Geography 232
Physical Geography
Course Syllabus—Spring 2009

Dr. James Dunn (with Sean as Lab Director)

Office: Candelaria 2080 Hours: Hours: Mondays 8:00 am–10:00 am, Weds 9-10 and by appointment

Phone/voice-mail: 970-351-2834 (Dept phone: 351-2715)

E-mail: James.Dunn@unco.edu

Course Website: http://geography.unco.edu/department/faculty/DUNN/index.htm (then choose Geog 232 in the list)

Course Description:

This course provides content necessary to enable secondary licensure students to address the K-12 Colorado Model Content Standards in Geography.

Physical geography is the study of the natural environments that cover the earth, the processes that shape them and their role as settings for human activities. The objective of this course is to introduce you to the major processes, features, landforms, and interrelationships of the natural environment (the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere).

Required Materials

Textbook:

Gabler, R. E., J. F. Peterson, and L. M. Trapasso, *Essentials of Physical Geography (*8th Edition), Brooks/Cole, 2007

Download from my website:

The course website will have materials that you can download in advance of class. Announcements will be made to prepare you for those occasions.

Assumptions I Make About You

1. I assume that you will work to create original knowledge, unless you are assigned to collaborate with others.
2. I assume that you will question all published and electronic data, and not accept things without confirmation from multiple sources. Critical thinking is valued highly!
3. I assume that you will take responsibility for your own education. Don't wait to learn things from me; probe and question, read further, add to the class; I welcome your contribution!

Evaluation

First, a general point: The surest way to succeed in this course is to attend class. The course grade is based on a point system, with a total of 500 points possible to earn during the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of all points you earn. Your grade is based on the total points you accumulate on all exams, quizzes, exercises, and activities, according to this scale:

Grade	Grade Points	Percentage	Minimum on a 500 Point Scale
A	4	93-100%	465
A-	3.67	90-92.99%	450
B+	3.33	87-89.99%	435
B	3	83-86.99%	415
B-	2.67	80-82.99%	400
C+	2.33	77-79.99%	385
C	2	73-76.99%	365
C-	1.67	70-72.99%	350
D+	1.33	67-69.99%	335
D	1	63-66.99%	315
D-	0.67	60-62.99%	300
F	0	Below 60%	<300

Three Midterm Exams *(300 points total);* these consist primarily of multiple-choice, matching, and sometimes problems or several short-answer questions. All items on the exams are drawn from the material covered during class and in the assigned readings.

Final Exam *(100 points)*—this is a comprehensive exam including material from the midterms and the final unit.

Labs *(65 points total)*— There are 13 lab exercises worth 5 points each.

Class Participation *(35 points)*—Class time includes homework assignments and your participation during class time.

SPECIAL EXAM POLICY

The dates of mid-term exams and the final exam are given on the course outline. There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of a severe medical or personal/family emergency. In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his or her absence and to make arrangements to complete the exam. The University schedules the date of the final exam, not your instructor.

Policies

1. You are expected to attend class (lecture and labs), participate in class discussions, complete the assigned readings and lab exercises, and earn passing grades on the exams. You are required to attend the lab and complete the exercises. You must be in the lab at the beginning of the lab period. In this course, you will need a calculator (scientific) and a ruler (millimeters and inches). You should always bring these items along with your textbook to the lab each week.
2. Note the scheduled date and time of the final exam. Final exams will not be offered at any other time. Make your holiday travel plans accordingly.
3. Any form of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in assessment of severe penalties.
4. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to

contact the Disability Support Services (970-351-2289) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

IMPORTANT DATES

Classes Begin: Monday – January 12, 2009
Fieldtrip Date: **To be announced**
Exam 1: Friday – ***February 6, 2009***
Exam 2: Monday – ***March 9, 2009***
Exam 3: Friday – ***April 3, 2009***
Martin Luther King Holiday—Monday January 19, 2009 NO CLASS
Final Class: Friday – **May 1, 2009**

COURSE OUTLINE

PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY & THE ATMOSPHERE

Readings:	Chap. 1: Physical Geography: Earth Environments and Systems Chap. 2: Representations of Earth Chap. 3: Earth in Space and Solar Energy Chap. 4: The Atmosphere, Temperature, and the Heat Budget
Lab Exercises:	Lab 1: Latitude, Longitude, and Time **(Jan 23)** Lab 2: Earth-Sun Relationships **(Jan 30)** Lab 3: Global Radiation and Temperature **(Feb 6)**
Exam 1:	***February 6, 2009 (Friday)***

PART 2: WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Readings:	Chap. 5: Atmospheric Pressure, Winds, and Circulation Patterns Chap. 6: Moisture, Condensation, and Precipitation Chap. 7: Air Masses and Weather Systems Chap. 8: Global Climates and Climate Change Chap. 9: Low-Latitude and Arid Regions Chap. 10: Middle-Latitude, Polar, and Highland Climate Regions
Lab Exercises:	Lab 4: Motion Forces & Wind **(Feb 13)** Lab 5: Atmospheric Moisture & the Adiabatic Process **(Feb 20)** Lab 6: Air Masses, Fronts, & Cyclonic Systems **(Feb 27)** Lab 7: Climate Classification **(Mar 6)**
Exam 2:	***March 9, 2009 (Monday)***

PART 3: THE LITHOSPHERE AND WEATHERING

Readings:	Chap. 13: Earth Materials, the Lithosphere, and Plate Tectonics Chap. 14: Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and Tectonics Landform Chap. 15: Gradation, Weathering, and Mass Wasting Chap. 16: Underground Water and Karst Landforms
Lab Exercises:	Lab 8: Topographic Maps and Grid Systems **(Mar 13)** Lab 9: Landforms Produced by Volcanic Activity **(Mar 27)** Lab 10: Landforms Produced by Folding and Faulting **(Apr 3)**
Exam 3:	***April 3, 2009 (Friday)***

PART 4: WIND, WATER, AND ICE

Readings:	Chap. 17: Fluvial Processes and Landforms Chap. 18: Arid Landforms and Eolian Processes Chap. 19: Glacial Systems and Landforms
Lab Exercises:	Lab 11: Hydrosphere (**Apr 10**) Lab 12: Landforms Produced by Fluvial and Eolian Processes (**Apr 17**) Lab 13: Landforms Produced by Glacial Activity (**Apr 24**)