GGS102, Spring 2019

Physical Geography

Course Information:

Title: GGS102-001, Physical Geography
CRN: 10942
Time: 4:30 -7:10 PM, Thursdays, 01/22-05/15/2019
Classroom location: Planetary Hall 131
Instructor: Prof. John J. Qu
Telephone: (703) 993-3958
E-mail: jqu@gmu.edu
Office: Room 2412, Building: Exploratory Hall
Office Hour: Stop by 10:00-12:00 PM Thursdays or make appointment

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to physical geography. This course will introduce the students to the basic concepts and fundamentals of the Earth system. The course will cover earth-sun relations, weather, climate, soils, vegetation, geology, and landforms; and introduce the students to types and uses of maps. Physical characteristics of the Earth system and "Earth form Space" will be the focuses. Through this Mason natural science core course, students explore new ideas, engage in inquiry and experiential learning, and learn how to integrate this learning into their chosen major and beyond. It will incorporate the diverse of Google Earth. Group projects will provide undergraduate research and collaboration opportunities.

Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites.

Final project:

The description of the individual Final Group Project can be discussed in the classroom.

Grading:

Grades will be based upon your performance on the homework exercises, tests/g midterm, class attendance and final term paper and presentation. The weighted contribution of each of these items to your final grade is given below:

Homework 10%

Tests/quaizzes 15%

Midterm 20%

Final project: 30%

Class attendance and discussions 5%

(A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=<60)

Textbook:

Required Textbook:

Introducing Physical Geography, Alan Strahler, Wiley, 6th Editions

Detailed Schedule

Week one 01/24	Introduction & Chapter 1: Earth as a Rotating Planet
Week two 01/31	Chapter 2: The Earth's Global Energy Balance & Chapter 3: Air Temperature
Week three 02/07	Chapter 4: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation & **(Quiz One)**
Week four 02/14	Chapter 5: Winds and Global Circulation & Chapter 6: Weather Systems
Week five 02/21	Chapter 7: Global Climate & Chapter 8: Biogeographic Processes **(Quiz Two)**
Week six 02/28	Chapter 9: Global Biogeography & Chapter 10: Global Soils
Week seven 03/07	Chapter 11: Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics & **Mid-term**
Week eight 03/14	Spring break
Week nine 03/21	Chapter 12: Tectonic and Volcanic Landforms & Chapter 13: Weathering and Mass Wasting
Week ten 03/28	Chapter 14: Fresh Water of the Continents & Chapter 15: Landforms Made by Running Water & (**Quiz Three)**
Week eleven 04/04	Group project meetings

Week twelve 04/11	Chapter 16: Landforms Made by Waves and Wind & Chapter 17: Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age
Week thirteen 04/18	Final Group Project Presentations & **(Quiz Four)**
Week fourteen 04/25	Final Group Project Presentations
Week fifteen 05/02	Preparing group project papers
Week fifteen 05/09	Final group project papers (due date)

Honor code:

Students must follow the GMU Scholastic Honor Code. Please show respects to everyone in the classroom. Copying homework (or quiz) is considered cheating.