Dr. Jim Dyer  
Office: 112 Clippinger  
Office Hours: MWF 10:40-noon, or by appt.  
e-mail: dyer@ohio.edu

GEOG 100: Physical Geography [9873]  
4 credit hours  
Fall 2019-2020  
MWF 9:40-10:35  
Porter Hall 105

- Auxiliary content and materials for this course are available through Blackboard
- This course utilizes Top Hat. You will need to download the free software and bring your device (laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc.) to class each day. (Details below.)

Geography is a broad and integrating discipline that focuses on spatial distributions – why are things found where they are? It involves both the recognition of landscape patterns, as well as an understanding of the processes that create those patterns. Specifically, physical geography examines the interacting processes of the earth’s atmosphere [air], hydrosphere [waters], biosphere [living organisms], and lithosphere [solid earth], in order to understand the natural environment in which we live, as well as the role of humans in affecting that environment.

Specific learning outcomes for the course include:
1. Understand Earth-Sun relationships and their connection to latitude and longitude.
2. Identify components associated with weather and atmospheric processes such as cloud types, precipitation, pressure, and wind.
3. Identify the general weather patterns that exist around the globe and understand the processes associated with these patterns.
4. Identify general climate zones and soil profiles.
5. Explain how variations in climate relate to global distributions of plants and animals.
6. Identify glacial, fluvial, coastal landscapes, and the processes associated with them.

GEOG 1100 satisfies Tier II General Education Requirements: Natural Sciences (2NS). It is required of all Geography majors, who need to earn a minimum grade of C.

http://earthonlinemedia.com/ebooks/tpv_3e/ (A link to this free online textbook is provided on Blackboard.) Readings should be completed before the topic is presented in lecture.

Top Hat: Top Hat is a student response system that utilizes students’ personal devices (smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) combined with interactive slides presented during lecture. You are required to download the software and bring your device to class each day; you will use Top Hat to earn credit for in-class quizzes and participation. (If you don’t own a suitable device, notify me right away.) We will go over details of using the application during the first week of class, but be prepared for a “practice run” the first day.

- Link to log in to Top Hat: https://app.tophat.com/.  

You do have homework in this class! During lecture, interpret what the professor is saying (not just what is written on PowerPoint or the boards) into your notes. (Something to consider: studies suggest that writing, as opposed to typing your notes, “cements” the information better in your brain.) Before the next class, spend an hour clarifying, organizing, and actively reviewing previous material. Occasionally, homework may also be assigned and collected. ASIDE FROM NOTE-TAKING, NO RECORDING OF LECTURE OR PROJECTED MATERIALS IS PERMITTED WITHOUT EXPLICIT INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL.
Grading:
I have tried to provide a lot of opportunities to earn credit in this course. Each one is explained in greater detail following this synopsis.

A. Four exams (the biggest component of your overall grade)
B. Extra credit on each exam based on daily Top Hat question presented at the start of each class
C. Participation based on Top Hat questions presented throughout each class. Whether you answer correctly or not does not influence credit, only whether you participate.
D. Extra credit project, made available the 12th week to students who attend lecture regularly.
E. Lab (22% of your grade). You must pass the lab to pass the course.
   - Map/reading quizzes at start of each lab
   - Completed lab assignments
   - “Landscape Observation” project that serves as the final lab assignment

A. Exams: There will be three exams during the semester as well as a non-cumulative final. Each will consist of 50 objective questions (matching, true-false, mostly multiple-choice), worth 1 point each. Hats, earphones, and electronic devices are not allowed during exams. **You must complete all exams to pass the course.**

B. Extra Credit using Top Hat: To encourage you to look over your notes regularly (and to discourage folks arriving late to class!), a Top Hat question will be presented at the start of each class, reviewing the previous day’s lecture notes. (This is separate from the in-class “participation” activities described below.) A running total of your correct answers will be compiled leading up to each exam.
   - If you score ≥60%, you will receive +1 point (out of 50, or 2 percentage points) on that exam.
   - If you score ≥80%, you will receive +2 points (out of 50, or 4 percentage points) on that exam.
The tally starts anew with each exam. **You must remain for the entire class period in order for your score to register for the quiz.** If you present a documented excuse for missing class (e.g., OU-sanctioned activity), you may be marked as excused for the day’s quiz.

C. Participation: Participation (NOT attendance) will count 15 points (5½%) toward your final grade, and will entail in-class activities usually (but not always) using Top Hat. These activities and questions allow you to judge how well you understand the material, but you will not be graded on whether you answer the question correctly.
   
   **Even though right/wrong answer does not matter for participation credit, take note of how you do on these!** (View your responses under the Gradebook tab in Top Hat.) If you get questions wrong, it indicates that you don’t fully understand the material that was just presented. Use that as your indication to talk to me during office hours.

In order to receive credit, you must “participate” in these activities, and **you must remain for the entire class period. You cannot receive credit without your Top Hat-enabled device.** If you present a documented excuse for missing class (e.g., OU-sanctioned activity), you may be marked as excused for the day’s participation. Two in-class activities will be dropped to allow for malfunctioning or forgotten devices, unexcused absences, etc.

D. Extra Credit Project: In addition to the daily Top Hat quizzes, students have the opportunity to earn up to 5 percentage points of extra credit to their final course grade. The assignment will entail using Google Earth to explore particular landform types. **This extra credit opportunity is only available to students who participated in ≥80% of “Top Hat days” at the end of the 12th week.** (In other words, this extra credit opportunity is not available to students who do not regularly attend lecture.) Details about the assignment will be provided in class.

E. Your lab grade (see below) will contribute 60 points (22%) toward your final grade. **You must pass the lab (≥60%) to pass the course.**
It is a good practice to save your graded and returned assignments until you receive your grade for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Exam 1 (1-2 points extra credit possible for each exam; see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Exam 4 (Final exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Participation (in-class activities usually using Top Hat; drop 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Lab (400 points total, ÷ 6.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL POINTS

Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;=59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Circumstances

If you are unable to take any exam on the specified date (e.g., because of an OU-sanctioned activity), notify me ASAP and you may be able to take the exam early. If you miss an exam for some highly compelling reason, you must contact me within a day of the missed exam about a possible make-up. (Note: Misrepresenting your reasons for missed exams, labs, or assignments constitutes academic dishonesty; see paragraph below.) Make-up exams will be essay format. There will be no credit for in-class activities without an excused absence.

Any student who suspects s/he may need a disability-based accommodation should contact me privately to discuss specific needs, and provide me written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact that office.

Cheating and plagiarism are dishonest and unethical. These are traits we do not condone as a society, and this is especially true in the academic community (of which you are a member). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) sharing answers during Top Hat quizzes, misrepresenting your reason for a missed assignment, looking at another student’s answers (or allowing another student to look at your answers), presenting another person’s work as your own, responding to in-class questions with a device that is not your own, attempting to leave the classroom with a copy of a test, or using advantages not approved by the instructor. Cases of academic misconduct may also be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility, which may impose additional sanctions. (Students may appeal any academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.)

Attendance, Office Hours, & e-mail

This course provides an in-depth overview of the Earth’s physical environment, which means a lot of information will be covered in class! Attendance is expected, and obviously required to receive participation credit for in-class activities, and to earn the opportunity for the extra credit project. I welcome visits during office hours to discuss or clarify lecture topics, individually or in a group. It’s best to clear up questions as they arise, but we can also meet before exams, or discuss ways to improve after an exam. If your question requires only a brief answer (and is not covered on Blackboard), feel free to e-mail me. Please include “GEOG 1100” in the subject line, and sign your name at the end of your message. During the semester I will send out announcements and messages to your “official” e-mail account (typically your “ohio.edu” address). There is an expectation that students monitor their e-mail accounts.
Classroom etiquette:

- It is disruptive to arrive late, or to get up and leave while class is still in session. If for some reason you can’t get to class on time or must leave early, please extend the courtesy of informing me beforehand. If you come in late, grab a seat by the door. And don’t pack-up your things before the end of lecture!
- Obviously we will be using devices for Top Hat. But please refrain from using your devices for non-classroom use, which can be a distraction for you, students around you, and me. (Studies indicate a quarter of students check phones >5 times per class – compulsive behavior akin to addiction. And >40% of in-class laptop use is not related to class activity.) Everyone performs better without distractions. Instead of using your devices if you get bored, compose a handwritten letter for someone.

Physical Geography Labs. All meet in 115 Clippinger

Students enrolled in Physical Geography must also attend the lab for which they’ve registered (which MUST be one of these listed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Time</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W 11:50 – 1:40 pm</td>
<td>10041</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 2:00 – 3:50 pm</td>
<td>10042</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th 9:40 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>10043</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th 12:00 – 1:50 pm</td>
<td>10044</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th 2:00 – 3:50 pm</td>
<td>10045</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your lab grade contributes 22% of your overall course grade. In order to pass the course, you must pass the lab (≥60%).

Labs will start the second week of the semester (Sept 4/5), and you will need to bring your lab manual. On the first day, the teaching assistants will go over the syllabus, office hours, and grading procedures for the lab. Although the labs amplify and reinforce material covered in lecture, material from labs will not be included on the lecture exams.

Required Lab Book:
Physical Geography Lab Manual, available ($25) at Little Professor Book Center, 65 S. Court St. Atlases will be made available when needed, or you can bring your own to lab (such as the inexpensive Hammond’s Comparative World Atlas, or similar).

Familiarize yourself with the day’s activities before going to lab: READ OVER THE EXERCISE, AS WELL AS THE ASSIGNED TEXTBOOK READINGS BEFORE ATTENDING EACH WEEKLY LAB. There will be a quiz on the assigned reading during the first lab meeting, so be sure to come prepared! Subsequent labs will also have a map quiz component.

Many of the exercises require data to be gathered outside, so you will need to dress accordingly. For each lab, bring a calculator (on your phone is fine) and your course lecture notes. An atlas is recommended, though assignments may be completed using provided atlases or the wall maps in Clippinger.

Questions about labs (such as excused absences) should first be directed to your TA. Contact information is available on the course Blackboard site.

All associated materials developed by the instructor for this class, including lectures and classroom activities, are copyrighted in the name of James Dyer on 26 August, 2019.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week / Starting:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>*Chapter:</th>
<th>LAB:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 Aug 26  | Course Introduction  
Latitude and Longitude  
Earth-Sun Relationships | 1 ("skim" Air Photos – GPS)  
2 (stop at “Natural Systems”) | No Lab |
| Week 2 Sep 2    | *No Class Monday: Labor Day*  
Atmosphere Composition & Structure  
Matter & Energy in the Atmosphere | 3  
7 (“Phase Changes of Water”) | 1: Location on the Spherical Earth |
| Week 3 Sep 9    | Solar Radiation  
Radiation Balances  
Global Temperature Patterns | 4 | 2: Surveying & Plotting Location |
| Week 4 Sep 16   | *MONDAY (9/16): EXAM 1 (covering material through “Global Temperature Patterns”)*  
Atmospheric Pressure  
Global Circulation | 6  
7 (“Geographic Distribution of Precipitation”) | 3: Map-Reading Trials |
| Week 5 Sep 23   | Atmospheric Moisture  
Air Masses and Fronts | 7 (“Clouds and Precipitation;” “Humidity”)  
| Week 6 Sep 30   | Midlatitude Weather Patterns  
Severe Weather | 5 | 5: Weather Map Analysis |
| Week 7 Oct 7    | Severe Weather cont.  
Atmospheric Stability | 7 (“Adiabatic Temperature Change and Stability”) | 6: Biogeography at the Ridges Land Lab [Field Trip] |
| Week 8 Oct 14   | *MONDAY (10/14): EXAM 2 (covering material through “Atmospheric Stability”)*  
Global Climate Patterns | 9 | 7: The Water Balance |
| Week 9 Oct 21   | Global Climate Patterns cont.  
Biogeography (Soils & Biomes) | 11 | 8: Climate, Soils, and Biomes |
| Week 10 Oct 28  | Biogeography (Soils & Biomes) cont. | 12, 13 | 9: Soil Analysis |
| Week 11 Nov 4   | Geomorphology; Fluvial Processes and Landforms | 18 | 10: Topographic Maps |
| Week 12 Nov 11  | *No Class Monday: Veteran’s Day*  
Fluvial Processes and Landforms cont.  
*End of week: Extra Credit opportunity announced* | | 11: Hydrology of the Hocking River |
| Week 13 Nov 18  | Glacial Processes and Landforms  
Coastal Processes and Landforms | 19  
21 | 12: Landform Analysis with Google Earth |
| Week 14 Nov 25  | Earth Structure and Rock Types  
*No Class Wednesday-Friday: Thanksgiving Break* | 14 | No Lab; work on “Landscape Observations” assignment |
| Week 15 Dec 2   | Plate Tectonics  
Earthquakes & Volcanoes | 15  
16 | 13: Landscape Observations paper due |

*If you prefer a “real” (vs. online) textbook, you may look into Physical Geography by De Blij, Muller, Bart, and Mason, or Elemental Geosystems by Christopherson. I can help you “match up” the reading with the online text if you are uncertain.*

**FINAL EXAM (covering material since “Biogeography”): Friday, December 13th @ 8:00 am** in the regular classroom. **Note – this date will not be changed. Do not make plans to leave Athens before the exam!**