GEOGRAPHY 120
Course Title: Global Physical Environments
Fall 2011

INSTRUCTORS: Jim Burt, 425 Science Hall, jeburt@wisc.edu (1st half of semester)
Erika Marin-Spiotta, 223 Science Hall, marinspiotta@geography.wisc.edu (2nd half)

REQUIREMENTS: Lecture 2 hours per week and discussion section 1 hour per week. Discussion sections elaborate the principal points of class lectures and provide opportunities to discuss topics of student interest related to lecture material.

CREDITS: 3 credits in physical science.

TEXT: *McKnight's Physical Geography,* 10th Ed, Hess and Tasa, Pearson, 2011.

EXAMINATIONS: Four 50-minute in-class examinations will be given at roughly 4-week intervals. The last exam will be on the last day of instruction. Each exam will stress the material covered since the previous exam. There is no final comprehensive exam during the end-of-semester examination week.

GRADING: The final grade will be determined from a curve of cumulative points achieved on the class examinations, and in discussion section activities. Each class exam will be worth approximately 30 points and the discussion section grade will count 50 points. Discussion section points will be based on worksheets, participation in class discussion and short out-of class assignments. The potential total number of points for the course is 170.

ONLINE RESOURCES:
www.geography.wisc.edu/classes/geog120/ Publicly available course website, which includes the syllabus and links to other resources.
learnuw.wisc.edu/ Password-protected course materials, including 1) News, used by the instructors for class announcements, 2) Content, where the instructors post supplementary materials for download, 3) Discussion, containing bulletin boards for student questions and feedback, and 4) Exam Scores.

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisite courses for this class, but students are expected to be geographically literate. You should know the location of the world's continents and oceans, the location of the 50 states and have elementary map reading skills. Much of this information is included in the first two chapters of your textbook or in any student atlas. We will also assume basic ability to extract meaning from graphs and diagrams.

HONORS: If you are registered for honors, please contact your TA early in the semester to discuss the project.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Instances of plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct have serious consequences for the students involved. To avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, you are strongly encouraged to consult the campus misconduct web page: students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html. This page contains explanations of what constitutes misconduct, instructor expectations, and related policies and procedures.

Please Note: Discussion sections will not meet until the week of September 12, the first full week of instruction. (This is the 3rd week of classes.)

TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:

Week 1	W	Aug	31	1) No Meeting (instruction begins 9/2)
Week 2	M	Sep	5	2) Labor Day Holiday
	W		7	3) Introduction and Earth-Sun Fundamentals: Chapter 1
Week 3	M		12	4) Atmosphere Fundamentals: Chapter 3
	W		14	5) Solar and Terrestrial Radiation: Chapter 4
Week 4	M		19	6) Energy Balance and Temperature: Chapter 4
	W		21	7) Atmospheric Forces and Motion: Chapter 5
Week 5	M		26	8) General Circulation of Atmosphere and Ocean: Chapter 5
	W		28	9) **** FIRST EXAM *****
Week 6	M	Oct	3	10) Atmospheric Moisture: Chapter 6
	W		5	11) Midlatitude Systems: Chapter 7
Week 7	M		10	12) Tropical Systems: Chapter 7
	W		12	13) Global Climate Patterns: Chapter 8
Week 8	M		17	14) Global Climate Change: Chapter 8
	W		19	15) Terrestrial Ecosystems: Chapter 10
Week 9	M		24	16) Global Vegetation Patterns: Chapter 11
	W		26	17)***** SECOND EXAM *****
Week 10	M		31	18) Soil Systems: Chapter 12
	W	Nov	2	19) Characteristics of Earth's Surface and Interior: Chapter 13 17
Week 11	M		7	20) Characteristics of Earth's Surface and Interior: Chapters 13 and 14
	W		9	21) Earth's Tectonic Systems: Chapter
Week 12	M		14	22) Earth's Tectonic Systems: Chapter 14
	W		16	23) Volcanic and Earthquake Hazards: Chapter 14
Week 13	M		21	24) ***** THIRD EXAM *****
	W		23	25) Mud and Debris Flows, Landslides and Related Natural Hazards: Chapter 15
Week 14	M		28	26) River Processes and River Morphologies: Chapter 16
	W		30	27) River Processes, Chemical Erosion, and Karst: Chapters 16, 17
Week 15	M	Dec	5	28) Arid and Aeolian Systems: Chapter 18
	W		7	29) Glacier Landforms and Sediments: Chapter 19
Week 16	M		12	30) Responses of Glacier Systems to Global Environmental Change: Chapter 19
	W		14	31) ***** FOURTH EXAM *****