GGS 102-001
Physical Geography
Fall 2015 – MW – 3:00-4:15 Exploratory Hall L111

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Kozar
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Phone: 703-993-2309
Office Hours: If my door is open, come on in, but if you insist: MW 1:30-3, or by appointment.

Course Materials:
- Introducing Physical Geography, 6th Edition, by Alan Strahler.
- Additional readings to be supplied

Course Description: Geography 102 is an introductory course in physical geography which will examine the natural characteristics and systems of the earth. As an introductory course we will cover a broad array of topics about the physical/natural characteristics and systems of the world. You will also be exposed to a great deal of new vocabulary essential to understanding course material. We will learn why the natural world looks like it does and how the different features and/or systems interact with each other.

Mason Core: GGS 102 meets the **Non-lab Natural Science** requirement of the Mason Core: Core Requirements. The goals of Non-lab Natural Science are accomplished through four learning outcomes: 1. understand how scientific inquiry is based on investigation of evidence from the natural world, and that scientific knowledge and understanding: a) evolves based on new evidence, and b) differs from personal and cultural beliefs; 2. recognize the scope and limits of science; 3. recognize and articulate the relationship between the natural sciences and society and the application of science to societal challenges (e.g., health, conservation, sustainability, energy, natural disasters, etc.); 4. evaluate scientific information (e.g., distinguish primary and secondary sources, assess credibility and validity of information).

Grading: There will be three (3) exams in this course. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and key term identification. The final exam is not cumulative, but will be given during the final exam period. The material for the exams will come from class lectures and discussions, book chapters, and additional readings. Three (3) key terms worksheets will introduce you to relevant and important vocabulary in physical geography. Finally, a course project consisting of a short written research report will describe and examine a major physical feature, characteristic, or system of the earth (details to be provided later).

3 Exams @ 25% = 75%
3 Key Terms Worksheets @ 5% = 15%
Course Project = 10%
Total = 100%

Final Grading Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (Below 60).

Policies/Student Conduct: Attendance in this course is expected. I cannot provide a full set of notes if you are absent from class, but I am available to answer any questions or clarify information presented in class. If you are absent from a class, please obtain notes from a fellow student. Exam material will come from lectures and book chapters, one cannot substitute the other, class attendance and completing course readings are essential for a satisfactory grade. Late assignments will not be accepted. Make-up exams are not given except under unusual and verifiable circumstances and with few exceptions, prior approval. Any make-up exams will be given at a mutually agreed on time during the final exam period and in essay format. I will not distribute grades through email, if you have a question about your grade see me after

class or during office hours. **No phones or other electronic devices. Do not take pictures of lecture slides**. You must use your MasonLive email account for all course communications. All academic accommodations for documented disabilities must be arranged through the Office of Disability Services (http://ods.gmu.edu/).

All students are required to be familiar with and adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code and the Mason Values of Academic Integrity which can be found in the Office of Academic Integrity or online at (http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/). Failure to abide by the code could result in failure of this course and dismissal from the University.

Course Outline and Readings (Subject to change):

First Exam – Wednesday October 7

1. Physical Geography: Introduction
2. Earth as a Rotating Planet: Chapter 1
3. The Earth's Global Energy Balance: Chapter 2
4. Air Temperature: Chapter 3
5. Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation: Chapter 4
6. Winds and Global Circulation: Chapter 5

Second Exam – Wednesday November 11

1. Weather Systems: Chapter 6
2. Global Climates and Climate Change: Chapter 7
3. Biogeographic Processes: Chapter 8
4. Global Biogeography: Chapter 9
5. Global Soils: Chapter 10
6. Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics: Chapter 11

Final Exam – Monday December 14 – (1:30-4:15 p.m.)

1. Tectonic and Volcanic Landforms: Chapter 12
2. Weathering and Mass Wasting: Chapter 13
3. Freshwater of the Continents: Chapter 14
4. Landforms Made by Running Water: Chapter 15
5. Landforms Made by Waves and Wind: Chapter 16
6. Glacial and Periglacial Landforms: Chapter 17

Key Terms Worksheets Due Dates

- Key Terms 1: Monday October 5
- Key Terms 2: Monday November 9
- Key Terms 3: Wednesday December 9