

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Department of Applied Technology
APPLIED GEOGRAPHY, CARTOGRAPHY & G.I.S.
AND GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION



COURSE SYLLABUS
GEOG 124, PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Professor:
Office hours:
Work phone:
E-Mail:
Office:
Main Office: *TC205*

Texts: McKnight and Hess, *Physical Geography, A Landscape Appreciation*,
12th ed., Pearson/Prentice-Hall Pub: NJ, 2017.

Corbet, John H., *Physical Geography Manual 7th ed.*, Kendall/Hunt
Pub. Co., 2017.

Rand McNally, *Goode's World Atlas, 23^d ed.*, Hudson Pub: 2016

INTRODUCTION: Geography encompasses both the physical and cultural world applying fundamental elements to a variety of disciplines whenever the emphasis is on spatial issues. Therefore they become geographic in nature. As we begin to focus on physical geography we automatically become interested in the topographical and environmental aspects of our universe. However, we should clearly understand that societies sometimes alter our physical environment for various reasons. On the other hand, the physical environment can often influence the way a cultural group operates. As we develop spatial perspectives of our physical environment, we begin asking what, when, where, why, and how, e.g. ...Why is the climate in this region similar/different than that region?...How did those sand dunes develop and why are they located where they are?...What caused this river to change its course and when did it create that lake?... Although the same species, why does the wildlife in this area differ in behavior and appearance than in other areas?...What physical process created those caves?...Why have humans developed the land such as they have? Why does this particular vehicle have higher sales there instead of here? Why is corn grown in that region? If you have ever asked questions such as these, then you have become curious about the physical geography of our earthly system.

Communication is important. I have an open-door policy, i.e. you are welcome to come by my office unannounced anytime to discuss any questions or problems you may have with your course assignments. If I am unavailable, I will schedule an appointment with you to meet as soon as possible. Otherwise, office hours (above) are times set aside to assist you. You are always welcome to e-mail me and I will respond immediately once I have received your message. **Assignments are not accepted via e-mail.** I want this semester and your geography course to be a positive experience. Therefore, I strive to make it productive, educational, challenging, and enjoyable!

OUTCOMES and OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of physical geography as it pertains to the four principal components of the environment, i.e. the biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere, and the interaction taking place among them. Also, students' knowledge of place names, perceptions of places, and a better understanding of map interpretation including topographic mapping and aerial photos should be greatly enhanced. Students will utilize maps, atlases, aerial photos to locate various physical features and demonstrate an understanding of geographic theories that pertain to the physical environment. Students will be able to explain the Earth's physical processes, including cause and effects, concepts, and terminology. All students will gain an appreciation for geography as a whole and how it describes our entire earthly system from a spatial perspective. Finally, students will better understand and articulate the vast array of physical features found around the world by researching, organizing, and presenting in written format about specific physical topics.

Remember, this is a four credit course with lab assignments. All students are expected to be motivated, punctual, meet deadlines, and attend class on a regular basis.

COURSE GRADE will be determined as follows: ***655 points total**

- ✍ **Exams = 330 pts. @ 110 pts. each**
- ✍ **Lab assignments = 130 pts. @ 10 pts. each**
- ✍ **Quizzes (place names) = 45 pts. @ 15 pts. each**
- ✍ **Quizzes (movies) = 50 pts. @ 10 pts. each**
- ✍ **Field Trip = 30 pts.**
- ✍ **Special project = 50 pts.**
- ✍ **Participation = 20 pts.**

***Final grade** will be determined on the following scale:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 59% and below = F

EX: If you have a total of 579 points at the end of the semester, you will have an 88% which is a 'B' for the course. **IF** a curve is administered, it will be no more than one or two percentage points. However, this will be determined on the class final average as well as individual participation, progress, and attendance.

✍ Each **exam** is worth 110 points. None are cumulative. An outline of each exam will be given a week prior to that exam. **Do not forget exam dates. All make-ups are given at the end of the semester during the regularly scheduled final exam time.** If for any reason you miss Exam I or II, the final will be 220 points which includes material from the missed exam. There is no makeup for the final exam. If you miss both, dropping is suggested. After exams have been graded, they will be recorded. Exams are not returned to students. However, you are always welcome to view them with the professor by appointment. Exams include lectures, texts, videos, quizzes, lab assignments, field trip, and special handouts. There may be an undetermined amount of possible bonus points. Cheating will result in a zero and possible 'drop' from class. (Refer to Student Code of Conduct @ <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/verified/>.)

✍ You will be completing 13 **lab assignments** during the semester. You are responsible for bringing your manual to every class period (except exam days) unless otherwise announced. Due to length of some of the assignments and limited time, portions will be omitted in the lab manual. Each exercise will be discussed prior to the lab assignment. Some labs parallel the lecture. Others are totally independent. You will be allowed to work on the assignments during lab but students should expect to spend additional time outside the classroom. **Come prepared!** On occasion, assignments are due at the end of class. Others are due at the beginning of the next class period. Due date will be announced in class. You may work independently, in a group, or with a friend. However, do not let someone else do all the work and you take credit. On the other hand, do not let someone else depend on you for all the answers. Lab assignments **are** included on the exams. Therefore, it is crucial that you understand the assignments. If you are absent the day lab assignments are discussed, it is your responsibility to obtain the information. You will still be responsible for handing the assignment in ON TIME. Three points are automatically deducted if turned in late. However, **no late exercises will be accepted for credit once the assignments are graded and returned to the rest of the class.** Each assignment is worth 10 pts. They will be graded and returned *usually* within one class period. **No photocopies accepted.**

✍ There will be three **quizzes** over places names. A study guide and map will be given a week in advance. Quizzes are given promptly at the beginning of class and usually take approx. ten minutes. If you are late for class, you will miss the quiz. (No make-ups.)

✍ There will be five **quizzes** over selected movies. Movies range from 15 – 55 minutes. All movies will be reflected in the exams. If you miss class, you will miss the quiz. **There are no make-ups.** However, you may still make an appointment to see the movie before the following exam.

✍ There will be one group **field trip** to Great Falls, MD. Students will need to provide their own transportation and entry fee. The field trip has been arranged during regular class time so that it does not interfere with other schedules. **There are no make-ups.** **NOTE:** If weather is unfavorable the day of the trip, an email will be sent that morning with a rain date. However, regular class will be held that day. If unable to attend, a make-up assignment will be given.

✍ There will be one **special project** assigned/required for this course which will include time spent outside the classroom. There may be minimal fees, e.g. gas money, metro-rail, photocopying, photography, entrance fees, or lunch money, that you will find necessary to complete the assignment. Ample time will be given to complete the project. Research required. Plagiarism will result in a zero. Late projects will be penalized (25% after due date & time with no credit given after the fourth day.)

✍ **Participation** is worth 20 points. This can mean the difference between an entire letter grade. For each absence over one, four points are automatically deducted. Therefore, attendance can help your grade significantly. Participation points may also be deducted for missed assignments, tardiness, early departure, and attitude. Participation and quality of work are considered a significant part of participation. It is at the discretion of the professor to drop a student for multiple absences. (*Refer to Student Code of Conduct.*) Attendance will be taken each class period. If you arrive after attendance has been taken (tardy), it is your responsibility to notify me during break or immediately after class. Otherwise the absence remains on your record. If you are unable to attend a class, I would appreciate an advance notice (in person, e-mail, or via phone) if possible.

Note: All PowerPoints and assignments will be placed on Blackboard for you to review and your convenience.

Supplies needed: ruler (inches & metric combined); calculator; protractor; azimuth (optional); colored pencils and/or highlighter(s); string @ 2' long; (stereoscopes--optional). **Please bring these to class beginning the second day and each day thereafter so that you are prepared for labs.**

☹ **PLEASE NOTE: MC has had a *no smoking policy* since August 2008.**

DISABILITIES: *Any student who may need accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Disability Support Services office on your campus as soon as possible (R-CB122; G-SA172; or TP/SS-ST233). If you have an accommodation letter from DSS111, please contact me to discuss arrangements for your accommodations. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an **emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office.***

NOTE: If you are a veteran or on active or reserve status and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college.

ASSESSMENT LEVEL: ENGL 101/101A, MATH 093/096, READ120 Students are expected to and held responsible for meeting these requirements.

E-mail: Occasionally I will find it necessary to correspond with you personally or as a group. This correspondence will be through the **college assigned e-mail address**. Please make certain you know your address and check it regularly.

NOTE: Electronics of any kind including **laptops, tape recorders, camera devices, and cell phones** must be turned off **completely** (not silent, buzz, or vibrate) before class and put away (**out of sight**). Use of any of the above in class (including during videos!) will result in a loss of **all** participation points (20). **Note:** The use of laptops and recorders are waived if a letter is provided stating such from the DSS office.

Snacks/drinks (not five course meals) are allowed as long as you clean up and throw trash away. Trash and recycling containers are located outside the room.

All assignments must be turned in by hard copy unless otherwise indicated. Please do not send assignments through e-mail. They will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Those intending to graduate must complete and submit the graduation form online by the deadlines listed below. If you need help submitting these forms or if you encounter any problems, see your advisor or counselor. If you are a geography major, I serve as your advisor.

Deadlines for Graduation!

Fall: **October 1**
Spring: **February 15**
Summer: **June 1**



Course content and assignments are subject to change upon the decision of the professor.