GHY 1010-101 – Introduction to Physical Geography – Spring 2020
MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM – 345 Rankin Science West

Professor: L. Baker Perry, Ph.D.
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Office hours: MWF 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, 10:00 – 11:00 AM; F 2:00 – 4:00 PM, or by appointment

Required Text: Christopherson, R.W, G.H. Birkeland. 2018 (10th Edition). *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Course Description: GHY 1010 focuses on the earth's physical processes and landscapes, human-environment relationships, and the resulting geographic distribution and patterns, with specific reference to sustainability and global change. Along with FCS 2110, IDS 3010, PHL 2015, PHY 1830, SD 2400, and TEC 2029, GHY 1010 is part of the Sustainability and Global Resources theme in the Integrative Learning Experience in the General Education program.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you should have an understanding of the physical processes that shape the world in which we live. Furthermore, you should be able to recognize and discuss the ways in which humans and the physical environment are inextricably linked. Lastly, you should recognize that the processes have distinctive distributions and patterns across the surface of the earth. Through integrative activities with the other courses in the Sustainability and Global Change theme, this course will also enable students to: 1) Demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively about the relationship between local regions and global issues, processes, trends, and systems; 2) Employ appropriate and increasingly sophisticated means for communicating with people of other cultures; 3) Analyze past and present relationships between humans and the natural and physical environment; and 4) Evaluate community, natural, and global change through the lens of sustainability.

Grading:	Exercises	20%	**Exam Dates:**	Exam I	Feb 7
	Midterm Exams	30%		Exam II	Mar 4
	Sketch Map	20%		Exam III	Apr 8
	Attendance	10%		Final	May 4
	Final Exam	20%			

Exercises: Four homework exercises will be assigned over the course of the semester, together constituting 20% of your final grade.
Midterm Exams: The bulk of your grade (30%) in this course comes from the midterm exams. Material will come from both readings and lecture, so it is essential that you attend lecture, keep up with the assigned readings, and take good lecture notes.
Map Project: Of all of the ways we have to describe the world, maps have the ability to convey a tremendous amount of information. Therefore, you will have a map project that will account for 20% of your final grade.
Attendance: Course attendance is expected and will be taken on a routine basis. Two absences are allowed without penalty; each additional absence results in a 2.5 point deduction from your attendance grade.
Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative and is scheduled for ***Monday, May 4, from 9:00 – 11:30 am***. <u>All students will take the final at this time</u>.

Letter Grading Scale:

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.0	93.0	A
92.9	90.0	A-
89.9	87.0	B+
86.9	83.0	B
82.9	80.0	B-
79.9	77.0	C+
76.9	73.0	C
72.9	70.0	C-
69.9	67.0	D+
66.9	63.0	D
62.9	60.0	D-
59.9	0.0	F

Statement of Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at "providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers" as well as "maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students." Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen-hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Academic Integrity Code

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site: www.studentconduct.appstate.edu.

Students with Disabilities

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at www.ods.appstate.edu or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Statement on Homelessness and Food Insecurity

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, 324 Plemmons Student Union, for a list of resources and support. The ASU Food Pantry and Free Store is a free resource with pantry and personal care items, located in the Office of Sustainability on the bottom floor of East Hall.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
13-Jan	Introduction to Course	Syllabus and Course Links
15-Jan	Essentials of Geography	Chapter 1
17-Jan	Solar Energy to Earth	Chapter 2: pp. 36-44
20-Jan	*No Class -- MLK Holiday*	
22-Jan	Seasons	Chapter 2: pp. 45-55
24-Jan	Earth's Atmosphere	Chapter 3
27-Jan	Atmospheric Energy	Chapter 4: pp. 78-94
29-Jan	Global Temperatures	Chapter 4: pp. 95-117
31-Jan	Idealized Global Circulation Model	Chapter 5: pp. 118-141
3-Feb	Oceanic Circulation and El Niño-Southern Oscillation	Chapter 5: pp. 142-151
5-Feb	Catch-up, Discussion, and Review	Review!
7-Feb	**Exam I**	Study!
10-Feb	Humidity and Atmospheric Stability	Chapter 6: pp. 154-166
12-Feb	Clouds and Precipitation	Chapter 6: pp. 167-181
14-Feb	Air Masses, Storms, and Weather Forecasting	Chapter 7
17-Feb	Water Resources	Chapter 8
19-Feb	Tropical and Midlatitude Climates	Chapter 9: pp. 248-264
21-Feb	Polar, Mountain, and Dry Climates	Chapter 9: pp. 265-277
24-Feb	2019 National Geographic Everest Expedition	https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/2019/06/mc
26-Feb	Climates of the Past and Mechanisms of Change	Chapter 10: pp. 278-293
28-Feb	Climate Change: Present and Future	Chapter 10: pp. 294-313
2-Mar	Catch-up, Discussion, and Review	
4-Mar	**Exam II**	
6-Mar	Geologic Time, Earth's Interior, and the Rock Cycle	Chapter 11: pp. 316-331
9-Mar	*No Class -- Spring Break*	
11-Mar	*No Class -- Spring Break*	
13-Mar	*No Class -- Spring Break*	
16-Mar	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 11: pp. 332-347
18-Mar	Earthquakes	Chapter 12: pp. 348-368
20-Mar	Volcanism	Chapter 12: pp. 369-379
23-Mar	Weathering and Mass Movements	Chapter 13
25-Mar	Mapping Mt. Everest	TBA
27-Mar	River Systems	Chapter 14
30-Mar	Eolian Processes	Chapter 15: pp. 438-449
1-Apr	Arid Landscapes	Chapter 15: pp. 450-461
3-Apr	Ocean and Coastal Systems	Chapter 16
6-Apr	Catch-up, Discussion, and Review	
8-Apr	**Exam III**	
10-Apr	*No Class -- State Holiday*	
13-Apr	Glacial Processes	Chapter 17: pp. 492-499
15-Apr	Glacial Landforms	Chapter 17: pp. 500-519
17-Apr	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods	https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/11/glaciers-c
20-Apr	Snow and Avalanches	https://avalanche.org/avalanche-tutorial/
22-Apr	Soils	Chapter 18
24-Apr	Ecosystems and Biomes	Chapter 19-20
27-Apr	Sir Ernest Shackleton and the West Wind Drift	
29-Apr	Catch-up, Discussion, and Review	
4-May	**Final Exam (9:00 - 11:30 am)**	