

# Geography 120 – Our Physical Environment / Spring 2011

**\*\*DRAFT; subject to change except for required textbook\*\***

## **CLASS LOCATION & TIME:**

Lec 402 (MW 10:00-10:50 AM) in BOL B52  
Lab 801-807: see PAWS

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

***Dr. Woonsup Choi***

Office: 496 Bolton Hall

Phone: 229-2671

Email: [choiw@uwm.edu](mailto:choiw@uwm.edu) (the best way to reach me. Your emails will be responded to by the end of the next office hour at the latest.)

Office Hours: M 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM and R 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment

## **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. Geog 120 is a 3-credit natural science course with required labs and a mandatory field trip. This course is listed as a General Education Requirements <GER> course.

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 skills that are useful for studying the Earth from a geographical perspective

## **STUDY MATERIALS AND RESOURCES:**

- Required textbook: Strahler & Merali, 2008, *Visualizing Physical Geography*, Wiley. Available from the UWM bookstore.
- D2L Course Website: Go to [d2l.uwm.edu](http://d2l.uwm.edu) and log in with your panther account. Make sure to sign up for your lab session as well. Check the D2L handout posted on D2L-Content.
- Textbook companion site: The textbook publisher maintains a website for students. Log on to <http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&bcsId=3827&itemId=0470095725> for chapter summary and other resources. Contains great visual materials.

- Lab Manual: Lemke *et al.*, 2009, *Physical Geography Laboratory Manual* (customized). Available from the UWM bookstore.
- Lab Supplies: calculator, plastic rulers with inches and centimeters, colored pencils, lead pencil & pen.
- Panther Academic Support Services: tutoring center for undergraduates (<http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/>). However, do not hesitate to see your Instructor or TA first for any questions you have about lectures or labs.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Field Trip: A full day field trip is scheduled on Saturday, **31<sup>st</sup> of October**. **The field trip is required by this course in order to grant a passing grade.** Therefore, if you miss the fieldtrip and fulfill other requirements satisfactorily, you will receive an “I” (incomplete) for the final grade. It will then be your responsibility to complete this requirement during the next semester to prevent the “I” from turning into an F grade. You should check your schedule before you decide to take this class. Detailed guidelines will be provided before the field trip.
- Examinations: Exams are non-cumulative and will cover the chapters as indicated by Instructor. The mid-term exam will be given in the same classroom (END 107) at the regular meeting time during scheduled week, and the final exam will be given in the same classroom on **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> of December**, from 7:30 to 9:30 AM.
- Lab Exercises: TA’s are responsible for instructing and grading your lab works. Your lab grades will be turned in to Instructor at the end of the semester and scaled to the 70-point maximum.
- Class Participation and Attendance: In-class assignments such as pop-quizzes/response papers will be given occasionally to encourage thinking and attendance as well. Lecture slides are not provided to students. Therefore I encourage you to print out the chapter summaries from the textbook website and take additional note on them.
- Extra Credits: Points earned in the optional course works will be added to your final score as extra credits.

**EVALUATION:**

Grades will assigned on the basis of the total points accumulated from the course requirements throughout the semester.

Points	Grading scale
Examinations	100 A: 90-100%, A-: 87-89%
Lab Exercises	70 B+: 83-86%, B: 80-82%, B-: 77-79%
Participation/Attendance	10 C+: 73-76%, C: 70-72%, C-: 67-69%
Field Trip	20 D+: 63-66%, D: 60-62%
Extra Credits	(10) F: 0-59%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES:**

- Academic Integrity: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and students involved will receive a **zero** grade. 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>. UWM Disciplinary Guidelines can be found in the Office of the Dean of Students, Mellencamp Hall, Rm118.

- Class Etiquette: I expect that you will conduct yourself in both lecture and lab in the same manner that you yourself would like to be treated. Class disruptions will not be tolerated as it erodes the educational environment for everyone.
- 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. A student should notify Instructor, within the first three weeks of the beginning of class, of the specific days or dates on which he or she will request relief from an examination or academic requirement for a religious observance. The student notification will be kept confidential.
- Other Notice:
  - 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>
  - In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an H1N1 swine flu outbreak, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to this syllabus that will supersede this version
  - If you are having any trouble in class, please see Instructor as soon as possible

**CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE, CHECK D2L COURSE SITE FOR UPDATES)**

Week	Date	Class content	Chapter
1	3-Sep	Introduction to course	
2	8-Sep 10-Sep	The Earth as a rotating planet	1
3	15-Sep 17-Sep	Global energy balance	2
4	22-Sep 24-Sep	Atmospheric temperature	3
5	29-Sep 1-Oct	Atmospheric moisture <u>"LAST DAY to withdraw from the course without notation of "W" on academic record"</u> Precipitation	4
6	6-Oct 8-Oct	Winds and global circulation	5
7	13-Oct 15-Oct	Weather systems Global climate	6 7
8	20-Oct 22-Oct 23-Oct	Lithospheric material and motion Review for exam <u>"LAST DAY to withdraw from the course"</u>	8
9	27-Oct 29-Oct 31-Oct	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b> Igneous and tectonic landforms <b>FIELD-TRIP</b>	9
10	3-Nov 5-Nov	Weathering and mass movement	10
11	10-Nov 12-Nov	Fresh water of the Earth (No class)	11
12	17-Nov 19-Nov	Landforms made by running water Landforms made by waves and wind	12 13
13	24-Nov 26-Nov	Glacial landforms <u>"Thanksgiving Recess"</u>	14
14	1-Dec 3-Dec	Soils Biosphere	15 16
15	8-Dec 10-Dec 21-Dec	Biosphere Review for exam <b>FINAL EXAM</b>	16