

Geography 1301 Section 1: Physical Geography
MWF 10:10-11:05am
Classroom: CAS 257

Spring 2025

Professor: Jeff Isom

Office: TBD

Office hours: MWF 8-9am or 11am-12pm

Or by appointment

E-mail: jisom@uttyler.edu

Communications: I encourage you to come see me during office hours directly before/after class. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your exams, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you can not attend my office hours you may set-up an alternative time to meet. I will try to respond promptly to your emails. **In your email, include your first and last name and that you are enrolled in Geography 1301 – Physical Geography**

Required Instructional Materials:

Open Educational Resources (OER) textbooks used in this course as reference, thus FREE for students use. Textbook Chapters are loaded on Canvas in each applicable Module.

- Available in Canvas Modules (students may download chapters, then review, study, highlight, or use “find” function to search text)

Citation: Ritter, Michael E. The Physical Environment: An Introduction to Physical Geography. OER-Commons. December 31, 2024. <https://www.thephysicalenvironment.com/>

Citation: Patrich, Jeremy. Physical Geography. December 31. 2024.
<https://oercommons.org/courses/introduction-to-physical-geography>

- The instructor may post news articles, websites, supplemental documents, and required readings and/or videos within the Canvas Learning System to broaden students’ perspective of the world’s geography.
- Canvas is used for UT-Tyler classes, and all students are expected to check Canvas regularly for announcements and/or messages.

Recommended Reading(s) and Multi-media:

Instructor handouts and URL links available on **Canvas**, other assignments TBD

Catalogue description: This course introduces students to the processes that drive Earth’s physical systems. Students will explore the relationships among these physical systems, with emphasis on weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development, and human interactions with the physical environment.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the completion of Physical Geography, the students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth’s physical systems and processes.
- Describe and explain the processes of Earth’s physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth’s physical systems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth’s physical systems.

Course objective: The primary objective is for you to describe how the physical geography of a region can be unique yet also share many qualities with other regions. Although you will learn the locations of key places and landforms in order to become globally aware citizens, *this course's objective is not to promote or reward memorization but to instill a deeper understanding of our Environmental Systems*. The objective is to provide a geographical context for natural events, to make spatial connections, and to understand the importance of geographical contexts in our everyday lives. By the end of this course you should be able to read and synthesize maps as well as comprehend the natural hazards and changes of the Earth system that occur daily.

Course format:

1. Lecture – Much of the in-class information in this course will be delivered in the form of lecture. Because of this, it is strongly recommended that the students attend all classes and be attentive. Due to the amount of material that will be covered this semester it is suggested that the students take notes from the lecture. However, lecture shouldn't be a one-way street. Discussion is strongly encouraged!
2. Reading – The textbook (outlined in schedule), as well as outside readings to be announced in class, provides a supplement and framework for the lecture material. Students are responsible for reading the corresponding material prior to the lectures, so the students are prepared for class.
3. Class Discussion – Class discussion, ranging from informal talks to organized discussion days, will be an important part of the class. It is vital that the students participate with class discussions in order to receive the maximum benefit from the course.
4. Instructional Aids – Varied instructional aids, including audio-visual, supplementary documents and readings, and Internet assignments will be used to furnish additional information for class.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

- Grading scale: A 90-100% B 80-89.99% C 70-79.99%
 D 60-69.99% F 0-59.99%

Incomplete grades will only be given under special conditions upon consultation with the instructor prior to final exams. If an incomplete grade is given, the remaining coursework must be completed within a specified period of time, usually six weeks from the end of the semester. If the work is not completed within the given time the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

Exams/Essays: 75% of Grade: Exams – 6 Exams during semester, 2 Essays, & 1 Final Exam. The information of the exams are drawn primarily from the lecture material, but can include any information from the textbook, supplemental readings, or instructional aids. At the end of the semester the lowest exam grade (not including the comprehensive Final Exam) will be dropped. Because of this, no make-up exams will be given.

Assignments: 25% of Grade: Attendance, Review Questions, Weather Maps, & Video assignments.

Student responsibility: Read each chapter, define Terms for Review (TR) at end of each chapter in textbook and answer Questions for Review (QR) in Canvas, as defined in schedule. Review appropriate chapters, completed Terms for Review, and Questions for Review to prepare for each exam. **Attendance** is expected and recorded.

Other Course Requirements: Each student is responsible for a **SCANTRON** (100E/882E) and **# 2 PENCIL** for exams. And may acquire and use **Color** map markers/pencils for class projects such as analyzing weather maps.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations: Attendance is expected and will constitute **a percentage of student's overall course grade**. Students are expected to attend all classes. Regular class attendance is necessary for maximum success in

college. Please be on time and be prepared. You will be less prepared for quizzes and exams if you miss a lecture. Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes from those students who attended a lecture you missed.

Class Etiquette: I expect everyone in the classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity – we may have discussions about cultures from around the world effected by natural disasters that will be different from your own. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude.

Cell Phones/Laptops: Turn off your ringer and do not use your cell phone during class – this includes text messaging. If you are expecting an important call, please put your phone on vibrate and sit close to the door. This action will help minimize any disturbance to the class. Laptops are allowed for notetaking, but I reserve the right to ask you to shut your computer down (or to change my class policy) if you are using your computer for uses other than note-taking and disrupting those around you. **Any video, photographic or audio recordings of the class must be approved by instructor.**

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

GEOG 1301.001 – Physical Geography		Assignment
MWF 10:10 -11:05am CAS 257		
Spring 2025 – Course Schedule		
Module 1:	Orientation. Ch1 – Essentials of Geography	Read Ch; TR, QR
13 Jan		
15 Jan	Ch1 – Essentials of Geography	Read Ch; TR, QR
17 Jan	Dept. of Social Sciences VISIT; Ch 2 Earth Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
22 Jan	Ch 2 Earth Systems & Ch 4 Energy & Radiation	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>23 Jan</i>	<i>Module1: Review Questions DUE by Noon</i>	
24 Jan	Exam 1: In-class	Study for Exam
Module 2:	Ch 3 Atmosphere	Read Ch; TR, QR
27 Jan		
29 Jan	Ch 5 Air Temperature	Read Ch; TR, QR
31 Jan	Ch 6 Pressure and Winds	Read Ch; TR, QR
3 Feb	Ch 6 Winds and Circulation	Read Ch; TR, QR
5 Feb	Ch 7 Humidity and Condensation	Read Ch; TR, QR
7 Feb	Ch 7 Precipitation	Read Ch; TR, QR
10 Feb	Ch 8 Air Masses	Read Ch; TR, QR
12 Feb	Ch 8 Weather Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
14 Feb	Ch 8 Weather Systems/ Prognosis	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>16 Feb</i>	<i>Module 2: Review Questions DUE by Noon</i>	
17 Feb	Exam 2: In-class; Topic Paper 1 DUE	Study for Exam
Module 3	Ch 9 Climate Classification.	Read Ch; TR, QR
19 Feb	Watch Climate' Videos on Canvas	
21 Feb	Climate Change	
24 Feb	Ch 9 Tropical, Arid, and Temperate Climates	Read Ch; TR, QR
26 Feb	Ch 9 Continental, Polar, and Highland Climates	Read Ch; TR, QR
28 Feb	Ch 12 Biogeography + Ch 13 Biomes. Watch Biome' Videos on Canvas	Read Ch; TR, QR
3 Mar	Ch 11 Pedology	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>4 Mar</i>	<i>Module 3: Review Questions DUE by Noon</i>	
5 Mar	Exam 3: In-class; Topic Paper 2 DUE	Study for Exam
*****	<u>Midterm Grades entered on 7 March based on assignments/Exams/Topic Paper</u>	
	<u>Grade is Calculated as Student's Course Average to date, with NO drops</u>	
Module 4	Ch 14 Earth Materials	Read Ch; TR, QR
7 Mar		
10 Mar	Ch 15 Plate Tectonics	Read Ch; TR, QR
12 Mar	Ch 16 Volcanic Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
14 Mar	Ch 16 Tectonic Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
17-21 March	*****SPRING BREAK*****	
24 Mar	Ch 17 Weathering	Read Ch; TR, QR
26 Mar	Ch 17 Mass Wasting	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>27 Mar</i>	<i>Module 4: Review Questions DUE Noon</i>	
28 Mar	Exam 4: In-class; Topic Paper 3 DUE	Study for Exam

Module 5	Ch 10 Subsurface Water	Read Ch; TR, QR
31 Mar		
2 Apr	Ch 10 Karst Landscapes	Read Ch; TR, QR
4 Apr	Ch 18 Fluvial Processes	Read Ch; TR, QR
7 Apr	Ch 18 Fluvial Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
9 Apr	Ch 20 Eolian Regions Processes	Read Ch; TR, QR
11 Apr	Ch 20 Eolian Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>13 Apr</i>	<i>Ch 16-18 Review Questions DUE by Noon</i>	
14 Apr	Exam 5: In-class; Topic Paper 4 DUE	Study for Exam
Module 6	Ch 19 Glacial Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
16 Apr		
18 Apr	Ch 19 Glacial Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
21 Apr	Ch 21 Coastal Processes	Read Ch; TR, QR
23 Apr	Ch 21 Coastal Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
<i>24 Apr</i>	<i>Ch 19-20 Review Questions DUE by Noon</i>	
25 Apr	Exam 6: In-class; Topic Paper 5 DUE;	Study for Exam
30 April	FINAL EXAM DUE by Noon. NO EXCEPTIONS	

- TR = Terms for Review are **BOLDED** terms throughout course – Textbook and Lecture slides
- QR = Questions for Review on CANVAS – ANSWER QUESTIONS AND SUBMIT VIA CANVAS FOR GRADE
- Ch = Chapter of textbook – READ TEXTBOOK & Review PPT slides