

## GEOG 103 - Physical Geography of Earth's Environment, Spring 2023, Section 1002, MoWe 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM, HEA 105

### Faculty:

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy Koonce (pronouns: he/him/his)

**Office:** 118 LFG

**Phone:** (702) 895-1092

**Email:** jeremy.koonce@unlv.edu or WebCampus

**Student Office Hours:** If you have questions, I invite you to visit me in my office located in Lilly Fong Geoscience (LFG) 118, during office hours. Days and times set aside specifically for your questions are Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM and Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00 PM. You are welcome to contact me outside of class and office hours, as I am available by appointment and email.

### General Information:

**Course format:** Lecture twice a week, Monday and Wednesday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm

**Textbook:** Geosystems An Introduction to Physical Geography by Christopherson and Birkeland, 10th edition

**Prerequisites:** None

### Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to: 1) Summarize the concept of systems science, articulating components including open and closed systems, equilibrium and feedbacks, and be able to provide basic everyday examples of each; 2) Demonstrate the principles of mapping including scale, projection and a critical awareness of map generalization and distortion; 3) Explain the basic formation of the solar system and Earth-Sun relationships and controlling effect on the energy budget of the Earth; 4) Explain the interactions of energy and moisture within the atmosphere that results in the formation of weather systems, as well as interpret basic weather symbols and common weather patterns displayed in a typical weather report; 5) Define the concept of climate and demonstrate an up-to-date knowledge of anthropogenic climate change to the level of being able to critically evaluate new information on this often controversial topic; 6) Identify the major aspects of Earth's internal structure and plate tectonic theory, articulating the connections to earth-transforming processes including earthquakes and volcanic eruptions; 7) Explain the hydrologic cycle, groundwater system and the process of erosion, and evaluate the influence people are having on the function of these systems through our diversion, manipulation and use of water; 8) Demonstrate mastery of surficial geomorphic processes including mass wasting, fluvial, eolian, and glacial processes by correctly identifying typical landforms and explaining the basic mechanical processes that results in their formation and change over time; and 9) Demonstrate the ability to synthesize these learning outcomes in response to real-world scenarios, requiring critical analysis of the physical environment, its processes and trends as part of the comprehensive final exam.

### How to Succeed in GEOG 103:

Everyone can succeed in this course by following these guidelines:

1. It is expected that you will be spending 2-3 hours outside of class for each credit hour you are taking. This class is 3 credits, so you should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week on studying. College truly is a full-time job.
2. Come to class on time, every time. I will take attendance. If you miss a class or get sick, please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can make a plan to help you catch up. It is easy to fall behind, so get in the habit of reading the assigned reading prior to class so that you are prepared to participate in each class session.
3. Listen, take notes, and participate in class. I also suggest rewriting your notes after class. You can verify your handwritten notes from those posted onto WebCampus.
4. Do not use your phone, tablet, or laptop in class other than for class related material (e.g., notetaking, Kahoot exercises, etc.)
5. Ask questions if you do not understand something or if you need clarification. If it is intimidating and/or difficult for you to ask questions in class, do not hesitate to visit office hours and/or email me.
6. Check your RebelMail and WebCampus at least once per day.

### Grading policies:

- Required reading means that you are responsible for knowing the assigned material. Your instructor may test you on that material even if it has not been covered in lecture.
- No extra credit will be given.

### Grade Calculation:

Each student's final grade will be calculated according to the following schedule. The calculated total will be rounded to the nearest integer number.

Three lecture exams (20% each)	60%
Comprehensive final exam	30%
Lecture quizzes, assignments, and attendance	10%
Total %	100%

### Grade Assignment:

Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule. The instructor may also elect to curve the final grades in the students favor.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total %</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total %</u>
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

## Lecture Exams:

- Exam 1: February 8 - covers Chapters 1-5
- Exam 2: March 8 - covers Chapters 6-10
- Exam 3: April 12 - covers Chapters 11-14
- Final Exam: Date/time TBD, covers: Cumulative with emphasis on Chapters 15, 17-19

## Class Schedule

Weekly schedule showing topics for lecture, plus required reading assignments from the class textbook. The listed date is the start of each week (Monday).

### Week 1 (January 16)

Lecture 1: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Lecture 2: Introduction / Essentials of Geography

Reading: Chapter 1

### Week 2 (January 23)

Lecture 1: Solar Energy to Earth and the Seasons / Earth's Atmosphere

Lecture 2: Earth's Atmosphere / Atmospheric Energy and Global Temperatures

Reading: Chapters 2-4

### Week 3 (January 30)

Lecture 1: Atmospheric Energy and Global Temperatures

Lecture 2: Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations

Reading: Chapters 4-5

### Week 4 (February 6)

Lecture 1: Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations / Review

Lecture 2: Exam 1

Reading: Chapter 5

### Week 5 (February 13)

Lecture 1: Water and Atmospheric Moisture

Lecture 2: Weather

Reading: Chapters 6-7

### Week 6 (February 20)

Lecture 1: Presidents' Day

Lecture 2: Water Resources

Reading: Chapter 8

### Week 7 (February 27)

Lecture 1: Water Resources

Lecture 2: Earth's Climatic Regions

Reading: Chapters 8-9

Week 8 (March 6)

Lecture 1: Climate Change / Review

Lecture 2: Exam 2

Reading: Chapter 10

Spring Break (March 13)

Week 9 (March 20)

Lecture 1: The Dynamic Planet

Lecture 2: The Dynamic Planet

Reading: Chapter 11

Week 10 (March 27)

Lecture 1: Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism

Lecture 2: Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism

Reading: Chapter 12

Week 11 (April 3)

Lecture 1: Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement

Lecture 2: River Systems

Reading: Chapter 13-14

Week 12 (April 10)

Lecture 1: River Systems / Review

Lecture 2: Exam 3

Reading: Chapter 14

Week 13 (April 17)

Lecture 1: Eolian Processes and Arid Landscapes

Lecture 2: Glacial Landscapes and the Cryosphere

Reading: Chapters 15 and 17

Week 14 (April 24)

Lecture 1: The Geography of Soils

Lecture 2: Ecosystem Essentials

Reading: Chapters 18-19

Week 15 (May 1)

Lecture 1: Ecosystem Essentials

Lecture 2: Review

Reading: Chapter 19

Week 16 (May 8)

FINAL EXAM TBD

## UNLV Academic Policies

Students taking this course are required to be familiar with the UNLV academic policies. [Read the current UNLV Academic Policies.](#)

## GEOG 103 Policies

### Office Hours

My office hours (see above) are times that I have set aside to answer student questions in person. Please feel free to stop by and knock on my door during those times. I will be happy to answer your questions to the best of my ability. If my scheduled office hours are not convenient for you, please email me and schedule an appointment at an alternate day and time.

### Attendance

It is important to attend class because I will cover a lot of material, answer questions, and provide guidance on exams. Students who miss class are responsible for the material that was presented. It is often helpful to request notes from a classmate.

### Missed work

Exams, quizzes, and assignments missed due to absence will receive a grade of zero unless the instructor is provided with advance notification of an exception for a religious holiday or university-sponsored extracurricular activity as specified in the University Catalog. In the case of an excused absence, the nature and format of the make-up work will be at the instructors' discretion.

### Administrative Drops/Classroom Conduct

All students are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Administrative Drops/Classroom Conduct as stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Any student that does not comply with these requirements, and conducts themselves in a manner that is disruptive and interferes with the right of other students to learn, or of the instructor to teach will be administratively dropped from the course.

### Non-enrolled Guests

Students are not allowed to bring guests, including children to either lecture or laboratory.

### Academic Misconduct

This course operates under a "zero tolerance" policy. Any student who commits cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of F for the class.

### Changes to the Syllabus

The course schedule is tentative, minor adjustments may be made during the course of the semester. The instructor also reserves the right to change topics to reflect world events. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary.