

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LAB
(GEOG 2200L-Section 4647)
Fall 2008

Instructor: Sam Schramski

Office Hours: TBA

Office: 3126 Turlington Hall

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Required Course Material:

- Department of Geography UFL Physical Geography Lab Manual – GEO 2200L available for purchase at either **Target Copy** location

1412 W. University Avenue phone (352) 376-3826

or

3422 SW Archer Road phone (352) 372-1171

Class Meeting:

Lab class is on Thursday during periods 8 and 9 (3:00-4:55pm). We will meet in the computer lab in Room 3006 of Turlington Hall.

Course Objective:

Physical geography is the branch of geography concerned with the natural features of the earth, as distinct from its political divisions, economic activity, and the like. Think of the lab as an effort to explain the physical features around us. Everything under the sun (including the great star itself) is fair game: energy, air, water, weather, climate, landforms, soils, animals, and plants are examples of topics that will be examined during the semester. You will be introduced to the processes that control the physical environment through computer laboratory exercises. Each lab exercise will be completed using a combination of web-based research and Geographic Information Systems applications.

Grading:

12 Labs @ 35 points each = 420 pts

1 movie assignment worth 35 points

1 article assignment worth 45 points

Total possible points – 500

Grading Scale:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| A 90-100% | F 50-59% |
| B 80-89% | * Pluses and minuses will be applied such that an 89% receives a B+, an 80% a B-, etc. |
| C 70-79% | |
| D 60-69% | |

Lab Schedule:

By the end of the semester all students will be expected to have completed 12 labs from the manual. One lab will be completed per class period. The labs will not necessarily be completed in the same order as printed in the manual. Current events, specifically of the physically geographic variety, may influence the decision of which lab will be completed during a particular week. A film and associated write-up will be required towards the end of the semester. There may be a conference I will have to attend in March, and we will take a week of class off in April. All students will be notified prior to the final decision on scheduling changes, preferably through the class listserv (make sure you check your official UFL account regularly!).

Policies:

Labs will be collected at the end of each lab period. A grade of zero will be given to any labs not turned in at the end of class, unless the instructor grants approval **beforehand**. Attendance is required. The lab must be turned in by the student who writes their name on top of the first page. That means one lab per person. Always, always write your name on top of the week's lab. If you do miss a lab, notify the instructor immediately by email. The only way to make up a missed lab is with a valid, documented excuse. If your cat has feline leukemia, I absolutely must see a veterinarian's note stating so. The door to the lab will be shut 15 minutes after class begins, and you will not be permitted to arrive to complete your lab assignment after this time without the aforesaid documented excuse.

Collaboration for difficult portions of the lab is acceptable, however **DO NOT** hand in labs that are identical to others in the class. All submitted labs and assignments must be your own original work. Labs or assignments that show signs of copying will result in a zero for all parties associated. Plagiarism is a serious university offense and can have results including failure of a lab exercise, failure of the whole lab class, and possible expulsion from the University of Florida.

Use of cell phones, PDA's, games, or other electronic devices during class is prohibited. The computers in the lab are for course related research and exercises exclusively. During lab periods **DO NOT** use the computer for anything other than course work. Surfing the web, downloading, social networking, or emailing is prohibited. Eating and drinking will not be tolerated near computers, as you can imagine what sort of ripple effect spilled coffee has on a keyboard used by hundreds of students in any given week. One warning will be issued for such behavior. A second infraction within one class period will result in a zero for the day's lab.

Academic Honesty

By registering as a student at the University of Florida, every student has agreed to the following statement, "I understand that the University of Florida expects their students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to the commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with the commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

Special Consideration

If you require special classroom accommodations, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office and then bring the necessary documentation to the instructor.

Article Assignment

During the semester you will be expected to submit a written research assignment on a topic related to physical geography. You will need three sources from peer-reviewed publications; each source must be two pages or longer in length. The articles should be recently published - within the last 5 years.

The paper must be no more than 1,500 words and should contain both a description and an analysis of the topic. Formal bibliography in AAG format (*Chicago Manual of Style*) is required. Include a copy of the articles stapled to your assignment. **The article assignment is due October 16, 2008.** Do not wait until the night before to start write-up, as it must be submitted on the due date in class; late assignments will receive an 8-point deduction for every 24 hours late. *Again, the only exception is a valid, documented excuse provided and approved by the instructor.*