

[Syllabi with Evacuation Plan](#)

Earth Environments and Global Change

GEOG 1000 / ENVST 1000 (3 credits)

Online Course

Instructor: Jennifer Watt

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For this class the best way to contact me is my University e-mail, I check it frequently throughout the day. I respond to e-mails Monday thru Thursday from 9:30 am to 4 pm. If I receive your e-mail in the evening you can expect a reply in the next few days. If I receive your e-mail over the weekend (Friday-Sunday), you can expect a reply on Monday. In the case of a University holiday (University closed), you can expect an e-mail on the first school day after the holiday. Please allow 48 hours for an e-mail response.

Course Description: Fulfills Physical/Life Science Exploration requirements at the University of Utah. This class explores the four interconnected spheres of the Earth, the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. The course examines the theories, research methods, and types of data that are fundamental to a responsible appreciation of the geographic and historical variation of Earth's environments. Weekly assignments provide the opportunity for students to investigate 'hot' topics in Earth system science, including melting ice caps, ozone depletion, the overkill hypothesis, the impact of sea level rise, the greenhouse effect, and alternative energy sources.

Course Objectives: After this course, students should (at least) be able to: define what is geography; define what is physical geography, describe the Earth's energy balance, describe why Earth has seasons, describe the Earth's atmosphere, describe the greenhouse effect, describe albedo, be able to interpret temperature and precipitation data, describe Earth's temperature patterns, describe the Earth's atmospheric and oceanic circulations, describe the properties of water, be able to identify cloud types, describe air masses, be able to describe how extreme weather events are formed, describe the hydrologic cycle, be able to define the difference between climate and weather, be able to describe climatic zones, be able to understand the geologic cycle and plate tectonics, be able to describe how earthquakes and volcanoes work, understand basic geomorphology, describe fluvial processes, describe eolian processes, describe coastal landform processes, describe glacial landforms, understand soil characteristics, explain photosynthesis and respiration, define ecology, understand succession, describe the major terrestrial biomes and locate them on a map, define ecotone, and define biome.

Essential Learning Outcomes: ELO's are skills that should be gained in general education coursework that prepare students to be "effective 21st century global citizens" (U of U General Education Guidelines). Through the discussions over the course of the semester and with assignments described above, we will specifically work on several of these outcomes and they will be incorporated and assessed as follows:

- *Critical Thinking and Reasoning-* Critical thinking and reasoning skills will be developed and employed on a daily basis through the presentation, discussion, and consideration of scientific data on Earth Environment systems and hot topics. These skills will be assessed during the online quizzes and exams.
- *Inquiry and Analysis-* Online activities and assignments will require students to develop a research hypothesis, review data, organize and analyze those data and then report discuss or write up what they found, based on the assignment criterion.

Textbook

Physical Geography **EBook** (Eleventh Edition), Petersen, Sack, and Gabler. Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

This course will use Mindtap and the accompanying ebook, they can be purchased online from cengage learning. There is a two week trial of both of these, so that students can try them out and make sure they are going to remain in the class.

Exams

Each exam consists of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and true and false. You will take these exams on Canvas. You can select any time during the scheduled exam periods to take an exam, but can take each exam only once. Although these exams are not proctored and you may look up the answers in your notes or textbook, I highly recommend learning as much materials as possible prior to taking the exam. You will have 75 minutes to answer 60 questions. This means that if you can answer question right off your head, you are likely to have enough time left to go over your answers one more time. But if you have to look up the answers too much, you will definitely run out of time. If you study for the exam like it is closed book, you will do very well.

The exams are immediately graded. If you do not see a grade for your exam or have a question about your grade, please contact me immediately. This way any problems can be resolved right away and not at the end of the semester. The answers will be available for you to view the day after the exam and are only available for you to view for 24 hours.

Make-up Policy

Make-up exams for full credit will only be allowed if the event of a University approved absence and documentation is provided. This includes a medical condition, a death in the

family, or a University approved athletic absence. If you miss/forget an exam you will be allowed to take the exam for 50% of the points you earn. The exams are graded automatically, so when you take it, it will indicate a grade and then flag it for me. I will then assess the grade and apply 50% of the points you earned to your grade.

94% and above = A

90-93% = A-

86-89% = B+

83-86% = B

80-83% = B-

76-79% = C+

73-76% = C

70-73% = C-

66-69% = D+

63-66% = D

60-63% = D-

59% and below = E

The mark "I" (incomplete) shall be given and reported for work incomplete because of circumstances beyond the student's control. The grade of "I" must be used only for a student who is passing the course and who needs to complete 20% or less of the course. An "I" must not be used in a way that will permit a student to retake the course without paying tuition. If the student attends the course during a subsequent semester as part of the effort required to complete the course, he/she must be registered (either as a regular student or for audit) in the semester in which he/she attends.

If incomplete work has not been finished within one calendar year after the "I" was given, the "I" will be changed to an "E" by the registrar's office. Should the student graduate within one calendar year after receiving the "I," but before completing the work, the "I" will remain in the record, but will not contribute to credit toward graduation or the grade point average.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Penalties may include failure of an assignment, the entire course, and/or the filing of formal charges with appropriate university authorities. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, and plagiarism:

- **Cheating** involves the unauthorized possession or use of information in an academic exercise, including unauthorized communication with another person during an exercise such as an examination.
- **Misrepresenting one's work** includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of all instructors.
- **Plagiarism** means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in one's own work offered for academic consideration or public presentation.

Content Accommodations: Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience."

Accommodations: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for the Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

ONLINE COURSE GUIDELINES (Official University Guidelines): (1) Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. (2) You are responsible for making sure your assignments, including attachments, are received before the deadline. (3) Canvas uses electronic dating to close (the Assignment Drop Box, Postings, and Assessments/Quizzes), so late (Assignments, postings) are flagged.

***This syllabus is subject to change at any time.**

Grading

Grades are based on the following:

Assignments = 45%

Pretest Quizzes = 15%

Exams = 40%