GEO2200: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
Spring 2006
Syllabus

Course Plan:
The course is structured according to the precepts of andragogy (see flow diagram) to help students maximize learning and mastering the subjects in each unit. The course contents is divided into large Sections, corresponding to natural groupings according to their occurrence in nature and their triggering mechanisms; for example, (1) processes and phenomena occurring in the hard surface shell of the Earth (the Lithosphere), (2) those that involve the water envelope of the planet, (3) occurring in the atmosphere, (4) disasters that affect the biota (the biosphere), (5) phenomena that result from direct human activities, and (6) those that are triggered by phenomena or objects from outer side planet Earth (extraterrestrial). Sections are divided internally into Units, representing individualized natural disasters that result from particular geological processes; for example, earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides are the units included in the section covering disasters involving the lithosphere.

Course Outline:
Each unit contains a Unit Plan which is made of three components:
(1) Contents (a list of topics to be studied). This component of the unit plan corresponds to the question of WHAT to study.
(2) Activities (specific readings and web site links -browsing- you must do). An often worry that students have is: How many levels of links should I do? A very close indication that you have mastered the subject covered in the unit is when you are able to address the items listed in the abilities sections of each unit. So this component corresponds to the question of HOW to study in andragogy.
(3) Abilities (a list of learning competencies that were acquired through the activities). This component can be viewed as a study guide and a preparation for the evaluation. They should guide you into how well prepared you are. The abilities component of the unit plan corresponds to the question of FOR WHAT purpose in andragogy.

Course Format:
This is an on-line, Self-Paced mode course, visit this site to learn about the self paced format. Three equally components are essential for a good performance: twelve short-answer assignments <list of unit abilities> (30%); (2) three written five- to seven- pages topic essays (50%); (3) attendance to lectures (10%); and (3) weekly posting of news in the Participation Forum (10%). The course is divided into sections, corresponding to natural groupings of the topics covered in class. These divisions correspond to the presentation of the topics in the textbook. The course is divided into sections, corresponding to natural groupings of the topics covered in class. These divisions correspond to the presentation of the topics in the textbook. Every section will have an assignment as well as a written essay. Assignments should be submitted
through the Internet at specified dates; they count 30 percent towards the final grade. Essays are to be submitted at scheduled dates, they count 50 percent towards the final grade.

Incompletes and extensions are not given in this course. Not submitted assignments and essays are given the grade of 0. There is a penalty of 5 points for every week of late submission of assignments and essays.

The course requires involvement, independent thinking, and a lot of time. This is a class in which you have to work hard in; but, it is also one you should enjoy and derive motivation from.

**Students are expected to:**

- Work at full pace.
- Do the reading assignments.
- Do all the www assignments.

You should feel free to e-mail me at any time, if you have any questions about something you do not understand. You should plan to ask questions clarifying any point at least three days in advance. Please do not wait until the day of the work is due to ask questions!

Your are required to review the list of DO’S and DON’TS for this course.

**Prerequisites:**

Geology Prerequisites: This course does not have any geology prerequisites; however, you should be aware of the fact that Natural Disasters is a three thousand level class and a high degree of involvement is expected. Critical and independent thinking is also required.

Computer Literacy: Students are expected to be proficient in the use of computers including word processing, e-mail, posting attachments, and to have experience in browsing the Internet. Students need to be comfortable using a web browser, for students with limited web browsing experience, a tutorial on the use of the two most popular web browsers is provided as an activity for the first week of the semester; however, students are responsible to fulfill this deficiency.

Student Learning Agreement (SLA): Students are required to set their goals and discuss desired outcomes. You are required to submit a narrative (an electronic questionnaire) of your expectations in this class within the first two weeks of classes.

**Exams:**

This course does not make use of exams or tests for the evaluations of students rather students’ performance in the course is determined by the individual accomplishments and performance based on abilities acquired and research essays. The course is divided into sections, corresponding to natural groupings of the topics covered in class. These divisions also correspond to the presentation of the topics in the textbook. Every unit contains an ASSIGNMENT consisting of a set of abilities (a list of competencies) that the student should have acquired by doing the specified activities. Performance in the abilities will count 40 percent towards the final grade. Assignments are regarded as individual effort and are to be done individually. Assignments should be submitted electronically using the form provided at specified dates and are expected to be in depth (detailed answers); they should be
submitted at any time but not later than the dates specified in the syllabus. Late submission of the abilities will incur in a penalty of reducing 5 points of the grade for every week being late. An example of the abilities is given here, and it is highly recommended that you view it as soon as possible.

Assignments and essays should be submitted electronically. DON'T send your work more than one time. DO check the classroll in the data base page of the website periodically. Grades will be posted within the following 8-10 days. Acknowledge of receipt of your work will be posted immediately and mark with an X in the corresponding column. The X will be replaced with the grade as soon as available. It is your responsibility to check with me if you did not receive it.

Work not completed is assigned the grade of 0. Any student missing a deadline must contact me the day before to explain the reason for the absence; verification will be required. You can always reach me by e-mail. If you do not contact me before the day before the due date, you will not be eligible for an extension.

Grades will be posted in the grade roll as soon as available (usually the following week).

Incompletes and extensions are not given in this course.

Also you are required to visit this site DO's and DON'Ts in the website of the class.

**Grading:**

Final grade in these courses results from the average of: (1) grades from twelve short-answer assignments <list of unit abilities> (30%); (2) three written five- to seven- pages topic essays (50%); and (3) weekly posting of news in the Participation Forum (10%); (3) attendance to lecture and class discussion (10%). All the work in this course should be submitted electronically through the Internet.

My grading policy is as follows: 96-100= A; 90-95 = A-; 86-89 = B+; 83-85 = B; 80-82 = B-; 76-79 =C+; 73-75 =C; 70-72 =C-; 66-69 = D+; 63-65 = D; 60-62 =D-; <60  =F

NOTE: Assignments (list of unit abilities) and essays should be submitted electronically. DON'T send your work more than one time. DO check the classroll in the data base page of the website periodically. Grades will be posted within the following 8-10 days.

**NO TAPE RECORDERS - NO CELLULAR PHONES - NO BEEPERS IN CLASS**

**Statement of Understanding between Professor and Student**

Every student must respect the right of all to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. As a student in the College of Arts and Sciences taking this class:

- I will not represent someone else’s work as my own
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another’s cheating
- I will be honest in my academic endeavors
I understand that if I am found responsible for academic misconduct, I will be subject to the academic misconduct procedures and sanctions as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Failure to adhere to the guidelines stated above may result in one of the following:
- **Expulsion**: Permanent separation of the student from the University, preventing readmission to the institution. This sanction shall be recorded on the student's transcript.
- **Suspension**: Temporary separation of the student from the University for a specific period of time.

By taking this online hybrid course I promise to adhere to FIU’s Student Code of Academic Integrity. For details on the policy and procedure go to ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.

Academic integrity is highly valued at FIU: CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!!
Evaluation of students is based on individual (not group) efforts. You are encouraged to work in small groups (up to three people) for essay and assignments preparation but your grades are based on individual effort, misconduct during exams will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating or presenting materials copied from other students will be removed from the class and given an "F" for the course.

**Office Hours and Appointments:**
Office: PC321
Office hours: T & Th 1:00 to 3:00 PM; W 1:00 to 3:00 PM or by appointment
The best way to get in touch with me is by e-mail: longoria@fiu.edu You are required to obtain an e-mail account from University Computer Services. Students are responsible for checking their e-mail before coming to class. I will post class notices and assessment results through the e-mail.

**General Requirements:**
The following stipulations will apply during the course: The World Wide Web (WWW) will be used extensively throughout this course, all the information and materials related to the course will be transmitted through the Internet and communication with me will be through e-mail.

All students in GLY 3034 are required to:
1. Open an e-mail account with FIU (provided free to all FIU students, your FIU account is setup by computer services and I will use this account for all the correspondence in this course, please check the e-mail/chat page to view your FIU e-mail address) and to have access to an Internet provider, via Netscape or other browser.
2. Students are responsible for making sure that their accounts are setup properly to be able to send/receive e-mail.
3. Read in advance the corresponding chapter(s) for each session.
4. Check in news media and post in the Participation Forum news on local, regional, continental or worldwide natural disasters.
5. Submit work on time. No extra time will be given for activities.
6. Visit the web sites assigned for each topic.

**GEO 2200  PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Weekly Schedule**
NOTE: GEO 2200 requires time and discipline. Students in this class need to: (1) follow the instructions given at the beginning of the term; (2) do the browsing for specific activities, and (3) devote time to read the posted materials in the website. Consequently this course requires time so if you are busy, or overloaded with courses, or have a busy personal schedule, or plan to travel during the semester, or if you feel you will learn better in a face-to-face (traditional) modality you may not be suited to a course like this, if you have to
make a change do it now. The first two weeks of the semester are programmed to give students time to become familiarized with the way these asynchronous / hybrid courses are conducted and to become used to the Web site.

Work for the first two weeks of the semester is devoted to getting students familiar with teaching/learning style of the course and for students gaining acquaintance with the online procedures used in this course, which will be strictly followed during the semester. The sooner you start the sooner you will be prepared for the semester!

First things first: Before you get to far you must visit the following web pages and proceed accordingly: How to navigate throughout this site || How to study for this course || Procedure for the use of the email in this course || Check for Deadlines || Record your study session || Assignment list || Rules for the Participation Forum

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SECTION 0: Habilitation**
Week 1, 1/8-1/14: Introduction || Course Setup || Headcount  
Week 2, 1/15-1/21: Organization and expectations: Access Codes; Student Learning Agreement (Narrative, assignment 0, assignment 1); Acknowledging Syllabus; Participation Forum Entry; Record your study session

**SECTION I: Foundations Introduction to Earth**
Week 3, 1/22-1/28: 1.1. Solar System Formation ch 1 - Assignment 1  
Week 4, 2/-29- 2/4: 1.2. Portraying Earth, ch 2 - Assignment 2

**SECTION II: The Atmosphere**
Week 5, 2/5- 2/11: 2.1. Introduction to the Atmosphere, ch 3 - Assignment 3  
Week 6, 2/12-2/18: 2.2 Insolation and Temperature, ch 4 - Assignment 4  
Week 7, 2/19-2/5: 2.3. Pressure and Wind, ch 5 - Assignment 5  
Week 8, 2/26-3/4: 2.4 Transient Atmospheric Flows and Disturbances, ch 7 - Assignment 6  
2.4.1 Hurricanes - Assignment 7  
2.4.2 Tornados - Assignment 8  
2.4.3 Lightning - Assignment 9  
Week 9, 3/5-3/11: 2.5 Climatic Zones and Types, ch 8 - Assignment 10

2.5.1 Drought/Desertification || The Topography of Arid Lands, ch18 Assignment 11

**SECTION III: The Hydrosphere**
Week 10, 3/12-3/18: 3.3 Atmospheric Moisture, ch 6 -Assignment 12  
3.4 The Hydrological Cycle, ch 9 Assignment 13  
3.5 Fluvial Processes ch 16  
Week 11, 3/19-3/25: Spring Break: No Classes

Week 12, 3/26-4/1: 3.6 Solution Processes: Karst Topography, ch 17 - Assignment 14  
3.7 Coastal Processes, ch 20 - Assignment 15

**SECTION IV: The Biosphere Assignment 16**
Week 13, 4/2-4/8 4.1 Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere, ch 10  
4.2 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna, ch 11 || Forest Fires  
4.3 Biosphere
SECTION V: The Lithosphere

Week 14, 4/9-4/15:
5.1 Surface Processes - Assignment 17
   5.1.1. Erosion: Weathering, ch 15
   5.1.2. Soils ch 12
   5.2 Landform Study, ch 13
   5.3 Mass Wasting, ch 15

Week 15, 4/16-4/22:
5.4 The Internal Processes ch 14- Assignment 18
   5.4.1. Plate Tectonics
   5.4.2. Volcanism
   5.4.3. Diastrophism
   5.4.4. Faulting

Finals Week, 4/23-4/29