Geography 120 – Our Physical Environment / Summer 2017

* Subject to change except for the required textbook*

CLASS LOCATION & TIME:
SEC 201 (ONLINE; no mandatory fieldtrip)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Dr. Woonsup Choi
Office: 496 Bolton Hall
Phone: 229-2671
Email: choiw@uwm.edu (the best way to reach me for private matters. For non-private matters, post your questions on D2L-Discussions. Your emails will be responded to normally within 48 hours. I may not respond to emails that are supposed to be posted on D2L)
Online support hours: by appointment (during this time I will be available for a chat on D2L)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Geog 120 Our Physical Environment is an introductory physical geography course that covers the essentials of Earth’s physical processes occurring in the four spheres that make up the Earth system (atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere). The processes occurring in each of these interconnected spheres are important because they form the physical environment in which we live. Example topics include Earth-sun relations, atmospheric temperature and precipitation, weather systems, global climates, creation of various landforms, and soils. This course is a 3-credit natural science General Education Requirements <GER> course with lab.

After successfully finishing this course,

1) You will have gained basic understanding of our physical environment from a scientific point of view
2) You will understand how the physical processes are related to each other and to human life
3) You will have gained some skills that are useful for studying the Earth from a geographical perspective

STUDY MATERIALS AND RESOURCES:

- Required textbook: An account at WileyPLUS for Visualizing Physical Geography 2nd ed. via uwm.ecampus.com (see the last page of the syllabus). A registration to the WileyPLUS course site is REQUIRED and serves as a textbook. You will need an account with the site to read textbook and do assignments. When you register, use the same name and email address as in D2L. A hard copy is optional.
- D2L Course Web site: Go to d2l.uwm.edu, log in with your panther account and select [Our Physical Environment Summer 2016]. In this course, D2L will be used mainly for keeping track of your grades, providing general course information and
managing discussions. Please post any questions or comments about course contents on D2L-Discussions. Check D2L often for your success in the course. You are encouraged to respond to other students’ post.

- **Panther Academic Support Services**: tutoring center for undergraduates ([http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/](http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/)). However, do not hesitate to contact your Instructor first for any questions you have about lectures or assignments.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Learning modules**: The course consists of eight learning modules. Each learning module has its own topic, learning objectives, textbook chapters, and activities (reading, quiz, and assignment). I will provide instruction for all the modules at the beginning of the course. **Make sure to refer to the instruction for each module frequently.** You may start any time but have to finish reading, quiz, and assignment of each module by each module’s due date shown in the timetable. Each module ends at 23:59 of the due date and will be graded thereafter.
  - **Reading**: You have to read the assigned textbook chapters. I will post key terms you have to understand in each module prior to the beginning of the module on D2L. The key terms are most important terms; not all terms you need to know.
  - **Quiz**: After reading textbook chapters, you will take a quiz that will be graded based on the number of correct answers. The lowest quiz score will be dropped from calculating the final grade.
  - **Assignment**: There will be eight assignments you have to complete and return to me. They can be submitted only on D2L Dropbox folders as digital files (from scanning, digital camera, saving as PDF or WORD, etc.). The lowest assignment score will be dropped from calculating the final grade.
  - **Discussion**: Course-related questions must be posted on D2L-Discussions unless they are private. Students are strongly encouraged to respond to other students’ post. I will monitor the comments and respond if necessary. In each module I will select a couple of best discussion posts and will give extra credits. The selection is based on the demonstrated understanding of the topic.
  - **Examinations**: Exams are non-cumulative and will cover the chapters as indicated by Instructor. Exams will be on **Tuesday, 14th and Saturday, 25th of June**. Exams will take an hour or less but will close at 23:59 of the exam date. You have to start the exam no later than 22:59 of the day to have a full hour.

**EVALUATION:**

Grades will assigned on the basis of the total points accumulated from the course requirements throughout the term. For example, if you earned 160 points throughout the term after excluding the lowest quiz and assignment scores, your letter grade will be A- (161/180 = 88.9%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grading scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Examinations: A: over 90%, A-: over 88%
- Assignments: B+: over 83%, B: over 80%, B-: over 77%
- Quizzes: C+: over 73%, C: over 70%, C-: over 67%
- D+: over 63%, D: over 60%, D-: over 58%
OTHER COURSE POLICIES:

- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and students involved will receive a **zero** grade for the pertinent exam, quiz or assignment. Severer cases will be submitted to the University for further scrutiny. The scope and disciplines of student academic misconducts are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and UWM implementation provisions (Faculty Document 1686) and [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf). UWM Disciplinary Guidelines can be found in the Office of the Dean of Students, Mellencamp Hall, Rm 118. It should be noted that I will determine whether academic misconduct has occurred at my discretion, and will not accept complaints from students. Students who do not agree with my judgment should take the case directly to a relevant College or University office.

- **Finality of Grade:** All grades, once released on D2L or PAWS, are final except in cases of clerical error.

- **Special Accommodation:** Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of disability, religion, or other civic duty should contact Instructor privately as early as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. The student notification will be kept confidential.

- **Other Notice:**
  - Late submissions will result in 20% discount, unless otherwise specified for each item. No late submissions will be accepted after seven full days from the deadline without rearrangement. No technical problems may be used as an excuse for a late submission. Nothing will be accepted after Exam 2 is over.
  - Make-ups will be allowed at the discretion of Instructor when a pre-approval has been obtained or in case of emergency with written proof.
  - Other unspecified matters will be handled according to the University policies listed on [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf)
  - If you are having any trouble in class, please see Instructor as soon as possible

CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Ends</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning objectives (details in the module instruction)</th>
<th>Textbook chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Module 1   | 4 Jun Sat   | Earth's shape and relation with the sun | - Understand the shape of the Earth  
- Define locations on the Earth  
- Understand solar time and time zones | 1                 |
| Module 2   | 4 Jun Sat   | Energy and temperature        | - Understand input and output of energy in the Earth  
- Understand the relation between energy and Earth's temperature  
- Explain the temperature variation on the Earth | 2, 3              |
| Module 3   | 8 Jun Wed   | Movement of air and water      | - Understand the three states of water  
- Calculate humidity  
- Understand how air and water moves in the atmosphere | 4, 5              |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>11 Jun Sat</td>
<td>Weather and climate</td>
<td>- Define air mass&lt;br&gt;- Understand the difference between weather and climate&lt;br&gt;- Understand midlatitude cyclones&lt;br&gt;- Explain the variation of climate on the Earth</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>14 Jun Tue</td>
<td>Modules 1-4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>15 Jun Wed</td>
<td>Inside the Earth</td>
<td>- Define rocks and minerals&lt;br&gt;- Understand the internal structure of the Earth&lt;br&gt;- Understand landforms made by Earth's internal forces</td>
<td>8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>18 Jun Sat</td>
<td>Landforms</td>
<td>- Understand various processes and external forces making landforms</td>
<td>10, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7</td>
<td>22 Jun Wed</td>
<td>Glacier and the Ice Age</td>
<td>- Understand landforms left by glaciers&lt;br&gt;- Understand global climate change and the Ice Age</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8</td>
<td>25 Jun Sat</td>
<td>Soils and life</td>
<td>- Explain the global distribution of soils&lt;br&gt;- Define net primary production</td>
<td>15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25 Jun Sat</td>
<td>Modules 5-8</td>
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</table>
SUGGESTED EMAIL FORMAT

Prof. Choi,

I will not be able to attend class tomorrow, 9/9 geog at 9:30, because of a family emergency. My father has Osteoporosis and fell early this morning in the tub. He broke a rib, his foot, and bruised his tailbone severly. He is unable to be alone by himself for the first week and tomorrow I will have to take care of him during the day til my step mom gets home. I hope this is excusable and I am wondering if there are any homework or other important announcements. Thank you very much.

Nick
@uwm.edu

- Have the subject start with [Geog 120]
- Make sure who you are writing to
- Put your name at the end

Don’t email like this

I need to ask if you would have some extra time available to go over stuff from class every week, I understand the concepts, but i’m probably not getting what you want me to understand from the material, i’ll see you on thursday to further talk about this.
Select Your Course Items

GEOG - 120 - 201 - 66685 - Our Physical Environment - Choi

Only the WileyPlus™ Standalone Printed Access Card, which includes the eBook of the text, is Required. The print book is only listed if you want physical copy of the text in addition to the eBook.

Required

Includes eText of the book.

WileyPlus Standalone Printed Access Card for Visualizing Physical Geography 2E
by Foresman, Timothy
Edition: 2nd
ISBN: 9781118180792
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Pub. Date: 3/18/2012

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Visualizing Physical Geography, 2nd Edition
by Foresman, Timothy W.; Strahler, Alan H.
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Pub. Date: 1/11/2012

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