

Syllabus Summer 2021

Geography 100 - Human Impacts on the Physical Environment

Section 1

Instructor: Samantha Kaplan

Office: D-327 Science

Office Hours: By appointment

Zoom Sessions: Daily at 9:00 am according to the class schedule. Attendance is not required, but watching the recording is "strongly" recommended.

Main Office Telephone: 715-346-2629 (this is not my direct line)

Email: skaplan@uwsp.edu

Textbook: Cunningham, W. and Cunningham, M., 2018, *Environmental Science, A Global Concern. Foundations & Applications, 14th Ed.* McGraw Hill, New York, 614 p.

Students with Disabilities: Students with learning and/or physical disabilities are encouraged to contact me right away to make sure necessary online accommodations are made.

Course Description: 3 Credits. Physical geographic principles and processes applied to understand selected human impacts on atmosphere, water, land, and biota. Includes detailed, interdisciplinary analysis of several environmental problems, including causes, consequences, and solutions.

This is a 100% distance learning (online) section of Geography 100. Expect to spend 6-8 hours each week working on course material.

Requirements Satisfied: GEP: Natural Science (NSC), Environmental Responsibility (ER);

Course Objective: A physical systems approach is used to help students understand the science behind environmental issues. By exploring the linkages among human, physical, and biological systems, students will learn about the root causes of environmental impacts and the social, political and technological hurdles that must be overcome to arrive at practical solutions.

Learning Outcomes:

Because this course fulfills both a Natural Science GEP and the Environmental Responsibility GEP, there are a lot of learning outcomes! In this course a physical systems approach is used to help students learn about the science behind environmental issues. In order to fully appreciate the impact humans can have on the environment we must first understand the physical mechanisms of the natural world.

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge about the workings of the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere.
- Recognize that earth systems are linked and if humans impact part or all of one of these systems, the repercussions affect all aspects of the environment.
- Identify the basic taxonomy and principles of the scientific method as it pertains to the natural, physical world.
- Infer relationships, make predictions and solve environmental problems based on an analysis of evidence or scientific information.
- Apply scientific concepts, quantitative techniques and methods to solving environmental problems and making decisions that affect the natural world.
- Recognize the relevance of environmental science to their lives and society.
- Identify the individual, social, cultural, and ecological factors that influence environmental sustainability.
- Evaluate competing scientific claims that inform environmental debates.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

- UWSP has guidelines regarding student rights and responsibilities in class and on campus. These are outlined on the Dean of Student's website and in the Student Handbook. Do review these resources if you have not already:
 - <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/stu-conduct.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/stu-academic.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/handbook.aspx> (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf> (Links to an external site.)
 - <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/UWSP14-Final2019.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Course Materials

- **The course textbook is required and must be rented.** Please contact the bookstore immediately if you need a textbook shipped to you for the course
- All of the course materials, except the textbook, are on Canvas
 - The syllabus, class schedule, reading outlines and lab assignments appear under the **Home** page of Canvas.
 - Assigned readings are listed on the **Class Schedule** under **Start Here!!** on the **Home** page.

- Lab quizzes and exams are posted under **Quizzes**.
- The **Announcements** section (**Course Home**) will be used for all course announcements. Please check the **Announcements** page daily for course updates and changes.
- Scores on quizzes, exercises and exams are available under **Grades** on Canvas
- Online discussions about labs and lecture are under **Discussion**.

Directed Readings

- Students will complete assigned readings from the textbook and from various online sources.
- Topical outlines are provided to guide students in learning the most salient points from their readings.
- Assigned readings appear on the **Class Schedule** under **Start Here!!** on the **Home** page of Canvas.
- Topical outlines appear under **Outlines** on the Home page of Canvas. This material will be posted according to the class schedule.
- **Expect to spend 2 hours each day reading and reviewing.**

Zoom Sessions

- There will be a live Zoom sessions each day at 9:00 am (except on Exam days)
- Zoom sessions will include overview of the labs, mini lectures on important topics from the readings, and time for Q&A
- Attendance is not required. If you cannot attend, watching the recordings later is highly recommended
- Any slides presented will be posted on Canvas

Lab

- All lab assignments and materials are posted on the **Home** page and the **Assignments** page of Canvas according to the class schedule (typically by 9:00 am of the day assigned).
- There will be eleven (11) laboratory assignments consisting of online readings, movies, activities, and problem sets. Laboratory topics will parallel and compliment the reading assignments.
- Laboratory assignments are not turned in! That is correct. Your answers are used to complete an accompanying quiz.
- Laboratory topics will be introduced each week during the Monday Zoom session

Quizzes

- Each lab assignment is followed by a 10-question open-book quiz covering the lab material. The quizzes form the bulk of your lab grade. Quizzes are found in the **Lab Quizzes Module** of the **Home** page and on the Canvas **Quizzes** page.

- Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Your best ten (10) count towards your final grade. If you forget to take a quiz, this counts as your dropped quiz.
- Each lab quiz is worth 10 points.
- Laboratory quizzes account for about 48% of your course grade.
- Quizzes must be completed before midnight (11:59pm) of the due date. Start accordingly. There are no opportunities to make-up a missed quiz!
- **Expect to spend 2-3 hours each week working on lab assignments and quizzes.**

Exams

- There will be two open-book online exams. Exams will be multiple-choice format and cover material from the readings, online lectures, and lab.
- The exams are non-cumulative.
- Exams will appear under **Quizzes** on Canvas and in the **Exams Module** on the **Home** page.
- Exams must be taken between 6:00 am and midnight on the assigned day as indicated on the class schedule. They will be 60 minutes in length.
- Exams account for 38% of your course grade. Each exam is worth 40 points.
- Make-up exams may be given only to those students with medical or personal emergencies who have prior approval from the instructor.

Other Exercises

- There will be two short written exercises. They will take the form of discussion-type questions requiring several short paragraph answers. Responses to the questions will be turned in on **Canvas** under **Assignments**.
- Exercises will get posted, and are due according to the class schedule.
- Answers to the discussion questions must be typed and use complete sentences, good grammar, and spelling.
- Each question set is worth fifteen points and together account for 14% of your grade.

Discussion Forum

- There is an optional online question and answer forum available on Canvas under **Discussions**. If you have a question about subject material that is not urgent, please use the Q&A Forum to ask your question of fellow students.
- Questions posted on the forum will be answered at least once daily (probably more often) by the professor.
- If your question is urgent, or about course logistics or other personal matters, please use email.

Grades

- **Evaluation:** Your grade will be based on your performance on the three exams, your eleven best lab and quiz scores, and your completion of the written exercises. The point values assigned to each are as follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Points Each</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Exams	2	40	80	38.1%
Lab Quizzes	10 (out of 11)	10	100	47.6%
Short Exercises	2	15	30	14.3%
Course Total			210	100%

- **Incompletes:** Incompletes for the course are granted only in the event of a family emergency, extended illness, or other unusual or unanticipated circumstance. Students must arrange for an incomplete before the final exam (unless in a hospital bed, ambulance, etc.).
- **Extra Credit:** Maybe. If so, to be announced.
- **Final Letter Grades:** A student's final point total for the session will translate into letter grades as shown in the following table:

Percent	Letter Grade
≥93%	A
90-92.9%	A-
87-89.9%	B+
83-86.9%	B
80-82.9%	B-
77-79.9%	C+
73-76.9%	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9%	D+
63-66.9%	D
≤62.9%	F

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Zoom</u>	<u>Lab Assigned</u>	<u>Lab and Quiz Due</u>
M 14-Jun	Intro & Principles of Sustainability	Ch. 1, p. 9-15, 18, 20-26; Ch. 6, p. 117; Ch. 9, p. 186; Kaufmann & Cleveland, p. 2-13 (pdf file)	9:00 AM	Lab 1: Ecological Footprints	
T 15-Jun	Human Population Growth	Ch. 6, p. 118-122; Ch. 7, p. 132-150	9:00 AM	Lab 2: Population	
W 16-Jun	Biogeochemical Cycles	Ch. 3, p. 58-60; 65-70	9:00 AM	Lab 3: Carbon Cycle	Lab 1: Ecological Footprints
R 17-Jun	Earth's Energy Budget & Atmospheric Circulation	Ch. 15, p. 324-332; Ch. 3, p. 59 fig. 3.11; Kaufmann & Cleveland p. 56-60 (pdf)	9:00 AM	Lab 4: Climate Change & Short Exercise 1	Lab 2: Population
F 18-Jun	Climate Change	Ch. 15, p. 321-322, 332-347; Physical Geography.net (link is on Canvas)	9:00 AM	Lab 5: Climate Models	Lab 3: Carbon Cycle
M 21-Jun	Air Pollution and Ozone	Ch. 16, p. 350-369	9:00 AM	Lab 6: Air Pollution & Ozone	Lab 4: Climate Change
T 22-Jun	Biomes	Ch. 5, p. 99-106; Kaufmann & Cleveland p. 130 (pdf)	9:00 AM	Lab 7: Biomes	Lab 5: Climate Models
W 23-Jun	EXAM 1				Short Exercise 1
R 24-Jun	Biological Systems & Succession	Ch. 3, p. 63-65; Ch. 4, p.87-89, 92-95; Ch. 5, p. 112-114; Kaufmann & Cleveland p. 157-160 (pdf)	9:00 AM	Lab 8: Deforestation	Lab 6: Air Pollution & Ozone
F 25-Jun	Biodiversity	Ch. 6, p. 125-128; Ch. 11, p. 227-240	9:00 AM	Short Exercise 2	Lab 7: Biomes
M 28-Jun	Soil Resources	Ch. 10, p. 198-210; Kaufmann & Cleveland p. 315-327 (pdf file); Coon Creek power point; Soil Orders pdf file	9:00 AM	Lab 9: Soils	Lab 8: Deforestation
T 29-Jun	Water Resources & Pollution	Ch. 3, P. 65-66; Ch. 17, p. 377-391; Ch. 18, p. 401-410	9:00 AM	Lab 10: Water	Short Exercise 2
W 30-Jun	Geological Systems	Ch. 14, p. 301-314; Ch. 19, p. 427-430	9:00 AM	Lab 11: Coal and Energy	Lab 9: Soils
R 1-Jul	Energy	Ch. 19, p. 430-432, 433-434, 437-439, 441; Ch. 20, p. 450-451, 457-461, 462-465	9:00 AM		Lab 10: Water Lab 11: Coal and Energy
F 2-Jul	EXAM 2				