

GEOG 1301-151 – Physical Geography

Instructor: Greg Ramzinski (gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu)

Office hours in the summer are by appointment only.

Office location:

Downtown campus in 1015C

Course Description

- The course will provide the student with a general overview of the planet Earth by an examination of the climate, soil, flora, and fauna from the equator to the polar regions. The course will also examine the interaction of various processes on the planet and the impact of human interactions with the planet. We will also examine other topics related to geography.
- The topics' schedule is at the end of this syllabus.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 (there is no lab associated with this course)

Course Materials

- The text we will be using for this course is an open-source textbook, [Physical Geography and Natural Disasters](#) by R. Adam Dastrup, MA, GISP.
 - There is no cost to download or utilize this textbook.
 - It is highly recommended you download the textbook for ease of reading. There are supplemental materials found in the text requiring internet access to view.
- Students will need access to a computer with internet access. If the student does not have a laptop, one can be checked out from the SPC library.
- Materials will be found on Blackboard.
 - All assignments, exams, and quizzes will be completed/submitted on Blackboard unless otherwise specifically directed by the instructor.

Course Objectives:

1. **Critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Empirical & Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of data and observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
5. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

6. Social Responsibility: to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence of local, national, and global issues, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

- The course objectives will be obtained in the following manners:
 - For face-to-face classes:
 - Interaction with the instructor and classmates through class discussion and participation. Exhibition of understanding of presented material through online quizzes and exams.
 - For online classes:
 - Participation in the class by review of materials posted online in Blackboard and exhibition of understanding of class materials through online quizzes and exams.

Grading

Grading will be based on the following breakdown:

- Exams – 50%
- Quizzes – 30%
- Assignments – 20%

There will be three (3) exams during the semester. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exam questions will be taken from the lecture materials, textbook, supplemental videos, and articles provided during the semester. All materials can be found in the course folder on Blackboard.

Assignments and quizzes will be given during the semester and will be found in the weekly folders on Blackboard. All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard. Assignments e-mailed to the instructor, unless otherwise directed by the instructor, will not be accepted. If there is an issue uploading the assignment, please contact the instructor immediately. Late assignments will not be accepted.

The grading scale will be:

- A = 90 – 100
- B = 80 – 89
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 0 – 60
- If a student receives a final grade ending in .5 or higher, the grade will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g.: 89.5 would be rounded up to 90).
- If a student received a final grade ending in .4 or lower, the grade will be rounded down to the previous whole number (e.g.: 89.4 would be rounded down to 89).

Late Assignments & Extra Credit

- No extra credit is offered for the course.
- No late work will be accepted without an approved excuse. Medical excuses must be submitted to the instructor in no more than 7 days from the absence. Please see the SPC General Catalog under "[Class Attendance](#)"
 - This will also apply to the missing of quizzes or exams which are open for a limited period of time. If you are unable to access a quiz or exam during the time it is open, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor **immediately** to rectify the situation.

Instruction Delivery

- This course is an online course.
 - Material will be presented through video lectures and supplemental materials.
 - Each student will need:
 - Appropriate technological skill and technology to complete the class.
 - An up-to-date laptop or daily computer access.
 - Laptops can be checked out from the SPC library if needed.
 - Computer labs are available at each of the SPC campuses.
 - Daily internet access.
 - Access to MySPC, Blackboard, and SPC e-mail.
 - All e-mails should originate from an SPC e-mail. E-mails from any other source will be deleted without being read.
 - Please do not attempt to contact the instructor through Blackboard Messages.
- It is highly recommended assignments, quizzes, and exams be completed on a computer.
- Students are expected to view class materials each week of the semester.
- Supplemental materials can be viewed on your smartphone or other mobile device.

Course Purpose

- Provides the students with a familiarization of various physical processes of Earth through history and the impact of humanity on those processes.

Attendance Policy

- Each student is expected to participate in each class. If a student is absent from class, proper documentation must be provided to the instructor to receive an excused absence. Excessive absences could result in the student being dropped from the class.
- Each student is expected to complete the quiz covering materials from the previous class before reviewing the materials from the scheduled class period.
- Online classes will be self-paced by the student. Each student will have a specific period of time to complete the posted assignments, quizzes, and exams. Each quiz/exam will be open from midnight Sunday until the following Sunday. If there are any issues with the

quiz/exam, please contact the instructor **immediately** so a solution can be found. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture by the student to take the quiz/exam.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth's physical systems and processes.
2. Describe and explain the processes of Earth's physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes, and landform development.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth's physical systems.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth's physical systems.
5. Demonstrate a familiarity with diverse types of map projections and understanding of the use of each type of the most common map projections.

Course Materials

- The materials for this course are all open source. The student will need access to a computer and the internet to be able to view the referenced materials and videos used during the course. The material and video links will be posted on Blackboard.

Drops and Withdrawals

- If you wish to drop a course, please go to the SPC website, and complete the online form. [Click here to access the website.](#)

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. This includes the submission of work completed by another individual or the purchase and submission of materials completed by another individual as your own work.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:** There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions. If material is marked as AI generated material, it is the

student's responsibility to prove the material generated is their own work and not the work of AI or from another source.

- Certain assignments will require the student to share comments about course material. If comments are pasted into the comment section of the assignment, the assignment will be given a grade of zero.
- *Any student found to be in violation of the academic honesty policy could immediately be dropped from the course.*

Student Code of Conduct

- The SPC Student Code of Conduct can be found here <http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=59&navoid=2027>

Blackboard Accessibility Standards

- Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third-party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®) tool, see the VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1. For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA see Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement. To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)
- All technological questions should be directed to the [SPC technology center](#). The instructor does not solve technological/computer issues.

Student Privacy

- South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, the instructor will NOT release or discuss the student's class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but the student. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not obtain this information from the instructor – if they need this sort of information, they must ask the student for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

Contact Information

- If you have questions during the semester, please contact the instructor sooner rather than later. The sooner we resolve the situation and get your questions answered, the sooner you can proceed in the course. If the presentation of the material is not clear,

please ask. Contact information can be found at the top of this syllabus, in the section below and on Blackboard.

- **The best way to contact me is by e-mail.**

The instructor is available to answer questions in the following manners:

- Office hours are by appointment only.
- Send an e-mail with your question(s). Don't forget to include your name and the class and section number.
- Please send an e-mail to set up an online meeting or a face-to-face meeting if you prefer a live conversation. The instructor will send you a link for the virtual meeting or schedule the time to meet.
- The best way to contact the instructor is e-mail at gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu

Class Schedule

All material for the week will open at 12:00 AM on the Sunday of the week. Please note materials for the week are due no later than 11:59 PM (End of day) the Sunday following their opening, unless otherwise noted. Please check your calendar on Blackboard for specific dates. For example – if an assignment opens on Sunday, January 28, it will be due no later than the end of day on Sunday, February 4, unless otherwise noted.

Week 1 – Week of July 7

Week 2 – Week of July 14

Week 3 – Week of July 21

Week 4 – Week of July 28

Week 5 – Week of August 4

Topic Schedule

- Week 1
 - Introduction to Geographic Science and Remote Sensing
 - The Universe and Solar System
 - Planet Earth
- Week 2
 - Tectonic Forces
 - Review & Exam #1
 - Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition
- Week 3
 - Fresh Water Environments
 - Oceans and Coastal Environments
 - Atmosphere and Weather
 - Review & Exam #2
- Week 4
 - Weather Systems and Severe Weather
 - Global Climate – The Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification System
 - Urbanization and Infrastructure
- Week 5
 - Extinction Level Events
 - Humanity, the Earth, and the Future
 - Review & Exam #3