

**GEO 320 W: ALABAMA GEOGRAPHY, FALL SEMESTER 2010**  
**LSCB 18, WEDNESDAY, 6:00 – 8:40**

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

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In GEO 320 students improve writing skills as well as develop an understanding of physical and human features in Alabama. Lectures stress a regional approach to studying spatial patterns, variation, and controls/causative factors across the state of Alabama. The weekly writing assignment (one-two pages) is on the same topic covered at the state level in lecture, but the student researches that topic within his/her chosen Alabama county. Students learn editing skills by peer reviewing assignments in class and by revising their own assignments based on reviews by fellow students and the teacher. They compile their rewritten assignments into a final term paper on their selected county.

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** (See attached schedule for details)

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

- Alabama's relative location and its boundaries
- Geologic history, physiographic regions, and characteristic landforms
- Alabama's weather and climate
- Surface water in Alabama
- Natural vegetation and soils of Alabama
- Soils of Alabama
- European settlement patterns and early agriculture
- Exploitation of Alabama's forests
- Transportation, economic & industrial development
- Population characteristics, urban areas, and level of development
- Environmental issues in Alabama
- Culture (way of life), politics, food, religion

**TEXT**

No text is available at the college level

**ASSIGNMENTS**

There is a weekly writing assignment. To receive full credit, it must be turned in on the announced due date unless other arrangements have been made IN ADVANCE. Late assignments lose 10% per day. Students should use a word processor for writing assignments and should bring two printed copies of each writing assignment to class, one to be peer reviewed and returned that night and the other to be turned in to the teacher. After receiving feedback on the writing assignment, students may rewrite the assignment for a better grade on the draft. **For the final term paper, both the reviewed draft assignments and the final revised compiled paper must be turned in.**

## **EXAMS AND GRADING POLICY**

Exams are mostly discussion type questions. They come from the material covered in class. Exam 1 = 10% of final grade, Exam 2 = 13%, and Exam 3 = 15%. Although not totally comprehensive, each exam will incorporate some questions taken directly from any previous exams. Weekly draft writing assignments total 24%, attendance counts 7%, peer reviews total 12%, and the final term paper counts 20%. 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.

## **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

Attendance - Students are expected to attend and to be on time for ALL classes. Attendance is checked at each class. Problems that cause extended absence should be discussed with the instructor.

Behavior - No smoking or eating (unless it's a popcorn night) 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 or plagiarism 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.