

Geog 2020 Physical Geography Fall 2006

Professor: Luke J. Marzen, Ph.D.

Office: 101C Tichenor Hall

Office hours: Tuesday 2 to 3, and I am in my office most afternoons with an open-door policy.

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url and link to class website: http://www.auburn.edu/~marzelj/course_info.html

Course Description:

Physical geography seeks to understand the spatial dimensions of the earth's physical systems including the 4 spheres that make up these systems: atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere. The field differs from many other earth sciences in that it places an emphasis on spatial variance and considers humans in this process.

Text: Christopherson, R.W. 2004. *Elemental Geosystems*. 4th ed. Upple Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Grading: Standard scale used with following cutoffs; 90 A, 80 B, 70 C, 60 D.

4-5 exams: 80%

Your average exam score will carry a weight of 80% for final course grade. For example, on a scale of 100 points for the total final grade, an average of 90% would be worth 72 points. If you miss an exam it will be very difficult to pass the course.

flex points: 10%

A number of exercises (worksheets/labs, article reviews, presentation reviews, etc.), will be given throughout the semester related to course material. These exercises will help monitor attendance and be used as a learning tool. There will be 2 opportunities for flex extra credit by attending university wide lectures and doing a write-up as explained in class. I will announce opportunities and you are welcome to ask me if there is a lecture you see that you would like to attend that I do not announce.

quizzes: 10%

In class quizzes will be given to help you prepare for examination material. These will be open note and open discussion and will be made up of questions that will be similar to ones that will be on the exams.

Attendance Policies:

1) There will be no makeup examinations, quizzes, or flex exercises without prior arrangement or without providing a documented OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EXCUSE as defined by the Tiger Cub.

-This university policy requires that you are to arrange to make up any missed exams, quizzes, or exercises within 5 days.

-It is preferred that you correspond (contact and arrange a time and place for a make-up) with me prior to missing a class or at least contact me the day of class. There will be less flexibility for people who do not acknowledge this preference.

2) Although daily attendance is not kept, flex points will be considered as an indication of effort for students on the borderline (within 1 percentage point) between two grades at

the end of semester. A percentage of total flex points earned out of possible flex points will carry a 10% weight for the final course grade.

AU Policy on Academic Integrity: Students guilty of cheating will receive at a minimum an F for the course and a notation on their transcript that they have been found guilty of academic dishonesty.

-A few examples of what is considered to be cheating include plagiarism, copying others exams or quizzes, and removing exams or quizzes from the classroom.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with a disability who need accommodation need only ask and explain to the instructor the appropriate accommodation. An accommodation memo and instructor verification form can be obtained for this purpose from the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 334/844-2096.

Schedule: We will start out with a brief introduction to geography and then spend a few days working with maps. Generally after that we will follow the chapters in the book, but the order is subject to change.