
  - a. No talking amongst each other. Please leave your social conversations outside the classroom. However, questions during lectures are encouraged. If you have a question, raise your hand or catch me after class.
  - b. Please don't leave in the middle of lecture. It is distracting for many people, including me. If you need to leave, let me know before the lecture starts, then sit near an exit. Obvious exceptions exist, i.e., you are feeling very ill.
  - c. Do not have your laptop computer open. If you strongly prefer to take notes on your laptop, please email me to let me know AND sit in the front row near the side. Otherwise, if you are using your laptop, you will be asked to leave the class. This is because using a laptop during lecture is extremely distracting to the people around you!
4. Cheating. Cheating, such as copying material from other students on tests or lab assignments will result in failing the test at a minimum and may require involvement from the Dean of Students. While we encourage you to talk about the lecture material and lab material outside of class, copying other's work is not allowed and electronic submission of the lab material makes detecting such cases not difficult. In serious cases, you will flunk the class or be expelled from the university. Note that "ghost-clicking" (using your friend's iClicker) constitutes cheating and both students will be reported to Academic Affairs.
5. Plagiarizing. Plagiarizing occurs when you copy materials from other sources without citing the source (i.e., taking credit for someone else's work), or copy someone else's lab. All students should be familiar with the material in this [guide on avoiding plagiarism](#).
6. Take time right away during week 1 to familiarize yourself with the technology that will be used in the course.

## Grading

### Exams (45% of total grade):

There will be three tests, with each test worth 15% of the total grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. The exams will not be cumulative. There are no make-ups for exams. Students who miss a test without a documented excuse will receive a score of **ZERO** for that test. Except in the case of true emergencies, you must contact me **prior** to the exam if you are going to miss it; otherwise you will receive a grade of zero.

Exams will cover all lecture material (including presentations, discussions and videos) plus the chapters in the book. Please make sure that you read the book! There is not enough time to cover everything in detail in the lectures, but you will be responsible for all of the information in the text. Cheating on an exam will result in an automatic fail for the course and you will be reported to the Student Judicial Affairs Office.

### Labs (35% of the total grade):

The weekly one hour labs are part of this course. If you do not pass the lab, you will not pass the course. The labs provide you with the opportunity to apply some of the concepts you have learned in class and in readings, to ask questions about points that interest or confuse you, and to get to know your classmates better. Attendance at each lab is required to receive a grade for that lab. **Labs begin during week 1.**

You will not finish the lab during the lab period, so you will have to put some time outside the 50 minute period into completing the lab. It is very much to your advantage to read through the lab before attending the lab session. This will allow you to ask questions during the lab period about any parts of the exercise lab that cannot be finished in the 50 minute session.

You will enter your lab answers and submit them by computer via Blackboard. Due dates are six days after the lab day, 5:00 PM. A Tuesday lab is due on Monday at 5:00 PM. Sometimes a question requires answered submitted on paper. In that case, submit those answers to the Homework Mailbox in 107 Condon (by 5:00 PM on the due date) or scan and save your lab as a PDF and attach it to your submitted lab on Blackboard. **To receive credit for the portions of lab submitted on paper to the Homework Mailbox, you must make sure to write YOUR name, your GTF's name, AND the day and time of your lab section on your paper. Papers missing one or more of these components will NOT be graded.**

#### **Quizzes (20% of total grade):**

There will be **DAILY** lecture quizzes consisting of three questions, starting on the **SECOND** day of lecture (Jan 11). These questions must be submitted via the **i>Clicker remote control** in class during the allotted time. Questions will be based off of information covered in the prior lecture, textbook readings for the day, and material covered that day in class. These questions will be asked randomly throughout the lecture, so be prepared. You will receive two points for every correct answer to a quiz question, and one point for every incorrect answer. Your three lowest quiz scores will be dropped for the final calculation of your grade. There are no make-up quizzes.

#### **Policies:**

**Attendance is mandatory for both lecture and labs.** Please talk to me ahead of time if you know you have to miss a class.

#### **Disability Services Notice**

I work hard to ensure a quality learning experience for all students. If you need specific accommodations to get the most out of this class, please let me know by (1) informing me of your particular needs, and (2) providing the appropriate documentation from the campus learning services office. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs, but you must notify me by the first week of class if you need special arrangements.

**Academic honesty:** We encourage you to work with other students in the class, but all work that you turn in for a grade must be your own. Quotations, paraphrases, and ideas based on published or on-line sources must be properly cited. Academic dishonesty policies will be enforced per University codes and regulations. Please consult the university policy at <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx> or ask us if you have any questions.

**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. 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and Readings</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Lab Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b>			
Jan 9 (M)	Introduction to course; Essentials of Geography	1	Map skills
Jan 11 (W)	Earth geometry and the seasons	1, 2	
Jan 13 (F)	Earth's modern atmosphere and air pollution	3	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Jan 16	No Class - Martin Luther King Jr. Day		Earth-sun relationships
Jan 18	Atmosphere and surface energy balance	4	
Jan 20	The atmosphere and local patterns in temperature	4	
<b>Week 3</b>			
Jan 23	Global temperatures	5	Temperature patterns and wind
Jan 25	Atmospheric circulation and patterns	6	
Jan 27	Oceanic circulation and patterns	6	
<b>Week 4</b>			
Jan 30	Water and humidity	7	Global circulation and air masses
Feb 1	Lapse rates and clouds	7, 8	
Feb 3	Weather: air masses, clouds, and precipitation	8	
<b>Week 5</b>			
Feb 6	Climate classification	10	Describing global climates
Feb 8	<b>Exam 1 (material to Feb 3)</b>		
Feb 10	Soils Part 1	18	
<b>Week 6</b>			
Feb 13	Soils Part 2	18	Global biomes
Feb 15	Terrestrial Biomes	20	
Feb 17	Biomes and ecosystems	20, 19	
<b>Week 7</b>			
Feb 20	Ecosystem Essentials	19	Topographic Maps and Air Photos
Feb 22	Ecosystems and future climate change	19	
Feb 24	<b>Exam 2 (material Feb 6-Feb 22)</b>		
<b>Week 8</b>			
Feb 27	Lithosphere and the rock cycle	11	No Lab
Feb 29	Tectonics and volcanoes	12	
Mar 2	Weathering; physical and chemical	13	
<b>Week 9</b>			
Mar 5	Karst landscapes and mass-movements	13	Topographic maps and mass wasting
Mar 7	Mass-movement processes	13	
Mar 9	Fluvial processes and landforms	14	
<b>Week 10</b>			
Mar 12	Fluvial landforms and management	14	Stream processes
Mar 14	Eolian processes and arid landscapes	15	
Mar 16	Glacial processes and landforms	17	
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Final: 10:15-12:15 (material Feb 27-Mar 16)</b>		