

## GEOGRAPHY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (111G) - Fall 2014

Dr. Dan Dugas, Breland 148, 646-1045; ddugas@nmsu.edu. **Office Hours:** Mon. & Thurs. 10:30-12:00, or by appointment. **Lecture:** Neale Hall 131, Tues. & Thurs 8:55-10:10; **Labs:** Breland 185.

This course is a geographic introduction to Earth's atmospheric, hydrologic, biologic, and landform systems via the main themes of physical geography: *climatology*, *biogeography*, and *geomorphology*. In addition to our primary goal of exploring the varied realms of physical geography, this course also has the goals of describing the process of scientific inquiry, solving problems scientifically, communicating scientific information, applying quantitative analysis to scientific problems, and applying scientific thinking to real world problems. **Text:** *Elemental Geosystems* by R. W. Christopherson, 7th edition. **Lab Manual:** *Applied Physical Geography: Geosystems in the Laboratory* by Christopherson and Thomsen. This edition is specific to the NMSU campus and available at the bookstore. **Placenames** and **maps** are on the class web site. In addition to exams and lab quizzes, points will be awarded based on attendance in lecture and labs, and on participation in class using the "iclicker2" response pad.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPICS/EXAMS/LABS</u>
8/21	Introduction (text pgs. 1-33), <i>No labs</i> .
8/25	Heating of the Earth (34-69), Energy and the Sun (34-69), Energy Balance of the Earth and Atmosphere (70-84). <i>Lab 1: Latitude, Longitude, and Time</i> .
9/1	Air Temperature (84-103), Moisture in the Atmosphere (136-147), Adiabatic Processes (147-160). <i>No labs</i>
9/8	Adiabatic Processes (147-160), General Circulation (104-135). <b>Quiz 1 &amp; Lab 4: Earth Sun Relationships, Insolation, and Seasons</b> .
9/15	General Circulation (104-135), Secondary Circulation Systems (169-179). <b>Quiz 2 &amp; Lab 8: Atmospheric Humidity, Stability, and Adiabatic Processes</b> .
9/22	Weather Systems (161-169, 112), Exam Review. <b>Quiz 3 &amp; Lab: Introduction to Weather Maps (handout - lab materials provided by instructor)</b> .
9/29	<b>EXAM #1 (9/30)</b> , Regional Clim. (214-239). <i>Lab 9: Weather Maps, No quiz</i> .
10/6	Introduction to Geomorphology (252-317), Hillslopes and Mass Movements (318-343). <b>Quiz 4 &amp; Lab 11: Global Climate Systems</b> .
10/13	Hydrologic Cycle (180-213), Rivers (344-373). <i>Lab 12: Plate Tectonics: Global Patterns, No Quiz</i> .
10/20	Rivers (344-373), Exam Review. <b>Quiz 5 &amp; Lab 14: Contours and Topographic Maps</b> .
10/27	<b>EXAM #2 (10/28)</b> , Desert Landforms (398-404), <i>Lab 15: Topographic Analysis: Fluvial Geom., No Quiz</i> .
11/3	Glacial Landforms (408-441), <i>No labs this week</i> .
11/10	Climate Change (240-248), Soils (444-471), <b>Quiz 6 &amp; Lab 20: Biomes Analyzing Global Terrestrial Ecosystems</b> .
11/17	Biomes (472-523), <b>Lecture Makeup Exam: 11/18 at 5:00 pm, Breland 148. Quiz 7 and eligible makeup lab quiz</b> .
12/1	Biomes (472-523), Review. <i>No labs this week</i> .
12/11	<b>FINAL EXAM (#3) @ 8:00-10:00 am</b>

**GRADING:** Your final grade will be based on a percentage of the following *possible* total points:

- Three lecture examinations of 100 points each.....**300 pts.**
- Attendance for 22 lecture sessions @ 5 points each.....**110 pts.**
- Attempting **all** in-class questions (based on the percentage attempted out of all questions available).....**70 pts.**
- Seven lab quizzes of 15 points each.....**105 pts.**
- Participation for 10 labs @10 points each .....**100 pts.**
- Total = 685 points**
- **There are also be 30 bonus points** available for the percentage of in-class questions **answered correctly** (out of all questions asked).....**30 pts.**
- **Final grades will be evaluated based on the following scale: (There is no curve.)**

A+ = 100% to 95%	B- = < 84% to 80%	D = < 67% to 64%
A = < 95% to 93%	C+ = < 80% to 77%	D- = < 64% to 60%
A- = < 93% to 90%	C = < 77% to 74%	F = < 60% to 0%
B+ = < 90% to 87%	C- = < 74% to 70%	
B = < 87% to 84%	D+ = < 70% to 67%	

**\*\* TO PASS THIS COURSE YOU MUST EARN A PASSING GRADE FOR LAB (>60%), IN ADDITION TO PASSING LECTURE. YOU CANNOT FAIL THE LAB AND RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE FOR THE COURSE. \*\***

- **Turn cell phones off during lecture and lab.**
- **Lecture examinations** will focus on lecture materials and readings. In addition to the topics covered in the labs, each **lab quiz** will also include the identification of 5-10 geographic locations taken from the place-name lists provided in on the class website. **Lecture Exams and Lab Quizzes may not be taken early for any reason.** You may makeup only **one** of the lab quizzes should you miss one; any additional missed lab quizzes will be worth zero points. The lecture **makeup exam will be Tuesday, November 18th at 5:00 pm in Breland Hall 148.** There is no makeup for the final lecture exam. The eligible makeup lab quiz will be given during your labs the week of 11/17-11/21.
- **Academic dishonesty** will not be tolerated and anyone found cheating on an examination or quiz will be given **zero** points for that exam or quiz. Additional sanctions may also be applied. Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>
- Students who engage in disruptive activities in an academic setting (e.g., classrooms, academic offices or academic buildings) are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Section IV. Such students are also subject to administrative actions in accordance with the NMSU Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs.” **Add/ Drops** - The deadline for registration/course additions is Aug. 22, 2014. The last day to drop a course with a “W” is October 21, 2014. The last day to Withdraw from the university is November 15, 2013. Students are responsible for withdrawing from class. The instructor will not withdraw a student for not attending class or not completing the course. In order to obtain an "S" grade in Geography-111G, a minimum of 70 percent of the total course points must be obtained, and you must earn a passing grade for the lab (>60%) independent of your lecture exam scores, for a final passing grade. Complete information regarding the Incomplete grade can be found in the catalog: <http://nmsu.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2014-2015/Undergraduate-Catalog/General-Information/Regulations/Incomplete-Grade>
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact: Trudy Luken, Director, Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Corbett Center, Rm. 244, Phone: (575) 646-6840, E-mail: [sas@nmsu.edu](mailto:sas@nmsu.edu), Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation. For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, NMSU Policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's complaint process, or to file a complaint contact:  
Gerard Nevarez, Title IX Coordinator or Agustin Diaz, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue, Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu, Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

Other NMSU Resources:

NMSU Police Department: (575) 646-3311 [www.nmsupolice.com](http://www.nmsupolice.com)

NMSU Police Victim Services: (575) 646-3424

NMSU Counseling Center: (575) 646-2731

NMSU Dean of Students: (575) 646-1722

For Any On-campus Emergencies: 911

- E-mail addresses: Entering students are informed that we will only use their NMSU e-mail address so we have an efficient and reliable method of contacting students. Note that students can forward their mail to any current use e-mail address. You may want to indicate on your syllabus if you will only be using NMSU e-mail or Canvas to communicate with your students.

**\*\*A point of clarification:** If a student drops by 5pm on the last day to cancel a class a “W” will not appear on his /her transcript. After the last day to cancel a class and up to the deadline to drop a course with a “W” will appear on the transcript and the student will not receive a refund of any tuition.