

GEOGRAPHY 120
Course Title: Global Physical Environments
Spring 2012

INSTRUCTORS: Sam Greene, 217 Science Hall, green1@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: Two different texts will be used during the course. For the first half, an online text is assigned and the text for the second half is available in the bookstore. The link for the first text will be posted on learn@uw or you can enter the following into a web browser:
http://www4.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/ritter/geog101/textbook/title_page.html

For S. Greene (online): Ritter's *The Physical Environment: an Introduction to Physical Geography*, 2006.

For Professor Marin-Spiotta: *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 be able to read latitude and longitude on a map. Much of this information is included in the first two chapters of your textbook or in any student atlas.

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.

TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:

Week 1	M W	Jan	23 25	1) Introduction and Earth-Sun Fundamentals: Chapter 1 2) Earth-Sun geometry: Chapter 2
Week 2	M W		30 1	2) Atmosphere Composition and Structure: Chapter 3, 5 3) Heat Transfer and the Global Heat Budget: Chapter 4, 5
Week 3	M W		6 8	4) Heat Transfer and the Global Heat Budget: Chapter 4, 5 5) Atmospheric Forces: Chapter 6
Week 4	M W		13 15	6) Surface Air Flow Patterns: Chapter 6 7) *** FIRST EXAM ***
Week 5	M W		20 22	8) Surface Air Flow Patterns and Ocean Circulation: Chapter 6 9) Atmospheric Moisture: Chapter 7
Week 6	M W		27 29	10) Mid-latitude Systems: Chapter 8 11) Mid-latitude Systems: Chapter 8
Week 7	M W	Mar	5 7	12) Tropical Systems: Chapter 8 13) Climate Change: Chapter 9, 10, 3
Week 8	M W		12 14	14) Climate-Ecology Connections: Chapter 9 15) *** SECOND EXAM ***
Week 9	M W		19 21	16) Global Vegetation Patterns: Chapter 11 17)
Week 10	M W		26 28	18) Soil Systems: Chapter 12 19) Characteristics of Earth's Surface and Interior: Chapter 13 17
Week 11	M W	Apr	2 4	20) <i>Spring Break</i> 21) <i>Spring Break</i>
Week 12	M W		9 11	22) Earth's Tectonic Systems: Chapter 14 23) Volcanic and Earthquake Hazards: Chapter 14
Week 13	M W		16 18	24) *** THIRD EXAM *** 25) Mud and Debris Flows, Landslides and Related Natural Hazards: Chapter 15
Week 14	M W		23 25	26) River Processes and River Morphologies: Chapter 16 27) River Processes, Chemical Erosion, and Karst: Chapters 16, 17
Week 15	M W		30 2	28) Arid and Aeolian Systems: Chapter 18 29) Glacier Landforms and Sediments: Chapter 19
Week 16	M W		7 9	30) Responses of Glacier Systems to Global Environmental Change: Chapter 19 31) *** FOURTH EXAM ***