

2020 Fall - GEOG-455-M01-SW ENVIRONMENTS

Fall 2020 online semester:

GEOG455/555 - Southwest Environments

Welcome! I hope you had a good summer break. I am your instructor, [Dr. Dan Dugas](#). I am sure you are wondering how GEOG455/555 will proceed this semester. Our class will follow a “**hybrid-synchronous/asynchronous**” format, which means that the class content will be available to you whenever you need it, but live discussion sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester (At this point, I plan to hold those sessions during the scheduled class time).

My primary objective is to provide you with a clear and concise online path to complete this class.

I am available to assist you and will answer email (ddugas@nmsu.edu) and Canvas messages as soon as possible, and certainly within 12 hours.

My [ONLINE OFFICE HOURS \(Links to an external site.\)](#) are **Monday and Wednesday 2:00-4:00**. Please note, I also host office hours for a lower-division course at these times, so if you would like to speak with me but cannot get through, please let me know via email or Canvas messaging and we can quickly arrange for an alternative appointment through Zoom, or a face-to-face campus meeting.

I will send regular and/or urgent communication to all students using the "[Announcements](#)" tool in Canvas. It is **a requirement** in this class that you set your New Announcements in Notifications to "Right Away" to ensure that you receive class announcements (Go to Account >Profile (in the upper left corner), then >Notifications, and find "Announcements" and set to "Right Away" by selecting the check mark). Our class will follow a "**hybrid-synchronous/asynchronous**" format, which means that the class content will be available to you whenever you need it, but live discussion sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester (At this point, I plan to hold those sessions during the scheduled class time).

- **Online discussions:** 12:00-1:15pm MW, on scheduled days only.
- You can access the [PowerPoint lecture files](#) at any time. I post videos of each class day online, usually within five hours of each class meeting.
- There will be a required series of both **readings discussion sessions** (online), **short research papers**, and simple **place-name maps**.
- It is necessary that you have adequate online access tools. A laptop or desktop is highly recommended! You will be at a disadvantaged trying to learn using a phone.
- GRADUATE STUDENTS taking GEOG555 will in addition to the regular class activities be required to double the length of essay requirements. And great looking maps!
- **Textbook:** None.
- **Readings:** Provided as [pdf files](#) online.

- It is necessary that you have adequate online access tools. Access to a laptop or desktop is highly recommended! You will be at a disadvantage trying to learn using only a phone.

TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THIS COURSE, FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW IN THE SEQUENCE THEY ARE LISTED.

Be sure to note the due dates!

In addition to the links provided below, you can access all course resources either through the “[Assignments](#)” or “[Pages](#)” links in the column to the left. The lecture are [here](#)!

WEEK 1: 8/19 - 8/21

- Fill out the following required NMSU preparations:
- Complete the Provost’s “[Safe Practices Acknowledgement \(Links to an external site.\)](#)” form.
- View the Dean of Students’ Ready Crimson Commitment video: [NMSU-Ready Crimson Commitment \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- Review the complete [syllabus](#) for this class.
- Introduce yourself to the class on the [discussion](#) board and add a photo of yourself or an image that “represents” who you are.
- Create a short bio stating your major, hobbies, professional goals, etc.

WEEK 2: 8/24 & 8/26

- Class Introduction. THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST ZOOM MEETING. USE THE ZOOM BUTTON (IN THE LEFTHAND COLUMN) TO JOIN.
- [REGIONS](#) lecture. I will review lecture slides during each class meeting, but I want you to come prepared, having viewed the slides prior to class. CURRENTLY, I AM STILL IN THE PROCESS OF UPLOADING THE LECTURE SLIDES. ONCE THAT IS DONE, THEY CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

WEEK 3: 8/31 & 9/2

- [REGIONS](#) lecture
- [Map 1](#) - *SW States, Borders, and Major Cities (due 9/3)*
- [Exploration 1](#) - “Personal Perceptions of the SW” (due 9/2)
- [Readings 1](#) - *Regions (complete these prior to discussion on 9/7)*

WEEK 4: 9/7 & 9/9

- [GEOLOGY](#) lecture
- Discussion 1 - *Regions (be prepared for in-class participation on 9/9)*
- [Readings 2](#) - *Geology*

WEEK 5: 9/14 & 9/16

- [GEOLOGY](#) lecture
- [RESOURCES](#) lecture
- [Map 2](#) - *SW Geology (due 9/14)*

WEEK 6: 9/21 & 9/23

- [GEOMORPHOLOGY](#) lecture

WEEK 7: 9/28 & 9/31

- [GEOMORPHOLOGY](#) lecture
- [Map 3](#) - *SW Physiographic regions (due 9/28)*
- [Exploration 2/3](#) - "Geology/Geomorphology of a National Park or Monument" (due 9/30)

WEEK 8: 10/5 & 10/7

- Discussion 2/3 - Geology/Geomorphology (10/5)
- [CLIMATOLOGY](#) lecture
- [Readings 4](#) - Climatology

WEEK 9: 10/12 & 10/14

- [BIOGEOGRAPHY](#) lecture
- [Readings 5](#) - Biogeography

WEEK 10: 10/19 & 10/21

- [BIOGEOGRAPHY](#) lecture
- [Map 5](#) - *SW EcoRegions (due 10/19)*

WEEK 11: 10/26 & 10/28

- [HYDROLOGY](#) lecture
- [Map 6](#) - *SW Rivers (due 10/26)*
- [Readings 6](#) - Hydrology
- WEEK 12: 11/2 & 11/6
- [HUMAN GEOGRAPHY](#) lecture
- [Readings 7](#) - Human Geography
- [Exploration 4/5/6](#) - “Biogeography of a National Park or Monument” or “Environment of a SW River” (due 11/4)

WEEK 13: 11/9 & 11/11

- [HUMAN GEOGRAPHY](#) lecture
- Discussion 5/6 - Biogeography and Rivers (11/9)

WEEK 14: 11/16 & 11/18

- [SUSTAINABILITY](#) lecture
- [Map 7](#) - *Federal Lands and Parks (11/16)*
- [Readings 8](#) - Sustainability
- [Exploration 8](#) - “Sustainability in the SW” (11/18)

WEEK 15: 11/23-27 Thanksgiving Break!

WEEK 16 : 11/30 & 12/2

- [SUSTAINABILITY](#) lecture
- Discussion 8 - Final Ideas (11/30)

WEEK 17: 12/7-11 Finals Week

- ***There is no final exam for this class.***
- Please respond to the "Instructor Course Evaluation" by clicking on the tab here on the Canvas class site. Look in the left-hand navigation column at the bottom. It will take you to another site where the evaluation is housed.

GRADING: Your final grade will be based on a percentage of the following:

- Four Explorations (36 pts. each)..... ~41% of total grade
- Four Discussions (30 pts. each)..... ~35% of total grade
- Seven maps (12 pts. each)..... ~24% of total grade
- Final grades will be evaluated based on the following scale: (There is no curve.)

A+ = 100% to 95%

A = < 95% to 93%

A- = < 93% to 90%

B+ = < 90% to 87%

B = < 87% to 84%

B- = < 84% to 80%

C+ = < 80% to 77%

C = < 77% to 74%

C- = <74% to 70%

D+ = < 70% to 67%

D = < 67% to 64%

D- = < 64%to 60%

F= < 60% to 0%

Add/ Drops - The deadline for registration/course additions (with instructor's permission) is 8/20/2020. The last day to drop a course with a W (except courses carrying designated dates) is 9/4/2020. The last day to Withdraw from the university is 12/4/2020. Students are responsible for withdrawing from class. The instructor will not withdraw a student for not attending class or not completing the course.

"S" grade - a minimum of 70 percent of the total course points must be obtained for a "S" grade.

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online: <http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/> (Links to an external site.) Academic misconduct is explained here: <http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/academic-misconduct/> (Links to an external site.)

Discrimination and Disability Accommodation: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) 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: Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Corbett Center Student Union Room 208, Trudy Luken, Director, 575-646-6840, sas@nmsu.edu

- New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. Inquiries may be directed to the Laura Castille, Executive Director, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity, P.O. Box 30001, E. 1130 University Avenue, Las Cruces, NM 88003; 575.646.3635; 575-646-7802 (TTY); equity@nmsu.edu.

- Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:

Laura Castille, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue
Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://equity.nmsu.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

- **Other NMSU Resources:**

NMSU Police Department: (575) 646-3311 www.nmsupolice.com (Links to an external site.)

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

- **Plagiarism:**

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/> (Links to an external site.)

- The Teaching Academy has excellent resources for the development and review of syllabi. For more information please visit <http://teaching.nmsu.edu/Resources/rubrics/index.html> (Links to an external site.)
- E-mail address: I will only use your NMSU e-mail address or the Canvas messaging system for electronic communications.

**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, a “W” will appear on the transcript and students will not receive a refund of any tuition.