PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
GPY 100, Sec. 02,
Fall 2010

Instructor: ***Kin M. Ma***
Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 10:00AM-11:00AM, Wed. 10:30A-11:30AM
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Day	Meeting Time	Classroom
Tue.	1:00PM-2:15 PM	B-2118 Mackinac Hall (MAK)
Thur.	1:00PM-2:15 PM	*** 116 Henry Hall (HRY) ***

Required Texts: 1) **Hess, Darryl** (2010). *McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation,* **Tenth** Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ. (ISBN: 978-0321-67734-1).

2) Hall | Walker (2009). *Exploring the Physical Environment with GIS*, by Cengage Custom Solutions. ISBN: 1111059284.

3) ***GOODE's World Atlas,*** 22nd Edition (2009), Rand McNally, Chicago, or a relatively recent edition (21st Edition is acceptable). (ISBN: 978-0528877534)

4) Selected Readings (available on E-Reserve), GVSU Library Ares Course Reserve Search, https://gvsu.ares.atlas-sys.com/

Course Description:

This course explores our home planet, Earth and studies global perspective of physical environment, its patterns, processes and hazards, as well as human-environmental interactions over space and time. It is designed to provide deep understanding of environmental processes and phenomena in our every day life.

The greatest value of Geography is its integrative nature and its search for patterns and generalizations. To that end, the main goal of this course is to increase your awareness of our physical environment, its landscape, its controls and processes, and the interrelationships of natural phenomena. Topics include Sun-Earth relationships, climatology, meteorology, hydrology, geomorphology, geology, soil science, biogeography, and human ecology.

Course objectives:

- Basic understanding of physical processes and phenomena (such as wind circulation and pressure patterns, plate tectonics, rock weathering, energy flows in ecosystems, etc).
- Knowledge of the location of the world's physical places and landscape features (location map questions);
- Functional knowledge of various elements, factors of physical environments, and their dynamic nature and evolution over space and time, at global, regional and local scales;
- Functional appreciation of physical geography-- features, phenomena, concepts, theories, methods, etc;
- Basic understanding of human-environmental interactions over space and time;
- Basic understanding of methods and techniques (field research, remote sensing, etc.) of physical geography as a research discipline;
- Appreciate the power of geospatial technology in studying physical geography and the environment (mapping, GIS, GPS, remote sensing, etc.);

- Critical thinking, reading comprehension, writing, speaking, group interaction, and library research skills. (Water Resource debate)
- Ability to use the Internet as a global information resource.

My teaching philosophy:

I see my role as a facilitator of your learning and performance in this course. Availability, patience, and fairness are the principal guidelines used in this course. Please note that the instructor cannot deliver all of the information and knowledge that is needed. This course is a medium for learning physical geography. This course is a partnership between the instructor and students--both have the responsibility for your success.

Each student has the major responsibility for his/her education. Courses are delivered by instructors and university; education is developed by the STUDENTS. It is the student's role to have personal responsibility for learning and performance--learning the course material and achieving the course objectives. Please note that lack of preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on the instructor's part.

Important Dates

Exam #1	Oct. 7
Lab #1 DUE	Oct. 12
Lab #2 DUE	Oct. 21
Lab #3 DUE	Oct. 28
Drop Deadline, 5:00PM	Oct. 29, 5:00PM
Exam #2	Nov. 11
Lab #4 DUE	Nov. 16
Classes End	Dec. 11
Final Exam	**Mon., 12/13, 12:00P - 1:50PM**

Course Grade Format

Item	Percent	Points
Exam #1	18.3%	100
Exam #2	18.3%	100
Lab #1	14.7%	80
Lab #2	3.7%	20
Lab #3	3.7%	20
Lab #4	9.2%	50
Learning Outcome Report	3.7%	20
Attendance/Participation	5.5%	30
Debates	4.6%	25
Final exam	18.3%	100
Total	**100%**	**545**

Exams, Labs, Participation:

Exam Structure:

	Exams
Exams (100 points each) and Final Exam (100 points)	
Multiple Choice / Fill in/ True/False Questions (2 pts. each)	70 points
4 Short Essay Questions	30 points
	100 points

Map Questions:

To increase geographic knowledge of the world's regions and places, each exam will have 4-5 map location questions. Names and places and exam review guide will be provided a week before the exams.

*Requests for exams at times **other** than regularly scheduled are **strongly** discouraged and will be granted only for extreme emergencies (with proof required).* Please contact me EARLY before a potential time conflict so that we can make the proper arrangements.

Participation and Attendance: I believe in your commitment to the learning we share through dialogue with each other. Attending class is essential to mastering and understanding the material in class. Class Participation will be evaluated by in-class participation and/or also "significant dialogue" over e-mail. If you are **unable** to attend class for an extended period, please notify me via e-mail or phone **BEFORE** the time you will miss class. Attendance will be taken at each class session. During the semester, **TWO unexcused** absences will be allowed WITHOUT penalty.

Debates: There will be **two** discussions/debates regarding current environmental/geographical issues (see course outline). For/Against groups will be formed and participation is required. There will be instructor **evaluation** of research preparation and debate performance. Preparation, and participation is worth 25 pts for the semester. More details will be provided as the time draws near.

Lab Exercises:
Computer-based or field-based lab **exercises** are an excellent experiential learning tool.
Before submitting your lab report, please go over this checklist:

- ✓ All lab reports should be submitted by the due date (see the dates on the syllabus and the chart above).
- ✓ All lab reports must be typed (font 11 or 12, 1.5" spacing) and STAPLED (**hand-written and unstapled reports will not be accepted for grading**).
- ✓ All lab reports should have a cover page with the lab title, your name, course name and number (GPY100_02) and the date. The size of each lab report is typically between 2 and 4 pages (1.5" spacing).
- ✓ Please, make sure to answer ALL LAB questions formulated in the lab handouts.
- ✓ All graphs and charts should be neat (either computed by Excel or similar software or neatly drawn by hand). Please, use pencils and rulers if you need to submit a hand-drawn chart. Graphs should be well stapled to the text of the report. I will NOT be responsible for any lost parts of unstapled reports.
- ✓ If a lab exercise includes a blank map, it should be also stapled to the text. You can use only maps provided in class (and extra maps are usually available outside my office).

Learning outcome report
Towards the end of the semester, you will also write a short report summarizing your learning outcomes. **Each student** will write a learning outcome report summarizing what you have learned and what instructional methods have helped you learn throughout the semester. The length of the report should be no more than 5 pages if double spaced.

Late Exercises Policy
Only under *extenuating* circumstances will late lab exercises be accepted WITHOUT penalization. ***Official proof*** with a doctor's note would need to be provided. The price of a late lab exercise is **20% per day late**. Late exercises will **NOT** be accepted **3 days after** the deadline. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please come and discuss it with me, **call** me or e-mail me at makin@gvsu.edu **BEFORE** the deadline; the earlier the better.

Course Withdrawal: Following GVSU guidelines, the Course Withdrawal Deadline (in order to receive a grade of "**W**") is Friday, **Oct. 29, 2010 at 5:00 PM**.

Incomplete Grade Policy: An **"I"** grade may be given for student work that is lacking in quantity to meet course objectives. It may be assigned when extenuating circumstances, such as illness, necessary absence, or other reasons generally beyond the control of the student, prevent completion of the course requirements at the end of the semester. This grade **MAY NOT** be given as a substitute for a failing grade or withdrawal.

Course Grade Distribution

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
94-100	90-92.9	87-89.9	84-86.9	80-83.9	77-79.9	74-76.9	70-73.9	66-69.9	60-65.9	<60

Note: There are NO '**A+**' NOR '**D-**' grades.

Special Learning Challenges: Each student learns in his or her own way. If you have a disability that will require special accommodations in this course, please contact the **Disability Support Services (DSS) in 200 Student Services (STU)** at (616)331-2490. The DSS will assist me in providing the necessary accommodations in order to enhance the learning environment for you. If you have already done so, DSS will provide you with a letter that describes your specific needs and the necessary accommodations. Please bring that letter to my attention AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and **PRIOR** to the date of the first exam.

Student Code and Plagiarism: According to GVSU's General Academic Policies, here are the stated policies:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment;
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person;
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person;
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own;
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

Course Websites

1) Course Website: http://bb.gvsu.edu (Blackboard site)
2) http://faculty.gvsu.edu/makin/gpy100/F10Gpy100_02Syllab.doc

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to attend lectures, complete lab assignements and take exams. I will present information in class that is NOT in the required texts. Attendance will be checked weekly, since you need to attend class regularly to participate. Note: **Excessive** absences will adversely affect the **participation** grade (see below). Also check your e-mail at least once per day, since I may send you some information about an interesting article or event that relates to the class. It is YOUR responsibility to check E-mail and keep enough open disk space in your account, mail.GVSU.edu account. The instructor is **NOT** responsible for bounced emails because of inaccurate or **FULL** email boxes.

Email

E-mail will be periodically sent to the entire class regarding items or class Powerpoint presentations that I have posted to the Blackboard website. It is important that you are checking your GVSU Google e-mail address you have been assigned REGULARLY. E-mail messages are sent to the CLASS and NOT to individuals. I am NOT responsible if your e-mail account reaches the disk space limit and the messages I send bounces. I **CANNOT** keep up with over 150 students and the potential bounce back of messages because of specific problems. It is **YOUR** responsibility to manage your email account and allow enough space for additional messages.

****Sending Email****

When writing email to the instructor, for easy identification of your name and your class section, in the Subject Line of the messages, include the Class and Section Number. e.g., "**Gpy100_02, 'Your topic.'** Always sign your **FULL** name at the end of your e-mail. Emails that **DO NOT** have my name and your name will **NOT** be responded to.

Tentative Course Outline

***Note*: Contents of this syllabus may be modified by the instructor in ways to best enhance your learning experience.**

Anim: refers to on-line Web Animations on BB

Wk	Date	Topics	Reading	Other/Assignment due
1	8/31, 9/2	Introduction to Course Part I: Intro to Physical Geography	Ch. 1, 2	
1*		Portraying Earth		**9/3,5:00pm,Add Deadline**
2	9/7	**Labor DAY (NO CLASSES)**		
2	9/9	**Part II: Earth and Weather** Earth-Sun Geometry, Atmosphere,	Ch. 3	
3	9/14, 9/16	**Part II: Earth and Weather**	Ch. 4, 5	
		Earth-Sun Geometry, Atmosphere,	pp. 220--232	9/14,
		Global Energy Balance		**Global Warming Disc. Begin**
4	9/21, 9/23	Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	Ch. 5, 6	**9/21, Global Warm Disc. Inclass**
		Moisture, Global Circulation		**Lab #1 Pt. 1 Distrib.**
5	9/28,	Moisture in the Atmosphere	Ch. 6, 7	Humidity Calculation
5	9/30	Moisture in the Atmosphere	Ch. 6, 7	**Computer Lab #1, Weather**
6	10/5	Severe Weather, Hurricanes, Cyclones, El Nino	Ch. 7	
6	**10/7**	**Exam #1**		**Chaps. 1-6**
7	10/12	**Part III: Climatology**	Ch. 8	**10/12 Lab #1 Due; Lab #2**
	10/14	climate zones	LabManual	**Hall, Exer. 2.2 "Hurr. Georges"**
8	10/19,	**Soil Geography**		**10/21/2010, Lab #2 DUE**
	10/21	Soils	Ch. 12	**Lab #3 (Soil FIELD sampling)**
9	10/26, 10/28	**Biogeography**	Ch. 10,11	Rainforest Video
		Biosphere Cycles, Plant Geography		**Lab #3 Due (10/28)**
	10/29,5:00P*	**Drop Deadline to get a 'W'**		
10	11/2, 11/4	**Part VI: Geomorphology**	Ch. 13	Mt. Pinatubo Video
		Structure of Earth, Plate Tectonics,	Ch. 14	
	11/4	Volcanoes	**LabManual**	**Lab#4: Ex 2.4 (Plate Tectonics)**
11	11/9	Volcanoes	Ch. 14	
11	**11/11**	**Exam #2**		**Chaps. 7-8, 10-14** **Water Questions Posting**
12	11/16	Hydrosphere, Groundwater Stream systems, processes	Ch. 9, 16	**Lab#4 DUE, 11/16**
	11/18			**Water Debate Prep**
13	11/23	Groundwater	Ch. 16	**Water Resources Debate**
13	11/25	**Thanksgiving (NO CLASSES)**		
14	11/30	Weathering/Mass Movements	Ch. 15	
14	12/2	Eolian Processes and landforms	Ch. 18	Desert Biomes Video
15	12/7,12/9	Glacial and Coastal Processes Evaluation	Ch. 19, 20	
16	**12/13**	**FINAL EXAM, B-2118 MAK**	**2:00-3:50PM**	**Chaps. 9,15-16,18-20**