

# Introduction to Physical Geography, GEOG 101

Spring 2008

**Section:** 008, 3 credits

**Lecture:** T,R 3:30-4:45 PM LH 0238

**Office Hrs:** Tues-Thur 2:00-3:00,  
Wed 10:00-11:00, or by appt

**TA:** Benjamin Furtaw

**Office Hrs:** After 10am on Fridays, LI 020

**Email:** [bfurta1@towson.edu](mailto:bfurta1@towson.edu)

**Instructor:** Beth Hall

**Office:** Linthincum 020 C

**Phone:** 704-3192

**E-mail:** [bhall@towson.edu](mailto:bhall@towson.edu)

## Required Text:

1. McKnight, T.L., and D. Hess, 2008: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. Prentice Hall
2. Study guide that accompanies the text

## Prerequisite:

None.

**You must register this course on Blackboard  
in order to receive a grade for this course!!!!  
[bbweb.towson.edu](http://bbweb.towson.edu)**

## Course Description and Objectives:

**General Catalog Description:** Introductory spatial analysis of fundamental terrestrial natural phenomena, including their impact on humanity. Emphasis on Earth planetary motion, weather and climate, landforms, soils and vegetation. GenEd II.A.

### Methods of Instruction:

Knowledge of the subject matter will be acquired through a combination of lecture, collaborative work, audiovisuals, demonstrations, and topical essays.

**Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students should be able to explain key concepts about our physical environment such as how the earth-sun relationships effect our seasonal climates, how the hydrologic cycle is linked to all 4 spheres of our environment, and analyze maps and graphs that explain geographic distinctions of those spheres. A strong vocabulary of these concepts is also expected.

## Grading and Assignments:

### Exams:

There will be four exams worth 100 points given throughout the semester. These exams will be mostly objective questions with an additional 4 short answer essays. No make-up exams are given during the semester\*. If an exam is missed due to illness, family problems, sporting events (either participant or spectator), work obligations or other problems of any nature, it can be made up by taking the optional comprehensive Final Exam at the end of the semester. The final exam can account for only one missed exam. Any additional missed exams are scored as zero\*. The final exam is cumulative consisting of questions given in previous tests and quizzes.

### Corrected Exams:

Each exam will require that a corrected version of the objective questions from that exam be turned in for a total possible 35 points. This is a separate assignment for the course and needs to be turned in within one week of when the exams are returned. An additional one-week grace period is extended for a 10% deduction in the assignment grade. Assignments turned in after the grace period will not be awarded any points. In the event that a student misses a regularly-scheduled exam, no associated corrected exam is required and the points from the assignment will not penalize the student's overall course grade.

### Quizzes:

After the lecture of each planned chapter, there will be a quiz given pertaining to the material covered. Each quiz is worth 10 points each. When videos are shown in class, quizzes will be offered to assess the learned content of the material, as well. No make-up quizzes are given during the semester. The two worst scores will be dropped.

### In-Class Activities:

In class active learning exercises are a regular component to this course. Everyone is expected to participate in these. There will be 3 unannounced collections of these exercises. Each exercise will count for 20 points and the lowest score will be dropped.

### Course Grade

Chapter quizzes (11@10)	110 pts
Exams (4@100)	400 pts
Corrected Exams (4@35)	140 pts
In-Class Activities (2@20)	40 pts

**Total Course Points:** 660 pts\*

\*Course total is subject to change due to pace of course.

### Grading Scale:

Total Points	Grade
94-100	A
90-93.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
68-72.9	D+
63-67.9	D
<63	F

### Lecture Course Schedule (Subject to change by instructor)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter/Topic</u>
1	1	1/27	Course Introduction Ch 1: Intro to Earth
	2	1/27	Ch 1: Intro to Earth
2	3	2/3	Ch 3: Intro to the Atmosphere
	4	2/5	Ch 4: Insolation and Temperature
3	5	2/10	Ch 4: Insolation and Temperature
	<b>6</b>	<b>2/12</b>	<b>EXAM I – Ch 1, 3, 4</b>
4	7	2/17	Exam Return /Ch 5: Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
	8	2/19	Ch 5: Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
5	9	2/24	Ch 6: Atmospheric Moisture
	10	2/26	Ch 6: Atmospheric Moisture
6	11	3/3	Ch 6: Atmospheric Moisture
	12	3/5	Ch 7: Transient Atmospheric Flows and Disturbances
7	13	3/10	Ch 9: The hydrosphere
	14	3/12	<b>EXAM II – Ch 5 - 7</b>
8		3/17	SPRING BREAK
		3/19	SPRING BREAK
9	15	3/24*	Exam Return / Ch 9: The hydrosphere
	16	3/26*	Ch 10: Cycles and Patterns of Biosphere
10	17	3/31	Ch 10: Cycles and Patterns of Biosphere
	18	4/2	Ch 11: Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
11	19	4/7	Ch 11: Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
	20	4/9	<b>EXAM III – Ch 9-11</b>
12	21	4/14	Exam Return / Ch 13: Introduction to Landform Study
	22	4/16	Ch 13: Introduction to Landform Study
13	23	4/21	Ch 14: The Internal Processes
	24	4/23	Ch 14: The Internal Processes
14	25	4/28	Ch 15: Preliminaries to Erosion: Weathering and Mass Wasting
	26	4/30	<b>EXAM IV – CH 13-15</b>
15	27	5/5	Exam Return / Ch 16: The Fluvial Processes
	28	5/7	Ch 16: The Fluvial Processes
16	29	5/12	Exam Review; Quiz on Chapter 16
		5/14	Cumulative Final Exam – Date TBD

### Policy on Late or Missed Graded Material

This course maintains a strict policy on late assignments and missed quizzes and exam.

1. There are NO make-up quizzes or exams offered (see Excused Absences below). To accommodate unforeseen circumstances for having to miss an exam or quiz, the following are dropped from the course grade:
  - a. Lowest exam of the 5 offered (including the Final)
  - b. Lowest 2 quizzes of the 13 offered
  - c. Lowest in-class exercise of the 3 offered
2. Late assignments (i.e., corrected exams) are accepted up to one week after the original due date. A 10% late deduction is automatically applied regardless of the reason for the any assignment turned in within 1 week of the original due date. After the late grace period has passed, assignments will no longer be accepted for a grade.
3. It is the student's responsibility to regularly monitor his or her posted grades through Gradebook.

### \*Excused Absences for due dates and exam/quizzes.

An excused absence includes any absence that falls under the following two cases:

**Case 1:** School-related required obligations (e.g., university athletic participation, school-sponsored representation, etc.)

**Case 2:** Family/medical emergencies

For Case 1 excused absences that coincide with an exam or quiz, notification must be made through official documentation to Dr. Hall at least 1 weeks prior to the scheduled exam or quiz.

For Case 2 excused absences that coincide with an exam or quiz, notification must be made via official doctor's note or other official documentation to Dr. Hall within 1 week of return from the absence.

No make-up exams or quizzes are offered for the first excused exam or first two excused quizzes, since the lowest exam and two lowest quiz grades are automatically dropped, causing the student to incur no penalty from the absence(s). Should the student have excused absences for more than one exam or more than two quizzes, a make-up exam/quiz will be allowed given that official documentation for the absence was received for every missed assessment. Exams and quizzes are considered separately under these guidelines.

All other assignments (i.e., corrected exam assignments) are given one full week to complete, with an additional one full week grace period that will include a 10% lateness deduction. Therefore, the Case 1 excused absences on the due date of the assignment will not allow for a due-date extension. The student should plan according for the foreseen absence and either turn the assignment in early or accept the late penalty. A Case 2 excused absence, given official documentation proof of the absence, will provide the student with one additional week past the original due date for full credit potential and one additional week past the grace period deadline for partial credit potential.

### Additional Rules:

1. Students may not repeat a course more than once without prior permission of the Academic Standards Committee
2. Attendance is optional. However, due to the lack of make-up quiz/exams opportunities, and the frequency of quizzes and exams, attendance is highly encouraged for acquiring the necessary scoring points to pass the course.
3. Participation is highly encouraged.
4. Personal honesty and integrity are expected. Please refer to university rules on academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, as it relates to grades. Any suspicion of dishonesty can lead to the automatic failing of this course. Refer to the Student Handbook on this topic (<https://inside.towson.edu/generalcampus/tupolicies/documents/03-01.00%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.doc>). The university policy on plagiarism can be found at <http://www.towson.edu/studentlife/judicialaffairs/academicintegrity.html>.
5. If TU is closed on an exam day, the official make-up for that exam will be the following Thursday, if possible.
6. If you need accommodation due to a disability, see me during office hours. Please bring with you a statement from Disability Support Services authorizing your accommodation.
7. Students are expected to arrive on time to examinations. It is highly disruptive to all involved when students arrive late. For this reason and for the security of each examination, late examinees may be admitted up until **35 minutes** into the exam. Highly unusual circumstances will be entertained on a case-by-case basis. **For the first 35 minutes of an exam, no one will be permitted to leave the room. A student who arrives more than 35 minutes late for an examination will receive a zero for that exam.**