

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Geography 141--Winter 2015

Instructor: Jane Benjamin
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OFFICE HOURS
Mon/Wed 2:30-3:30p
Tues/Thurs 11:10 -Noon
or by appointment

Course Description: The Natural Environment course focuses on a “*systems approach*” to understand global processes and patterns causing the earth to display diverse environments from North Pole to the South and ocean to land. It is designed to introduce and analyze natural processes and how the science works “in places”. Both nature and humans alter our earth. This course includes study of systems of the atmosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere and how they interact with us. Scientific methods, use maps, graphs, models and computer mapping techniques (GIS) will be taught to understand natural and humans impacts on our environment.

Required Text: *ELEMENTAL GEOSYSTEMS 7TH E* Author Robert W. Christopherson

Required Reading Assignments: Readings are to be completed *before* class. Use the chapter summary, focus questions and glossary to clarify important terms and concepts. TAKE NOTES IN CLASS AND REVIEW.

Required Attendance: Roll is taken each day either by sending around a roll sheet or using pop quizzes handed in or returned. If you miss a class, get class notes from a fellow student.

Tutoring: This class is supported by Social Science (not Science). I’m available during office hours to help with materials presented in class or in the text. If office hours don’t work with your schedule, **make an appointment**.

Make-ups: There are *no* make-up lecture quizzes. ONE *Partial* make-up exam or map quiz *may* be granted with a documented illness or extenuating circumstances. Talk to me during office hours. If a makeup is given it must be completed within 3 days of the original exam. In most cases I will not give bonus points on the make-up.

Extra credit: There is no extra credit for this class.

Classroom Environment: Lets create a positive learning environment **for everyone** via common courtesy and keeping questions related to the subject material. There is a lot of science covered from a “geographic perspective” which may be a new to you. Location! Location! Location! is not only about real estate. Ask questions during class. The most common complaint is on-going “cross-talk” (i.e. disruptive personal conversations) disturbing your neighbors in front, beside and behind you who trying to listen. Be considerate and don’t make them have to filter you out. Turn off cell phones and them keep out of sight. I’ll try to do the same.

Testing: We will have 3 exams, 3 map quizzes plus weekly lecture quizzes. Always bring a #2 pencil, and a pen. No hats/caps/cell phones/ are allowed during testing. Electronic dictionaries must be pre-approved and used in the front of the classroom. I regularly ask students to move during testing if work-space is crowded. Cheating or conduct contrary to Lane policies won’t be tolerated. During testing a barrier must separate workspace.

FYI: Students will be required to study 2 hours for every hour spent in class for a good grade. The geographic perspective of space and place drive this course. If you are struggling it is important for me to know how to best accommodate students “before” falling behind. Ask question in class and/or come to office hour. I want everyone to succeed in this class.

Disability Services: Students eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Services should see me during the first week so we can go through your paperwork and provide appropriate accommodations. For more information, contact Disability Services at (541) 463-5150 (voice) or 463-3079 (TTY), or stop by Building 1, Room 218.

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Table 2. Course Content in Points

Type	Points each	Point Type	Keep your records here	Sub-total Scores
3 Tests	Exam 1 66 +bonus Exam 2 66 +bonus Exam3 comprehensive 86	218	Exam 1 /66 Exam 2 /66 Exam 3 /86 comprehensive	
Attendance	27 3per week	27	Absent dates? -1 ea.	
Assign/quiz	Random	20		
Map quizzes	Approx. 20pts.	60	1. 2. 3.	
Grand Total		325 (100%)		
Record scores				Total

Table 3.COURSE GRADING SCALE (4 credits) plus or minus given within each range

	A	89%	Superior comprehensive knowledge of college-level subject material and concepts of Science
	B	77%	Very good comprehensive understanding college level materials and concepts of Science.
	C	62%	Average college student knowledge of subject materials.
	D	55%	Lacking comprehensive subject understanding.

