

Geography 201: Introduction to Physical Geography

Class meeting times: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:40-2:55pm

Location: 121 Swain Hall

Instructor: Clayton Whitesides

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00 – 9:45am, MWF 1:00pm-1:45pm, or by appointment.

Course Description

GEOG 201 Introduction to Physical Geography. (3) (Coreq: GEOG 201L) An exploration of the patterns and processes of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere. Emphasis is placed on the spatial significance and influence of these spheres as well as human-environment dynamics. (F, S)

Course Objectives

You should learn to:

- Identify patterns and landforms on Earth's surface and explain the processes by which they came to be;
- Gain an awareness of physical environments of the world;
- Describe dominant landforms and climate patterns across the world, and understanding their cause and how they impact human activity;
- Understand the difference between weather and climate;
- Identify changes in climate;
- Understand spatial change through time.

Student Learning Outcomes

More precisely, upon successful completion of this course you can expect to be able to:

- Apply the methods of scientific inquiry;
- Analyze evidence using scientific methods.

Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and reporting the inappropriate action of others and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

Coastal Carolina University is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a barrier-free environment with all of its resources. Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities receive accommodations and assistance through Disability Services. To access services and accommodations, students should obtain documentation of the disability and make an appointment with the Coordinator of Disability Services.

Text – Required

Gervais, Bruce (2015). Living Physical Geography. W.H. Freeman and Company.
ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-0664-4 ISBN-10: 1-4641-0664-9

The textbook is available for both purchase and rental from the CCU Bookstore. The book is also available for rental and purchase through various online merchants.

Additional assigned readings will be provided via Moodle.

Structure of the Course

The class will consist of 3 hours of lecture and discussion per week.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Evaluation of student performance in this course will be based on exams, news reports, a final project, and class participation. Assessments not completed by the appropriate due dates will result in a score of “0”, in all but extreme extenuating circumstances. As per CCU policy, **Midterm grades will be assigned and submitted for each student in this course, including the total number of absences.**

Exams

There will be a total of **four (4)** exams, 3 midterm exams and one Final Exam. Exams will be given **in class**, and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. The exams will cover lectures (including media shown in class), material from the textbook, and other assigned readings. **Exam dates are listed on the Course Outline below. Any changes will be announced one week in advance.**

Exam 1 - Chapters 1-6
Exam 2 – Chapters 7-10
Exam 3 – Chapters 11-14
Exam 4 – Chapters 15-19

Make-Up Test Dates: Make-Up tests will only be allowed with prior consultation with the instructor, and must be completed by the date specified by the instructor. No make-up tests will be given during the week of Final Exams.

News Reports

Many processes of physical geography have an impact on our daily activities. It is important, therefore, that we understand how the physical environment affects our lives. Each student will monitor local, national, and international news to find current news articles that highlight physical geography. A brief report on the article will be submitted to the instructor and a brief presentation will be presented to the class. Each student will report on two articles during the semester. Additional information will be provided in class.

Final Project

As you will observe through the news articles you read this semester, physical geography dynamic. For the final project in this course, you will select a process or pattern discussed during the semester that is of interest to you and research it. You will present your findings at the end of the semester. Additional information will be provided in class.

Participation

Participation is a critical component of a college education, but it is often challenging to assess. In this course, participation will be evaluated as follows:

- Self-evaluation of your participation at midterm and at the end of the semester.
- Peer-evaluation of your participation in class.
- The instructor’s evaluation of your participation.

Additional information and rubrics will be provided in class.

Final Grades

Evaluation of student performance in this course will be based on exams, news reports, a final project, and class participation. Additionally, 30% of your final grade in this course will be based on your performance and grade in the associated lab. **Adjustments to the grading scheme, due dates, and overall course plan may be made as necessary at the discretion of the instructor.**

Final Grade Breakdown

Assessment	Percentage of FINAL GRADE
Participation	10%
News Events (2 total)	5% (2.5% each)
Project	15%
Laboratory	30%
Exams (4 total)	40% (10% each)
TOTAL	100%

Percentage	FINAL GRADE
90-100%	A
87-89.99%	B+
80-86.99%	B
77-79.99%	C+
70-76.99%	C
67-69.99%	D+
60-66.99%	D
Below 60%	F

General Policies

Students will be expected to understand and abide by the *Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct*. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, and may result in penalties up to and including failure of the course with a grade of “**FX**”. The *Coastal Carolina University Student Code of Conduct*, which is available online via the CCU website, gives examples of plagiarism and cheating. Make sure you review this document if you are uncertain about what constitutes academic misconduct. Violations will be reported to the University’s Academic Integrity Officer.

The use of laptop computers, tablets, and phones during class sessions is allowed **only** for class work. **If you are found to be using your laptop, phone, or other devices for non-class related activities, you will lose participation points.**

Attendance: ATTENDANCE WILL BE RECORDED AT EACH CLASS MEETING. Attendance is expected, and you must be on time for class. The CCU University Catalog states, with respect to attendance, that “An instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including assigning the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings.” Attendance will be taken, and absences in excess of 25% of our class meetings will result in a failing grade, no matter what your actual performance in the course happens to be. The Catalog also states that “Absences will be excused for documented cases of:

- a) Incapacitating illness,

- b) Official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity),
- c) Death of a close relative, and
- d) Religious holidays.”

General Course Outline

SCHEDULE BY WEEK (tentative)

Week: Dates	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Readings by chapter
1: 13, 15, 17 Jan	Syllabus/Intro	Geographers Toolkit	Geographers Toolkit	Assigned
2: 20, 22, 24 Jan	<i>No Class - MLK</i>	Atmosphere	Atmosphere	Ch 1,2
3: 27, 29, 31 Jan	Atmosphere	Atmosphere	Atmosphere/hydrosphere	Ch 3,4
4: 3, 5, 7 Feb	Atmosphere/hydrosphere	Atmosphere/hydrosphere	Atmosphere/hydrosphere	Ch 5,6
5: 10, 12, 14 Feb	Exam 1	Biosphere	Biosphere	Ch 7
6: 17, 19, 21 Feb	Biosphere	Biosphere	Biosphere	Ch 8
7: 24, 26, 28 Feb	Biosphere	Biosphere	Biosphere	Ch 9,10
8: 3, 5, 7 Mar	Exam 2	Lithosphere (building)	Lithosphere (building)	Ch 11,12
9: 10, 12, 14 Mar	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
10: 17, 19, 21 Mar	Lithosphere (building)	Lithosphere (building)	Lithosphere (building)	Ch 12,13,14
11: 24, 26, 28 Mar	Lithosphere (building)	Lithosphere (building)	Lithosphere (building)	Ch 15,16,17
12: 31, 2, 4 Mar/Apr	Exam 3	Lithosphere (weathering)	Lithosphere (weathering)	Ch 18
13: 7, 9, 11 Apr	AAG	AAG	AAG	
14: 14, 16, 18 Apr	Lithosphere (weathering)	Lithosphere (weathering)	<i>No Class – Student Holiday</i>	Ch 18, 19
15: 21, 23, 25 Apr	Lithosphere (weathering)	Lithosphere (weathering)	Lithosphere (weathering)	Ch 19,20
16: 28, 30 Apr	Lithosphere (weathering)	Presentations	<i>No Class – End Semester</i>	Ch 21

FINAL EXAM

Date and Time: TBD

Location: 121 Swain Hall