

# GEO 101.501 Atmospheric Processes

6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m. Tuesdays, LSCB 119

Dr. Carol Sawyer

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**Course Webpage:** <http://www.southalabama.edu/geography/sawyer/geo101lecture.html>

**Office Hours:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 Tuesdays, *or by appointment*

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to the natural science branch of geography. The course emphasizes earth-sun relationships, weather and climate. Also taught are the natural processes in the atmosphere that interact to produce the earth's varying physical environments. Relationships and explanations involving the basics of matter and energy transfer are emphasized throughout the course. 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 schedule for details)

Seasons	Earth-sun relationships	Atmosphere composition
Atmospheric pressure	Atmospheric circulation patterns	Atmospheric moisture
Extreme weather	Climate	Biogeography
		Soils

## TEXTBOOK

Required: *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, (9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Prentice Hall), by T. L. McKnight and D. Hess. The same textbook is used for Geo 102. Recent older editions are acceptable; but, any page references I make are for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Additional readings may be handed out in class or posted on my 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.

Please read and adhere to the policy on classroom etiquette. Be prepared for the lecture with the material for the day read. No talking with friends, reading the newspaper or other non-related material, coming late, sleeping, or leaving early. All cell phones should be turned off during class.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICIES

Grading is from course attendance, quizzes, and three examinations.

- Thirteen quizzes are scheduled. Each quiz is worth 10 points (130 points total or 26% of your final course grade). Question material will be from previous lectures. NO MAKEUP quizzes are given for either excuses or unexcused absences.
- The first two exams are worth 105 points each (210 points total or 42% of your final course grade). Exam material will come from lecture material presented in class, and all readings, including material from the textbook, supplemental readings, handouts, images and diagrams. The exams will consist partially of questions from the weekly quizzes. The final exam is worth 110 points (or 22% of your final course grade). The material on the final exam will be primarily from the last portion of the course; however, some questions will be from the

previous two exams and quizzes given throughout the semester. I make every effort to grade the exams in a timely manner.

- Attendance will be taken each time the class meets (16 times total) and counts 3.125 points each time (50 points total or 10% of your final course grade). Attendance may be taken at the beginning and/or end of class.
- Just a reminder, you receive separate grades for lab and lecture. Students must enroll in both GEO 101 lecture and lab.

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	Total points	Percentage
Quizzes	10 each	130	26% (2% each)
Exams 1-2	105 each	210	42% (21% each)
Final Exam	110	110	22%
Attendance	3.125 each	50	10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

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 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*. **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

#### 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. 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). OSSS is located in room 270 of the Student Center (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.

#### CHANGES

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