

GEO 102.501 – Landscape Patterns and Processes

6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m. Mondays, LSCB 119
Spring 2012

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Office Hours: 3:00 - 5:15 pm Mondays & Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm Thursdays, *or by appointment*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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 lab, students develop geographic skills including map reading, formulation of geographic questions, and analysis of spatial data. This course 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 are expected to be able to explain concepts and processes learned in the course.

COURSE CONTENT: (not in order of occurrence - see page 3 for details)

Representations of the earth, volcanic & plutonic processes & landforms, diastrophic processes (folding & faulting), the hydrologic system, plate tectonics, and karst, arid, glacial, coastal, and fluvial processes & landforms

TEXTBOOK

Required textbook: *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, (10th Edition), by D. Hess, published by Prentice Hall. The same textbook is used for Geo 101. Recent older editions are acceptable; but any page references I make are for the 10th edition. Additional readings may be handed out in class or posted the course webpage. It is the student's responsibility to read these handouts in addition to the textbook in preparation for the exams.

ATTENDANCE and CLASSROOM POLICIES

Students are expected to be on time and *stay* the entire time for ALL classes. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet when it is passed around the room. Please keep in mind that missing any lecture, excused or not, will likely have a detrimental affect on your grade.

The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Academic Disruption is published annually in *The Lowdown*. Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment. There is no talking in class, reading newspapers or other non-course related material, coming late, sleeping, leaving early or texting/messaging. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and text messaging devices and **put them away!** You will be asked to leave if you text/talk during class.

EVALUATION and GRADING POLICIES

The course grade is calculated from attendance, three assignments, and three examinations.

- Three exams will be administered during the semester and are worth a combined total of 68%. Exam material comes from lecture material, the textbook, supplemental readings, handouts, images and diagrams. I make every effort to grade the exams in a timely manner.
- Three exercises will be assigned, either as homework or as in-class work and are worth 30 points each for a total of 90 points (or 21% of the course grade). Instructions and due dates for the assignments will be announced when each assignment is handed out. Even if you are absent, you are still responsible for acquiring and completing the assignments and turning them in on time, which may be the same night they are assigned.
- Attendance is taken each time class meets (12 times total, excluding exam days) and counts 4 points each time (48 points total or 11% of your final course grade). Attendance may be taken at the beginning and/or end of class. Excused absences require written validation (see exam make-up policy below).
- Just a reminder, you receive separate grades for lab and lecture. Students must enroll in both GEO 102 lecture and lab to receive the natural science credit.

The *final* grades will be determined based on the following rules and percentages:

A: 100 to 90 % B: 89 to 80 % C: 79 to 70 % D: 69 to 60 % F: <60%

Course component	Points	Approx. Percentage (%)
Exam I	75	17 %
Exam II	115	26 %
Exam III	110	25 %
Assignments (3)	30 each (90 total)	6 % each (21% total)
Attendance (12 times)	4 each (48 total)	11 % total
Total	438	100%

EXAM MAKE-UP, ATTENDANCE, and LATE-WORK POLICIES

If you have a valid excuse, you must contact me via email either before the exam or **within** 24 hours after an exam is administered to schedule a makeup exam. All legitimate excuses (for exam makeups & attendance credit) require **written validation**. Valid excuses include: illness (your's or a dependent's), a death in the immediate family, or participating in a university-sponsored event. Only exceptional excuses from work-related absences are accepted. Make up exams *will be different from the original exam*. **Makeup exams taken without a valid excuse will be assessed a 15 point penalty.**

A ten-percent penalty is assessed for each day an assignment is late (including weekends). No assignments will be accepted after the answer key is posted or one week has passed since the assignment was due, whichever occurs first, irrelevant if you were absent the night it was due. If you cannot turn in your assignment, either give it to a classmate to turn in for you, or turn it in to the department office ahead of time.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of South Alabama provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded 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). OSSS is currently located in the PTCL building, at 5828 Old Shell Rd (phone: 460-7212).

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. The University of South Alabama is committed to the fundamental values of preserving academic honesty as defined in the Student Handbook: The Lowdown. Plagiarism is using somebody else's ideas in your writing without correctly identifying such sources. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education and must be avoided. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from receiving a zero on an exam to probation and expulsion.

JAGSUCCESS PARTICIPATION

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.

CHANGES

The class schedule is tentative and may be changed if necessary. Students will receive at least 48 hours notice *if possible*. The notice may be sent via email to your Jaguar email account.

STUDENT PRIVACY

In accordance with University Policy and federal law, I can only discuss your grades in the course in person. This means I cannot email your grades (even if you email me requesting your grades) or discuss your grades over the telephone. To talk with me about your grades, please come to see me during my office hours or set up an appointment to see me.

Tentative Course Schedule¹

Date	Topics	Readings
Jan 23rd	Introduction, Earth Representations	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Jan 30th	Earth's Structure, Minerals, Rocks Plate tectonics intro	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
Feb 6th	Plate tectonics (cont.), Volcanoes, Earthquakes	Chapter 14
Feb 13th	<i>Exam I – Chapters 1, 2, 13, & 14</i>	
Feb 20th	Plutons, Diastrophism, Intro to geomorphology	Chapter 14
Feb 27th	Weathering and mass wasting	Chapter 15
Mar 5th	Water resources and groundwater	Chapter 9
Mar 12th	NO CLASS – Spring break	
Mar 19th	Karst geomorphology	Chapter 17
Mar 26th	Fluvial geomorphology	Chapter 16
Apr 2nd	<i>Exam II – Chapters 15, 9, 17, & 16</i>	
Apr 9th	Fluvial geomorphology	Chapter 16
Apr 16th	Coastal geomorphology, Oceans	Chapter 20
Apr 23rd	Arid Landforms and Aeolian Processes	Chapter 18
Apr 30th	Glacial geomorphology	Chapter 19
May 7th	<i>Final Exam (Exam III), 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Chapters 16, 20, 18, & 19</i>	

¹Course schedule may be adjusted as the semester progresses. Students will be notified of changes at least one week in advance.

Other important dates:

February 10th: Last day to register for summer graduation

February 21st – Mardi Gras Holiday

April 6th – Last day to drop a course (4:59 pm)