

Physical Geography

GEO 2200 / Section 6497

Spring 2008

Instructor: Carlos M. Cañas

INTRODUCTION:

This is a study of some of the basic elements of the physical world in which climate, meteorology, and landforms are examined in terms of their natural occurrences, distribution and interrelationships. This class meets the General Education requirements of a Physical Science.

LECTURES:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. All three days during period 2 (8:30 – 9:20 am).
Classroom location: CSE-E222 (Computer Science / Engineering. Room E 222).

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday (9:30 – 11:30 am), and Friday (9:30 – 10:30 am), or by appointment.

Office location: **3126 Turlington Hall**.

My e-mail: cmcanas@ufl.edu (please use it sparingly, it is much better to come and see me).

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADES

All examinations will be held in the lecture room during lecture hours on the stated dates, except where explicitly stated.

a) *Two (2) tests each worth 15% of final grade.*

#1 **Friday February 1st** (Material covered: January 7 – January 30).

#2 **Wednesday April 2nd** (Material covered: March 5 – March 31).

Tests will consist of multiple choice questions.

b) *Two (2) examinations each worth 35% of final grade:*

#1 **Monday March 3rd** (Material covered: January 7 – February 29).

#2 **Wednesday April 30, 12:30 - 02:30 p.m.** (Material covered: March 5 – April 23).

These examinations will each consist of regular multiple choice questions and multiple choice questions directed to maps and diagrams from the course materials.

The two examinations will evaluate your knowledge of each of the two halves of the course, separately. The second examination will therefore only evaluate material presented in the second half of the course.

Dates to remember

February 1, Test #1

March 3, Mid-term

April 2, Test #2

April 30, Final Exam

GRADING SCHEME:

[A= 87 and above] [B+=80-86.9] [B=73-79.9] [C+=66-72.9] [C = 59-65.9] [D+ = 52-58.9]
[D = 45-51.9] [E = <45]

All grades will be posted on the website and at the back of the room. Marks will be continuously updated and a tabulation will be provided of your necessary performance in the remaining tests required to attain various grade levels. All of grades from the current and past tests will be posted. Your running total and equivalent percentage will also be shown. The last columns of the spreadsheet will give you an indication of the mark, as a percentage, which you require from the tests that remain, in order to achieve grades ranging from A through to D. It is your responsibility to know how well you are doing in the class.

As you know, it is now illegal to post grades using Social Security or UF ID numbers, in whole or in part. You can, however, be issued at random, a “personal code” known only to yourself and the instructor, by which your grades can be posted. You will be allocated this code at the time of your first test. The code will be the 5-digit exam test code which will be found at the very end of your first test. Take time to write this code down and memorize it. It will be your own Personal GEO 2200 ID throughout the class regardless of which examination you are sitting, or seeking the results to.

COURSE TEXT:

The publishers of ***Introducing Physical Geography***, by Strahler and Strahler, Wiley.

have agreed to publish an “abridged” version of this text for this particular course. Be sure to purchase this **abridged version/third edition for use in this section alone**. It contains about half of the chapters of the original text. Each of these chapters at least contains some of the course material that we will cover. The majority of the illustrative material can be found in this text, however I have collected materials from other sources and incorporated them into the lectures and therefore **the combined use of lecture notes and text book will provide the greatest benefit in the**

course.

I have put together a pack of relevant course materials (tables, diagrams, maps) which are available from **TARGET COPY** under this course number (GEO 2200. Section 6497. Instructor Carlos M. Canas). I strongly **recommend** that you purchase this. You can survive without it, but you will have to copy down all the materials during the lecture periods, I will be progressing at a speed which assumes that you have the course pack. This package will also serve as your **STUDY GUIDE**. If I have taken the time to place the figures, diagrams, tables in this text then it is an indication that I want you to understand it.

THE COMMERCIAL NOTES WARNING:

In the eventuality of a discussion over grading I will recognize my notes and any text book as being an authoritative source. However, I will not recognize any commercially reproduced course notes, as these have been drafted by undergraduate students, and have in the past proved to be erroneous. This course will undoubtedly be targeted by a commercial note company because of the number of students enrolled. It is your choice which, if any, notes you buy.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

You are all bound by the student academic honor code.

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity".

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment".

Each student answers the same examination, however the computer shuffles the order of the questions and the order of the possible answers. In this way, each examination is unique, at least in its order, but not its content. When grading the answers, the computer scans for similarities in answers and notifies me of any remarkable coincidences! The first time a student is caught cheating they will get zero on the test. (In a multiple choice test you would probably score 20% simply by guessing!). On the second offense the student will be reported to the appropriate student body.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND EXTRA CREDIT :

In the interest of fairness to **all** students in the class, and in light of the high enrolments, there will be **NO EXTRA CREDIT**. However, I appreciate that unexpected events occur in all of our lives. If such events (illness, personal problems, etc.) befall you, I will give you the choice of either taking a make-up exam or skipping the exam, upon production of **official documentation** of your case. If you chose to

skip the exam, your grade will be based purely upon your performance in those forms of evaluation that you did take.

THREE THINGS I DO NOT ALLOW DURING LECTURES:

- 1. Cell phones** - turn them off.
- 2. Talking in class** - if you don't want to hear what I have to say, don't show up, and let those who do want to hear more clearly.
- 3. Reading the newspaper in class** - go and have a coffee, sit in a comfy chair and/or enjoy the sunshine while you read.

I have no policy of mandatory attendance. When you enter the lecture room you are doing so of your own volition, not because you are being forced to. When you make that choice you are also agreeing to show respect to your fellow students by allowing them to hear the lecture material without having to compete with cell phones and background chit-chat.

LECTURE TOPICS - PART I

Sources of Earth's Energy

- Electromagnetic radiation
- Conduction and convection

Time and Seasons

- Revolution around the sun
- Zenith Angle
- Seasons
- Length of day
- Global variations

Earth's Atmosphere

- Composition
- Pressure
- Thermal structure

Radiation Balance

- Incoming
- Energy Sinks
- Outgoing
- Global balance

Global Pressure and Circulation

- Pressure belts
- Coriolis effect
- Global winds
- Continent/Ocean contrasts
- Global pressures and winds

Surface ocean currents
Seasonal shifts
Moisture in the Atmosphere
Humidity
Adiabatic Processes
Orographic Precipitation
Convective Rain
Air Masses and Fronts
Convergent

LECTURE TOPICS – PART II

Form and origin of the Earth
Internal Structure
Plate Tectonics
Constructive boundaries
Destructive boundaries
Conservative boundaries
Hot spots
Evidence
Hydrologic Cycle
Global stores and fluxes
Continental portion
Mass Movement and Slope Processes
Flows
Slides
Heaves
Erosion by Running Water
Limestone Solution
Clastic erosion
Coastal Geomorphology
Tides
Waves
Littoral Drift