GEOG201: GEOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
Fall 2013
Lefrak Hall 2205
Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 to 1:45 pm

Instructor: Keith Yearwood
Office: 2181 H Lefrak Hall
E-Mail: kyearwoo@umd.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Telephone: 301 405 4053
Textbook: THERE IS NO ASSIGNED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE

Course Goals
The spatial aspects and processes of the Earth’s natural systems will be described and explained. The study of these phenomena will be limited to the internal and external processes that shape the Earth’s crust such as tectonics, earthquakes and volcanism, weathering, mass movement, fluvial and coastal geomorphology, elementary atmospheric processes, natural vegetation responses.

Learning outcomes
After taking this course:

• Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the principles underlying the scientific areas of geology, climatology, meteorology, oceanography, hydrology, botany and agronomy from a geographic perspective, and learn the methods by which these principles are researched.
• Students will solve complex problems associated with the physical environment and environmental issues through the application of several scientific concepts, including the energy-atmosphere cycles and system, the water, weather and climate systems, landscape systems and biogeographic systems
• Students will examine complex questions underlying the issues of Earth System Science, in order to understand the interchangeable impacts of these systems on human dimensions of global change.
• Students will effectively communicate the scientific ideas surrounding Earth System Science through article response papers in Geography 201 and interactive, hands-on application in weekly Geography 211 laboratory sessions.
• Students will demonstrate proficiency in Earth Systems Science by attending weekly Geography 211 laboratory sessions in order to make observations, understand fundamental elements of experiment design, generate and analyze data through quantitative tools, use abstract reasoning to interpret data and formulae and test hypotheses with scientific rigor.

IMPORTANT DATES:

EXAM ONE: Thursday October 3rd
EXAM TWO: Thursday November 7th
EXAM THREE: Thursday December 12th

EXAMS ARE NON-CUMULATIVE AND EACH HAS THE SAME WEIGHTING

There are only three exams for this course and no designated ‘final exam’.
TOPIC OUTLINE

Plate tectonics

Plate tectonics and Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic processes

Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic processes

Tectonics, earthquakes and volcanism and orogenesis (mountain building)

Landmass denudation

Weathering processes

Karst topography and landscapes

Mass movement processes

Fluvial processes and landforms

Solar energy to the earth and the seasons

Earth’s modern atmosphere

Natural vegetation response to climate regimes

Email: Please if you send an email to the Instructor regarding Geog 201 please put in the subject Geog 201 for a quicker response.

Students with special needs - I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 30th. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after September 30th.

Disruptive Students: Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.”

Religious Observance: By September 30th, students must provide via email a request for a make up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

Attendance: Attendance is strongly advised at the lecture since questions on the exams will come from lecture material, films, and reading assignments. Please remember that there is no assigned textbook for this course. The notes

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the
instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University’s Student Conduct Office.

**Grading:** There will be three exams which are non-cumulative, and will be in a multiple choice format with each exam having the same weight towards the final grade.

**A note on querying exam scores:** Students are free to query their exam scores under the following conditions: You cannot query scores from a previous exam after a second exam is given, etc. Your window of opportunity therefore lasts from the end of the exam until the time the next one is given.

**Academic integrity:** Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that can result in suspension or expulsion from the University of Maryland. All assignments should be your own work. Since there are several writing assignments, plagiarism would not be tolerated. Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html.

Final letter grades will be broken down the following way:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96 – 100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>92 – 95</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE MATERIAL OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS, INCLUDING DATES FOR EXAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL CASES AND EVENTS.**