



**Course
Term
Meetings**

ENVR/GEOG/GEOS 2302: The Global Environment
Summer 2021
Monday & Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM., Remote/Virtual

Instructor: **Lasya Venigalla**
Office: GR 3.414
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. or by appointment
Email: lasya.venigalla@utdallas.edu

Teaching Assistant: **Yalin Yang**
Office Hours: GR 3.414
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Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	Remote: Synchronous online learning at the day and time of the class. The instructor delivers the instruction from home or the office. Students complete the course at a distance.
Course Platform	eLearning for class information distribution, MS Teams for teaching and office hours.
Expectations	Students are expected to attend the online lectures every week.
Asynchronous Learning Guidelines	Students need to report to the professor if he/she is not able to attend online lectures. They can watch the recordings outside class hours with the professor's approval. See https://www.utdallas.edu/covid/response/faq/#asynchronous for detail.

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for detail.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Requirements:

This class meets twice per week and you are required to attend lectures, complete assigned readings and take notes. Lecture slides will also be uploaded to eLearning after class. Exams will be based on lectures and readings, while quizzes will be based on the required readings only (please refer to the schedule on page 4). In addition to lecture notes, there is a list of natural features (page 3 of this syllabus) which you must be able to identify on a world map for each exam.

Description:

This class is an introduction to the physical aspects of the world's geography, emphasizing the major systems within the natural environment: climate; vegetation; soils; hydrology (water); and landforms. We will examine the processes and environmental interactions that allowed for these systems to be shaped within the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere. The distribution of natural features around the earth and explanations for why these features are found where they are will be addressed and

how global systems work to produce regional differences. Some attention will also be placed on the interactions between humans and the ‘natural systems’.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the class students will be able to:

- describe laws and theories that are critical to physical geography and the earth system
- observe, analyze, evaluate and synthesize facts on Earth’s physical phenomena
- use data to arrive at informed conclusions on Earth’s physical phenomena

work effectively with others to examine and articulate issues critical to the global environment

Texts and Materials:

The lecture materials are derived from a number of sources (mainly textbooks). These sources, listed below, are available through the UT Dallas Bookstore (1), online merchants, including Amazon.com (2, 3), and online (4). The texts are listed as required and recommended.

Required texts:

1. Hess, D. & Tasa, D.G. 2014. **McKnight’s Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation**, 11th Edition, Pearson (any edition after the 9th should work).

Recommended texts:

2. Hammond. 2001. **Odyssey World Atlas, *ANY WORLD ATLAS or Google Earth.***
3. Christopherson, R. W. 2009. **Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography.**
4. *Ritter, M. E. 2011. **The Physical Environment: an Introduction to Physical Geography.**
Available at http://www.earthonlinemedia.com/ebooks/tpe_3e/title_page.html last visited 8/14/2018.

*Students are not required to print material available electronically.

Course Policies:

Grading (credit) Criteria	<table> <tr> <td>Exams (3 @ 15 % each)</td><td>45%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Module Quizzes</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr> <td>WAU Blog entries</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Research Project</td><td>15 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Exercises</td><td>15 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Attendance</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td> Check-ins/ Lecture Quizzes</td><td>10%</td></tr> </table> <p>Letter grades: A+ > 95; A = 93-95; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <59</p>	Exams (3 @ 15 % each)	45%	Module Quizzes	10%	WAU Blog entries	5%	Research Project	15 %	Exercises	15 %	Attendance		Check-ins/ Lecture Quizzes	10%
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Make-up Exams	No Make-up Exams will be given without a legitimate excuse accompanied by proper formal documentation (e.g., a doctor’s excuse).														
Extra Credit	TBD														
Late Work	Late submission for labs will be penalized for 1 point (out of 10) per day being late														
Class Attendance	Class attendance is required and popup quizzes will be given in the beginning/end of every class as one of means to assess class attendance. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion.														

	Week	Date	Topic	Hess Chapter (s)
FROM BELOW: THE SOLID EARTH	1	05/24/2021	Introductions Physical Geography Quiz 1	Chapters 1 & 13
		05/26/2021	Structure of the Earth Quiz 2 Exercise 1: Locations on Earth (Latitude & Longitude; Time zones); Overview of GIS and TopoMaps	Chapters 2 & 13
	2	05/31/2021	Memorial Day – NO CLASS	
		06/02/2021	Tectonism & Volcanism Quiz 3 Exercise 3: Minerals and Rocks	Chapters 13 & 14
FROM ABOVE: THE ATMOSPHERE	3	06/07/2021	Composition & Vertical Structure of the Atmosphere/Earth's Motion Relative to the Sun Quiz 4	Chapters 1, 3 & 4
		06/09/2021	Solar and Terrestrial Radiation Exam 1 Review Quiz 5 Exercise 4: Earth - Sun Relations	Chapter 2
	4	06/14/2021	Global Energy Balance Quiz 6	Chapter 4
		06/16/2021	Atmospheric Forces & Motion Quiz 7 Exercise 5: Air Pollution	Chapters 3 & 5
	5	06/21/2021	General Circulation of the Atmosphere Quiz 8	Chapter 5
		06/23/2021	Atmosphere-Ocean Interactions Quiz 9 Exercise 6: Tropical Cyclones and El Niño	Chapters 4 & 6
	6	06/28/2021	Moisture in the Atmosphere Exam 2 Review Quiz 10	Chapter 6 & 7
		06/30/2021	Atmospheric Stability; Precipitation Quiz 11 Exercise 7: Moisture and Humidity and Adiabatic Processes	Chapter 6
	7	07/05/2021	Air Masses and Fronts Quiz 12	Chapter 8
		07/07/2021	Midlatitude Cyclones/Clouds Quiz 13	Chapter 7
	8	07/12/2021	Distribution of Climate Types Quiz 14	
		07/14/2021	Climatic Variability and its measurement Quiz 15 Exercise 8: Climographs and Climate Distribution	Chapters 10 & 11
IN THE MIDDLE: AT THE EARTH'S SURFACE	9	07/19/2021	Biogeographic Processes/Vegetation Description, Influences and Distribution Quiz 16	Chapters 9 & 12
		07/21/2021	Soil Profiles and Soil Forming Factors; Soil Distribution/ Quiz 17 Exercise 9: Soil classification	Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 20

	10	07/26/2021	Erosional Slope Processes and Forms/ Weathering and Mass Wasting Quiz 18	Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 20
		07/28/2021	Fluvial Processes and Landforms/Glacial Processes and Landforms Exam 3 Review Quiz 19 Exercise 10: Flood Probability	Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 20
	11	08/02/2021	Project Preparation – NO CLASS	
		08/04/2021	Group Project Presentations	

Classroom Citizenship

Please make sure you turn off your cellphone before coming to the classroom. Viewing anything that is not related to class and communicating with others using instant messenger are prohibited during the class.

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Academic Integrity

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

**Withdraw
l from
Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

**Student
Grievance
Procedure**

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

**Incomplete
Grades**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

**Disability
Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

**Religious
Holy Days**

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

**Off-
Campus
Instruction
and
Course
Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.