

GEO 102.501 – Landscape Patterns and Processes

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

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: 4:00 – 5:30 pm Mondays, 1:30-4:00 pm Tuesdays, and 9:00-11:00 am Wednesdays, *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 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. Students are expected to be able to explain concepts and processes learned in the course.

COURSE CONTENT: (See attached schedule for details)

Representations of the earth

Fluvial processes & landforms

Plate tectonics

Karst processes & landforms

Volcanic and plutonic processes & landforms

Desert processes & landforms

Diastrorphic processes (folding & faulting)

Glacial processes & landforms

Hydrologic System

Coastal processes & landforms

TEXTBOOK

Required textbook: *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, (9th Edition), by T. L. McKnight and 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 9th 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 adhere to the policy on classroom etiquette; these include: no talking during the lecture, reading the newspaper or other non-course related material, coming late, sleeping, texting/messaging, or leaving early. Turn off all cell phones, pages, and any text messaging devices and put them away! You will be asked to leave if caught texting/talking during class.

EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICIES

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

- Attendance will be taken each time class meets (12 times total) and counts 4.2 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.
- Ten quizzes are scheduled. Each quiz is worth 11 points (110 points total or 22% of your final course grade). Question material will be from previous lectures, readings, and, in 2 instances, the

online textbook website quizzes. Quizzes are given at the beginning of class. NO MAKEUP quizzes are given for either excuses or unexcused absences.

- The first two exams are worth 110 points each (220 points total or 44% 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 120 points (or 24% 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.
- 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	11 each	110	22% (2% each)
Exams 1-2	110 each	220	44% (22% each)
Final Exam	100	120	24%
Attendance	4.2 each	50	10%
Total		500	100%

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). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, room 270. Their phone number is (251) 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 a exam to probation and expulsion.