

**GEO 102: LANDSCAPE PATTERNS AND PROCESSES (3 credit hours)**  
**HUMB 170, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 9:30-10:45 AM**  
**FALL 2010**

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Office hours: Mon. & Tues. 1:30-4:00 PM; Wed. 5:00-6:00 PM;  
or by appointment.

**Course Description**

In GEO 102 students examine the characteristic landforms associated with natural landscape regions and develop an understanding of the physical processes responsible for the observed distributions. In labs, students develop geographic skills including map reading, formulation of geographic questions, and analysis of spatial data. This class provides students with an understanding of the natural environment in which they live and applies that knowledge to problems they are likely to encounter in their lives. Students must also be enrolled in the GEO 102 Lab.

**Course Goals and Objectives:** (See attached schedule for details)

Students in this traditional lecture class will become familiar with the following:

Representations of Earth (imagery, topographic maps)

Plate tectonics

Volcanic and plutonic processes and landforms

Diastrophic processes (folding and faulting)

Fluvial processes and landforms

Karst processes and landforms

Desert processes and landforms

Glacial processes and landforms

Coastal processes and landforms

**Text**

*Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, Tenth Edition by T. L. McKnight and D. Hess, published by Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. The same textbook is used for GEO 101. Older editions are acceptable.

**Exams and Grading Policy**

Due to the size of the class, exams are multiple choice and use Scantron answer sheets. Most of the exam comes from the material covered in class, and it includes the chapters indicated on the syllabus. Exam 1 = 19% of final grade, Exam 2 = 21%, Exam 3 = 23%, Exam 4 (Final) = 27%. Although not totally comprehensive, each exam will incorporate questions taken directly from any previous exams. Attendance/participation counts 10%.

Final grade is based on the following scale: 100 to 90 = A; 89 to 80 = B; 79 to 70 = C; 69 to 60 = D; below 60 = F.

## **Makeup Exams**

Makeup exams must be scheduled as soon as the student returns to class. Most makeup exams will be primarily discussion type questions.

## **Final Grade**

You will receive a separate final grade in GEO 102 lecture and GEO 102 lab. Note that the lecture is a 3 credit hour course and the lab is a 1 credit hour course. Students enrolled in GEO 102 lecture must sign up for a GEO 102 lab

## **Classroom Policies**

Attendance - Students are expected to attend and to be on time for ALL classes.

Attendance is checked at each class. **It is your responsibility to sign the class role at the time it is passed around.** Your attendance grade is the number of classes you attend divided by the total number of classes. Problems that cause extended absence should be discussed with the instructor.

Behavior - No smoking or eating is allowed during class. You are encouraged to share your ideas and opinions, and you are expected to treat your classmates and professor with courtesy and respect. The student conduct code is specified in *The Lowdown* under USA Policies, “Code of Student Conduct” and “Academic Disruption Policy”. Note that sleeping in class or talking in class when you should be listening are considered academic disruption.

Academic misconduct - The penalty for cheating is a zero on the assignment in question.

## **Disabilities**

The University of South Alabama provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Andrea Agnew and is located in the Student Center, room 270. The phone number is (251) 460-7212.

## **Changes**

The class schedule may be changed if necessary, but students will receive at least 48 hours notice if possible.

## **JagSuccess**

Because this class is in the general education curriculum, we will participate in JagSuccess, an early warning program that will provide students with feedback on how they are doing by week 6 of the semester. Please check your [jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:jaguar1.usouthal.edu) email at that time for further information. If you are making below a C in attendance or performance in class, you will be asked to complete an on-line tutorial. I will offer some extra credit in GEO 102 to students are in this group who communicate with me and who make this effort to improve.