Geography 105: The Dynamic Earth Syllabus:

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Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts in physical geography & earth science regarding how the earth's natural system operates. Topics are organized around the following "spheres:"

1.) Atmosphere
2.) Biosphere
3.) Hydrosphere/cryosphere
4.) Lithospere

The emphasis of the course is on the **processes** driving physical systems on the earth, the interactions between physical systems/spheres, and human influences on the physical environment. These processes result in specific geographic **patterns** that affect all aspects of the earth's physical environment. The **overall objective** of the course is to understand how the 4 spheres interact and combine to form the (ever-changing) world physical system.

General Education Program (GEP) Learning Objectives:

1.) Explain major concepts, methods, or theories in the natural sciences to investigate the physical world.
2.) Interpret information, solve problems, and make decisions by applying natural science concepts, methods, and quantitative techniques.
3.) Describe the relevance of aspects of the natural sciences to their lives and society.

Format and Policies:

There are two lectures/week and a two hour lab that meet face-to-face each week. You are responsible for all material covered in class and lab. Exams and quizzes will be given during lab time as listed in the course calendar. **Make-up exams or quizzes are only allowed for extreme cause and with a verified excuse.**

There is a Canvas site for the class with all class materials (except lab book materials) posted. The Zoom recorded lectures are at the bottom of the Home page on Canvas, just scroll down.

Required material:

- Skinner & Murck. The Blue Planet: An Introduction to Earth System Science. Available as a rental text.
- Lemke, K.A., M.E. Ritter & N. Heywood The Dynamic Earth.
- Lab materials: pencils, eraser, calculator. You must purchase/provide these.

Course Technology Requirements

A computer/internet connection to connect to UWSP's Canvas software.

Computer Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas you can check with the instructor or

- Visit with a Student Technology Tutor
- Seek assistance from the IT Service Desk (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Grading: The final course grade is based on 3 exams and lab exercises. They are weighted as follows:

Exam 1	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Exam 2	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Exam 3	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Lab exercises	100 points	(your percentage score on exercises)

Exams and quizzes should be taken at the scheduled time. Make-up exams/quizzes are only allowed for ***just cause*** and ***advance notice*** to the instructor.

How grades are calculated: There are 400 points possible. Let's say (for example) you received the following PERCENTAGE scores on your work:

Exam 1	87%
Exam 2	75%
Exam 3	92%
Lab Exercises	95%

So your final grade would be (87+75+92+95) = 349/400 = 87.25%

Grades:

Letter grade	Percentage of total points
A	≥ 93%
A-	≥90%
B+	≥87%
B	≥83%
B-	≥80%
C+	≥77%
C	≥73%
C-	≥70%
D+	≥67%

D	≥60%
F	<60%

Exams: Exam questions are based on lectures, labs, the textbook, location list (next page), and any other required readings. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Exams will be given during lab time (except for final exam which is on-line).

Lab Exercises: Lab exercises are due at the end of lab class unless otherwise stated. Each lab is worth 10 points. Labs will be checked for completeness, but only selected questions (2-5 per lab, chosen at random) will be graded on each lab. The instructor will post answers to lab questions. **You are responsible for checking your own answers, correcting your mistakes, and asking for help when needed. Late labs will be assessed a 20% penalty. They will only be accepted up to two weeks from original due date.**

Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Classroom Policy: No talking, texting, emailing, web-surfing or listening to music during lecture. This is disruptive and discourteous to your peers and to the professor. Phones and other electronic devices should be turned off. Laptops and tablets may be used for note-taking purposes only.

Student Commitment: You are expected to attend lab, actively participate, complete all assignments, and take personal responsibility for your education. You are also expected to read all assigned materials and to ask informed questions regarding the subject matter. As per the Student Handbook, students should anticipate two hours of outside course work for each hour of lecture or lab. If you're having difficulty completing the course work please consult with the instructor, the sooner the better.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Your rights and responsibilities within the UWSP campus community, including required behavior by students and faculty within the classroom environment are detailed in these documents:
http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf
http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf.

Please make note of the following PDF document, specifically pages 2-9, that explains your 1. responsibility and rights within the UWSP campus community, 2. required academic respect by students and faculty within the classroom environment, and 3. academic dishonesty policy and procedure.
http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf