**Geography 105 Introduction to Physical Geography**

**Instructor: Michael S. McGlade, Ph.D.**

Class Location: HSS 237 Class Meets: TR 12:00-13:50

Office: HSS 211 e-mail: mcgladm@wou.edu Phone (503) 838-8381

Office Hours: MW:12-2, T:2-3

Course website: [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)

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This course fulfills part of the LACC requirement in the Geography 105, 106, and 107 series. Please note that these courses can be taken in any order.

Course Description: We will study the various components of the natural environment, including the nature of the physical elements, the process involved in their development, their distribution over the earth, and their basic interrelationships. Upon completion of this course, you should have a practical understanding of the processes operating in the natural environment, particularly those relating to climate, oceans, and plate tectonics.

Required Text: Elemental Geosystems (6th or 7th Edition). Robert W. Christopherson, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Course Requirements: It is your responsibility to attend lectures and do the assigned readings. Exams will consist primarily of multiple choice and short answer questions. Although the exams will focus somewhat more on lecture material than on the reading, the two are complementary. You should know both the lecture material and the reading. While we will generally use a computer generated outline in class, you should also write down the details of the lecture that are not on the class outlines. When in doubt, write it down! No make up examinations will be given except in the most unusual of circumstances, and must be arranged prior to the exam being missed.

Pop quizzes (~5 pts. each) may be given without notice. Approximately two worksheets will be assigned. To avoid frustration, please do not attempt to do the worksheets until you have studied the reading and notes that pertain to them. Other practice problems may be made available to assist you in your studying.

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| ACTIVITY | # PTS | GRADING SCALE (%) | |
| Test #1 | 100 | A | 90-100 | |
| Test #2 | 100 | B | 80-89 | |
| Test #3 | 100 | C | 70-79 | |
| Worksheets | 40 | D | 60-69 | |
| Total | 340 | F | <60 | |
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Note: plus and minus grades are awarded for the upper and lower 2 percent of a grade range. An 81 %, for example, is a B-. Your highest test score of the three tests will be weighted as 120% of a normal score, while your lowest score will be weighted as 80% of a normal score. This will help reduce the effects of your lowest test score.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

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| Dates | Topic(s) | Reading\* |
| Sept. 30, Oct 2 | Introduction, Planet Earth, Earth Sun Relationships | Chapters 1, 2 |
| October 7, 9 | Earth-Sun Relationships (cont.), Composition & Structure of the Atmosphere, Atmospheric Radiation & Heat Balance | Chapter 2  Chapter 3 |
| October 14, 16 | Atmospheric Radiation & Heat Balance, Temperatures | Chapter 3 |
| **October 16** | **Worksheet #1 solar altitude due** |  |
| **October 21** | **Exam #1** |  |
| October 23, 28, 30 | Global Atmospheric & Ocean Circulation | Chapter 4 |
| November 4, 6 | Atmospheric Moisture and the Hydrologic Cycle, Precipitation, Air Masses, Fronts, and Weather Systems | Chapter 5 skip atmospheric stability section |
| **November 11** | **Exam #2** |  |
| Nov. 13-25 | Climate Change  The Dynamic Planet: Earth Structure & Plate Tectonics  How Scientists Date the Earth | Chapters 7, 8 (Plate Tectonics section only)  Dawkins pdf & questions (online folder) worksheet, due Dec 2. |
| December 2, 4 | Ecosystems & Biomes | Chapter 16  see online notes |
| Thurs. Dec. 11,  10-11:50 | **Exam #3** (not comprehensive, not a final) | everything since Exam #2 |

\*other reading may be assigned, not to exceed 60 pages.

Any student who feels that she or he may need an accommodation for any type of disability may talk me during office hours the first week of the course and should contact the Office of Disability Services (838-8250v/tty).

Academic dishonesty consists of representing the work of others as your own and/or using notes or other aids during an examination. Students who engage in such actions will receive no credit for the assignment or examination in question and will be subject to University discipline as outlined in the Code of Student Responsibility. If you have further questions, please consult the Social Science Division policy on academic dishonesty and the Code of Student Responsibility.