

GEOGRAPHY 206

Physical Geography

Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Randall Schaetzl
Office: 128 Geography
Office Hours: Hours: M,W 2:15-4:15, and by appt.
Mailbox: 118 Geography; Phone: 353-7726 email: soils@msu.edu

TA: *Courtney Gallaher*
Her office and office hours: Room 19 Geography. M 9:30-11:00 and Th 2:30-4:00

Text: Arbogast, A.F. **Discovering Physical Geography**. 1st edition. Wiley and Sons

Lectures: T,Th 12:40-2:00 pm, Rm. 118 Psych Bldg.

COURSE GOALS: This course is designed to provide a survey of the many aspects of the physical planet Earth, all done under a distinctly geographic framework. Major topics of consideration are: weather (meteorology), vegetation and plant ecology, rocks and weathering, landforms, surficial processes, and soils. Emphasis is placed on explaining and appreciating the physical landscape and environment. There are no prerequisites.

A laboratory course (GEO 206L) that stresses applications of the material discussed in GEO 206 may be taken concurrently, or during any ensuing term. Students do NOT need to enroll in the lab to receive credit for GEO 206.

EXAMS and QUIZZES:

EXAMS: There will be two hourly examinations and a final exam---dates for which are provided below. The exams will consist of T/F and multiple choice questions, *as well as* fill-in-the-blank questions. You will have the full class period to complete each of the first two exams. The final exam is comprehensive but stresses the last section of the course.

QUIZZES: Four short, 20 point quizzes will be administered randomly throughout the term. These will occur at the immediate start of lecture, and will be unannounced. They will ONLY cover the information from the previous lecture and/or related material in the text. Quizzes will have no "bubble sheet" questions but will, instead, have a variety of written response questions. The student's quiz with the lowest score will not be counted toward the final point total (*i.e.*, it will be dropped).

OTHER: Make-up quizzes *will not* be allowed. If you arrive late for a quiz, extra time will not be provided. Makeup EXAMS are only allowed in cases where a physician's excuse is presented. If an exam is missed due to a family funeral, a newspaper obituary (with the date of the newspaper issue clearly shown) must be presented to the instructor within four class days of the missed exam. In all cases the make-up must be done prior to the regularly-scheduled exam. If the student cannot take the make-up exam early, it will be dropped and the remaining exams will be weighted appropriately. Extra credit points are not given in GEO 206.

GRADING: There are 400 possible points to be earned in Geography 206. All grades will be curved. Except for extreme cases, a final point total of 50% is the **minimum point total for a passing grade** in GEO 206.

First Exam:	100 points
Second Exam:	100 points
Final Exam:	140 points
Three Quizzes:	<u>60 points</u>
Total:	400 points

ADDITIONAL GEO COURSES: The Department of Geography offers a number of courses that expand on topics covered in GEO 206. A selection of such courses is listed below. GEO 206L has GEO 206 as a prerequisite. GEO 203 has no prerequisites. Additional, more advanced courses are not included in the list below. I am always happy to discuss the content of any GEO course with you.

GEO 206L Physical Geography Laboratory	GEO 203 Introduction to Meteorology
GEO 208: Physical Geography of the National Parks	GEO 333 Geography of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region
GEO 401 Plant Geography	GEO 402 Agricultural Climatology
GEO 306 Environmental Geomorphology	GEO 407 Regional Geomorphology of the United States
GEO 408 Soil Geomorphology Field Study	

LECTURE OUTLINE: GEO 206

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPICS</u>	<u>TEXT READINGS</u>
<i>THE EARTH-SUN CONTEXT</i>		
Aug 26	Introduction, latitude-longitude, earth-sun geometry	4-22; 48-61
<i>THE ATMOSPHERE</i>		
Aug 28	The atmosphere; ozone	71-79; 96-99
Sep 2	Radiation, insolation	64; 68-70; 79-92
Sep 4	Temperature, air pressure	99-122
Sep 9	Moisture, uplift, air pollution	123-126; 154-168; 178-185
Sep 11	Fog, wind	126-132; 143-145; 172-173
Sep 16	Global circulation	132-143
Sep 18	Air masses, fronts and cyclonic storms, jet streams	190-200
Sep 23	Jet streams, thunderstorms	201-204
Sep 25	Hail, lightning	
Sep 30	Tornadoes, hurricanes, El Nino	148-149; 205-215
Oct 2	Catch up	
Oct 7	FIRST EXAM	
Oct 9	Climate change	249-259
<i>THE BIOSPHERE</i>		
Oct 14	Biogeographic concepts	Ch 9; 264-268
Oct 16	Succession, disturbance, biomes	268-285
Oct 21	Biomes	
	visit http://www.desertusa.com/desert.html	
Oct 23	Biomes and plant geography	
<i>THE LITHOSPHERE</i>		
Oct 28	Geomorphology concepts, rock types	340-357
Oct 30	Landforms on sedimentary rocks, folded rocks	392-397
Nov 4	Catch up	
Nov 7	SECOND EXAM	
Nov 11	Vulcanism	398-406
Nov 13	Weathering, mass wasting	Ch 14
Nov 18	Soils	294-315
Nov 20	River systems and running water	456-478
Nov 25	River systems, cont.	479-492
Nov 27	No Class - Thanksgiving break	
Dec 2	Glacial systems	496-527
Dec 4	Glacial systems, coastal systems	Ch 19
Monday, Dec 8	Cumulative FINAL EXAM	12:45-3:00 pm