



A TRAIL TO EVERY CLASSROOM

Curriculum Topic: Geography 1111
Introduction to Physical Geography with Lab
Grade Level: Higher Ed.
Areas of Study: Geography

Developed for:
Developed by: Robert Fuller
North Georgia College State University
Dahlonega, GA
Year: 2006

Fall 2007 Course Syllabus
Instructor: Dr. Robert C. Fuller

Required text: Christopherson, R. W. (2006). *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*, 6th Edition. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Objectives: The intent of this course is to develop in students an understanding and appreciation of the natural systems that shape our physical environment and the resultant spatial patterns discernable on the earth's surface. The course will explore atmospheric processes, climate, hydrology, distribution of soils and life forms, land-forming processes, the distribution and characteristics of certain recognized landform types, and interactions between humans and the physical environment.

Instruction: Classes will be a mix of lectures, demonstrations, guided discussions, hands-on lab exercises, and outdoor learning activities. Homework will be given and, though not graded, will serve as preparation for tests. Assignments may be given as handouts, notes on the board, email, Web pages, or verbally. You are responsible for all. You must make arrangements to check your NGCSU email daily, as the university and your instructor for this class may communicate with you through your NGCSU email. You will be expected to read the entire textbook and selected additional readings, all of which will be testable.

Tests: Three 55-minute tests will emphasize the most recent material but will be cumulative. Tests will cover readings, class material, and practical exercises.

Practical exercises: Practical exercises will be scheduled during the last three hours of class most Wednesdays, though they may overlap other scheduled class times as well.

Final exam: The final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is a scheduled part of the class and will not be rescheduled except under the most extraordinary circumstances. This does not include vacations, airline tickets purchased by relatives, weddings, canoe trips, etc. Tell your relatives NOW when you will be done with the final exam for this class.



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Grading: The following system will be used to assign grades in the class:

Tests: 3 @ 16%	48%
Exercises	26%
Final exam	<u>26%</u>
Total	100%

Attendance and participation: Regular class attendance and class participation are essential to satisfactory completion of this course. Students are responsible for all information, assignments, tests, exams, and announcements, whether they are present or not. Missed assignments, tests, and exams may not be made up and will receive grades of zero unless prior approval has been received from the professor or if a legitimate emergency occurs that makes prior notification impossible. Approval for missing tests or the final exam will be granted only for documented serious illness, death in the immediate family, other serious emergencies, or properly documented school-sponsored events (ref: 2004-2006 Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 71). Make-up tests and exams will normally be different from the originals and may be of the all-essay variety.

Academic integrity: The NGCSU Honor Code will be enforced: "On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth or tolerate those who do." I take this seriously; so should you.

Equal access: North Georgia College & State University is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities for individuals with disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, reasonable prior notice must be given to the instructor and the Office of Student Disability Resources. Please contact the Coordinator of Student Disability Resources, at Barnes Hall, Room 221 or call 867-2782.

Schedule: The following schedule is for general guidance and will almost certainly vary.

Week 1: Introduction, location, maps, GIS, remote sensing. (Ch. 1, Appendix A)

Week 2: Earth-Sun geometry, seasons, solar energy, the atmosphere. (Ch. 2 & 3)

Week 3: Energy balance. (Ch. 4)

M 9/5/05 No class - Labor Day

Week 4: Temperature. (Ch 5)

W 9/14/05 Test 1

Week 5: Atmospheric & oceanic circulations (Ch. 6)

Week 6: Water and the atmosphere, adiabatic processes, stability, & clouds. (Ch. 7)



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Week 7: Weather & water resources. (Ch. 8 & 9)

Week 8: Climate (Ch. 10)

W 10/5/05 Last day to drop with W (if passing – see definition under Grading)

10/6-7/05 No classes – Fall Break

F10/14/05 Test 2

Week 9: Earth formation, geologic cycle, and tectonics. (Ch. 11)

Week 10: Tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanism. (Ch 12)

Week 11: Weathering, gravity, and associated landforms; drainage basins. (Ch. 13)

Week 12: Drainage basin types, stream flow, river systems, and floods. (Ch. 14)

W 11/9/05 Test 3

Week 13: Deserts and oceans (Ch. 15 & 16)

Week 14: Glaciers & soils. (Ch. 17 & 18)

Week 15: Ecosystems. (Ch. 19)

11/23-25/05 No class – Thanksgiving holiday

Week 16: Ecosystems and Biomes. (Ch. 19 & 20)

Week 17: Earth-human interaction (Ch. 21)

W 12/7/05 Last class

R 12/8/05 Academic review day

F 12/9/05 Final exam 1300-1500