

# GEO 310/GY 310 Environmental Earth Sciences

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 am, LSCB 018

Dr. Carol Sawyer

**Office:** LSCB 341

**Email:** sawyer@southalabama.edu (*preferred* contact method)

**Phone:** (251) 460-6169

**Course website:** <http://www.southalabama.edu/geography/sawyer/geo310>

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

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** A spatial perspective on major global environmental problems. Topics include population pressure; loss of biodiversity; ozone depletion; global warming; water, energy, and mineral resources, food supplies, waste disposal, geologic hazards, and political/economic forces.

**COURSE CONTENT:** Sustainability, Resources, Pollution, Environmental issues

**TEXTBOOK:** The required textbook for this course is *Environmental Science* by Daniel D. Chiras, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (ISBN: 9780763759254). Other required readings will be placed on my website or placed on reserve in the library. It is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete the assigned readings.

**ATTENDANCE & CLASSROOM POLICIES:** Students are expected to be on time and *stay* the entire time for ALL classes. Students without any unexcused absences (see Exam Make-up and Late Work Section for what constitutes an unexcused makeup) will receive ten extra points added to their final grade, students with one unexcused day will receive seven points, and those with two unexcused days will receive four extra points. 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.

There is no talking in class, reading newspapers or other non-course related material (including on your computer), 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 during class. The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Academic Disruption is published online in *The Lowdown*. Disruptive academic behavior is defined as 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.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICIES

- Three exams will be given, with each exam worth ~16.6% of your course grade. The exams will cover the readings, lecture materials, and the assignments. I make every effort to grade the exams in a timely manner.
- Three assignments will be given throughout the course, each worth 16.6% of your course grade. These assignments will be described in detail at the time they are assigned. The assignment due dates will also be given at that time.

All work submitted is to be typed using 12-point font (Times New Roman), double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

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

A: 90 to 100%	(540 – 600 points)
B: 80 to 89%	(480 – 539 points)
C: 70 to 79%	(420 – 479 points)
D: 60 to 69%	(360 – 419 points)
F: <60%	(<360 points)

Course component	Points	Total points	Percentage
Exams (3)	100 each	300	50% (~16.6% each)
Assignments (3)	100 each	300	50% (~16.6% each)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100%</b>

**EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY:** If you miss an exam and have a valid excuse, you must contact me in via email either before the exam or **within** 24 hours after an exam is administered to schedule a makeup exam. All legitimate excuses (either for exam makeup & attendance credit) require **written validation**. Valid excuses include: illness (your's or a dependent's), a death in the immediate family, or a university-related event. Only exceptional excuses from work-related absences are accepted. Students who do not have an excused absence for the exam will have 15 points automatically deducted from their make-up exam grade. All make up exams *will be different from the original exam.*

**LATE WORK POLICY:** All work is due at the beginning of class, either in person or, if you are absent, via email. Work turned in the same day the assignment was due but after the time it was due will have 5 points deducted from the assignment grade. Thereafter, each day the assignment is late (INCLUDING WEEKENDS) 10 points will be deducted from the assignment grade. For example, if an assignment is due on Monday at the beginning of class, and you turn in the assignment on Thursday, you will lose 25 points (5 for Monday and 10 each for Tuesday and Wednesday). Therefore, the highest grade you could possibly make for that assignment is a 50 (out of 75 points or a D).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** The University of South Alabama provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. 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). The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations.

**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.

**CHANGES:** The class schedule is tentative and may be changed if necessary. Students will receive at least 48 hours notice if possible.

**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 Schedule***

Part I	Chapters 1-9	<b>Exam I, February 16<sup>th</sup></b> (Thursday)
Part II	Chapters 10-17	<b>Exam II, April 5<sup>th</sup></b> (Thursday)
Part III	Chapters 18-27	<b>Final Exam, May 10<sup>th</sup></b> (Thursday) 10:30 am – 12:30 p.m.

#### **Important dates:**

February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day for Summer Term 2010 degree applications
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mardi Gras Holiday – No Class
March 12 – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break – No Class
April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 4:59 pm	Last day to drop from a course