

GEO 101: ATMOSPHERIC PATTERNS AND PROCESSES, SPRING 2011
HUMB 170, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 9:30-10:45 AM

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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 2:00-4:00 PM; Wednesday 9:00–11:00 AM, or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In GEO 101 students develop an understanding of earth-sun relationships as the driving force behind global energy patterns, and they study the atmospheric processes and spatial patterns associated with weather, climate, biomes, and soils. 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.

COURSE CONTENT: (See attached schedule for details)

Representations of the earth (imagery, topographic maps)

Solar system, earth-sun relationships, time

Atmosphere, insolation variation, and temperature

Atmospheric pressure and wind

Atmospheric moisture

Air masses, fronts, and storms

Climate zones and types

Terrestrial flora and fauna

Soils

TEXT: *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, Tenth Edition by T. L. McKnight and D.

Hess, published by Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. This is the same text used in GEO 102. Older editions are acceptable.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICY: 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 roll at the time it is passed around. If you are not in the classroom when the roll is circulated, you may not be allowed to sign it later.** 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. You are encouraged to share your ideas and opinions, and you are expected to treat your classmates and professor with courtesy and respect. Disruptive behavior, as specified in the student *Lowdown*, is prohibited. This includes things such as routinely entering class late or departing early, sleeping in class, use of cell phones, playing computer games, etc. (<http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml>). Cheating will result in a grade of zero on that assignment/exam.

MAKEUP EXAMS: Makeup exams are allowed if, and only if, the student can furnish a reasonable excuse for missing the exam. Makeup exams must be scheduled as soon as the student returns to class. Makeup exams may be totally discussion type questions.

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.

FINAL GRADE: You will receive a separate final grade in GEO 101 lecture and GEO 101 lab. Note that the lecture is a 3 credit hour course and the lab is a 1 credit hour course. Students enrolled in GEO 101 lecture must sign up for a GEO 101 lab.

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

JagSuccess is a program intended to help students be successful in 100 and 200 level courses. If you are not doing well, you will get an email instructing you to see your professor along with instructions to access an online survey regarding class habits and study skills. Based on your survey score, you will receive recommendations for improving your performance. You will also be given a link to an online tutorial intended to help with common problems affecting academic performance. Watch for this email during week 7 of this semester.