

GEOG211: GEOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LAB

CREDITS: ONE (Online)

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Virtual Office Hours:

Cole Walters - Wednesday 6pm-8pm or by appointment (Via Canvas Chat)

Lei Ma – Monday 6pm – 8pm or by appointment (Via Canvas Chat)

In Person Office Hours:

Cole Walters – Wednesday 10am-12pm or by appointment

Lei Ma – Monday 10am -12pm or by appointment

Course Goals

GEOG 211 is the companion laboratory course to GEOG 201. Using mainly online materials, students will explore in more depth some of the major concepts in physical geography, including 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.

Required Texts

GEOG 211 has no required textbooks.

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 simple 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 interactive, hands-on application in the weekly laboratory assignments.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in Earth Systems Science by completing weekly Geography 211 laboratory assignments in order to make observations, understand fundamental elements of experimental design, generate and analyze data through quantitative tools, use abstract reasoning to interpret data and formulae and test hypotheses with scientific rigor.

Course Requirements

GEOG 211 is an online course, so there are no attendance requirements. There are 10 laboratory assignments (schedule below) which completed and graded online via Canvas. Students are required to timely (ahead of time) contact their lab instructor concerning any outstanding labs due to unavoidable absences. Only a one week grace period will be given to students if there is an unavoidable conflict. Otherwise labs will not be accepted after the due date.

Class project

In addition, there is a semester long class project that involve tracking the elements of climate or geology for a location of your choice. Details will be given during the course, but students need to decide what project they are choosing by

September 9th. Students are required to provide project updates on October 21st and November 18th. Failure to do so will result in points deducted from your final project grade. Students may choose *not to do the project* with the understanding that the highest grade they may receive is a 90%. The project will not be accepted after the due date without the proper documentation. The final project is due December 12th and not late projects will be accepted.

Date Due @ 11:59pm	Project and Lab Component
September 2	Introduction to Google Earth
September 9	Earth-Sun Geometry Choose Project Topic Via Canvas Survey
September 16	Urban Heat Island Effect
September 23	Severe Weather
September 30	Hydrologic Cycle
October 7	Climate Change in Polar Regions
October 14	No Lab Due
October 21	Tectonic Shifts Project Update 1
October 28	Weathering and Erosion
November 4	Rivers and Waterbodies
November 11	Earth Landforms
November 18	Project Update 2
November 25	No Lab Due
December 12	Project Due

Lab Modules

Labs are contained in the in the Modules section of the GEOG 211 Canvas page. You must first download the “Question Document” first, and fill in your answers on the appropriate labs answer sheet. Additionally, every lab you will be required to write at least one short answer essay. **A random sampling of your short answer essays will be graded throughout the semester and their average score will make up a portion of your final grade.** The grades of the essay portions will be muted so you will be unable to see your grade until the final week of the semester. Failure to complete a short answer essay will result in a zero if that lab is randomly selected for your grade. The labs contained in each of the modules will be due on Friday at the end of every week. Labs will not be assigned during exam weeks.

Late Policy

An assignment is considered late IMMEDIATELY after the due date. Late submissions will be accepted, but only a maximum of three days late and only for half credit. After the three day period has passed the assignment will be CLOSED for further submissions. ELMS will automatically grade your submission and a TA will manually reduce your grade down 50% at a later date.

Email Policy

If you ever believe you have been marked incorrect on a question due to an ELMS error, you must e-mail your TA. E-mails regarding grading errors will only be accepted AFTER the correct answers have been released (i.e. three days past the due date).

Grading

Lab Grades: 80%
 Short Answer Essay Grades: 10%
 Final Project Grade: 10%

Final letter grades are assigned as follows:

96 – 100	A+
92 – 95	A
90 – 91	A-
88 – 89	B+
82 – 87	B
80 – 81	B-
78 – 79	C+
72 – 77	C
70 – 71	C-
60 – 69	D
Less than 60	F

Students with Special Needs

Every effort will be made to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall semester. This form must be presented no later than September 15. We are not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after September 15

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. Plagiarism would not be tolerated. Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism:
<http://osc.umd.edu/osc/AcademicDishonesty.aspx>