

GEO 310/GY 310 Environmental Earth Sciences

Mondays 1:25 – 3:15, Wednesdays 1:25 – 2:15, LSCB 018

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

Office Hours: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 Tuesdays, *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 (see schedule for details)

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Geological Resources | Conventional Energy | Sustainable Energy | Pollution |
| Agricultural Resources | Mass Movements | Volcanoes | Earthquakes |
| Climate Change | Deforestation | Water Use and Management | |

TEXTBOOK

There is no set textbook for this course. Required readings will be placed on my website, handed out in class, or placed on reserve in the library. It is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete the assigned readings.

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, assignments, and three examinations.

- Three exams will test on material from each of the three sections of the course: resources, issues, and hazards. Each exam is worth 20% of the course grade (or 100 points each). The exams are worth equal amounts. Exam material will come from lecture material presented in class, and all readings. I make every effort to grade the exams in a timely manner.
- Attendance will be taken each time the class meets, except for exam days (27 times total). However, attendance will only count 25 times. Attendance is worth 10% of the total course grade. Attendance may be taken at the beginning and/or end of class.
- Three assignments are required in this course, each worth 15% of the total course grade (or 75 points each). 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 turned in 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: 100 to 90

B: 89 to 80

C: 79 to 70

D: 69 to 60

F: <60%

| Course component | Points | Total points | Percentage |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Exams (3) | 100 each | 300 | 60% (20% each) |
| Assignments (3) | 75 each | 225 | 30% (15% each) |
| Attendance (25) | 1 each | 25 | 10% |
| | Total | 550 | 100% |

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

If you 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 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. Make up exams *will be different from the original exam*.

LATE WORK POLICY

All work is due at the beginning of class. 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. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, students with bona bide 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 a form of academic dishonesty and must be avoided. Plagiarism is using somebody else's ideas in your writing without correctly identifying such sources. As one resource for helping students avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar detection service, or require you to do so, for an evaluation of originality and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism in such documents. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your writing. You agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for originality review. A paper not submitted according to procedures set by the teacher will normally be penalized or not be accepted at all.

CHANGES

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

TENTATIVE Course Schedule*

| Date | Topic |
|-----------------------|---|
| Aug 18 th | Intro, Environment, Earth Spheres, Systems Theory, Resources Begin Part 1: Environmental Resources |
| Aug 25 th | • Assignment one handed out |
| Sept 1 st | <i>No class September 1st: Labor Day</i> |
| Sept 8 th | Energy generation (conventional and sustainable), Water use and management, Air pollution, Water pollution, Resource consumption |
| Sept 15 th | |
| Sept 22 nd | Exam I, Monday September 22nd |
| Sept 24 th | Begin Part 2: Environmental Issues • Assignment two handed out |
| Sept 29 th | Atmospheric issues (climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain), Agricultural issues (food production, soil erosion) Deforestation, Water wars, Biodiversity, Waste disposal |
| Oct 6 th | |
| Oct 13 th | |
| Oct 20 th | |
| Oct 27 th | Exam II, Monday October 27th |
| Oct 29 th | Begin Part 3: Environmental Hazards • Assignment three handed out |
| Nov 3 rd | Geologic hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes), Mass movements, Wildland fires, Flooding, Coastal Hazards (subsidence, sea level change, development) |
| Nov 10 th | |
| Nov 17 th | |
| Nov 24 th | |
| Nov 26 th | <i>No Class November 26th: Thanksgiving Holiday</i> |
| Dec 1 st | <i>Last day of Class</i> |
| Dec 8 th | Final Exam, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. |

*Schedule may be modified. Students will be given adequate notice of any changes. All topics covered within each section are tentative and may be changed.