**GEOG211: GEOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LAB**

**CREDITS: ONE**

**Lefrak Hall Rooms:**

**Times: Variable**

Instructor:

Office:

E-Mail:

Office Hours:

Telephone:

Course Goals

The spatial aspects and processes of the Earth’s natural systems will be described and explained. The study of these phenomena will be limited to the internal and external processes that shape the Earth’s crust such as tectonics, earthquakes and volcanism, weathering, mass movement, fluvial and coastal geomorphology, elementary atmospheric processes, natural vegetation responses.

Learning outcomes

After taking this course:

* + Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the principles underlying the scientific areas of geology, climatology, meteorology, oceanography, hydrology, botany and agronomy from a geographic perspective, and learn the methods by which these principles are researched.
  + Students will solve simple problems associated with the physical environment and environmental issues through the application of several scientific concepts, including the energy-atmosphere cycles and system, the water, weather and climate systems, landscape systems and biogeographic systems
  + Students will examine complex questions underlying the issues of Earth System Science, in order to understand the interchangeable impacts of these systems on human dimensions of global change.
  + Students will effectively communicate the scientific ideas surrounding Earth System Science through interactive, hands-on application in the weekly laboratory sessions.
  + Students will demonstrate proficiency in Earth Systems Science by attending weekly Geography 211 laboratory sessions in order to make observations, understand fundamental elements of experiment design, generate and analyze data through quantitative tools, use abstract reasoning to interpret data and formulae and test hypotheses with scientific rigor.

There will be 10 laboratory sessions each conducted by the instructor.

**TOPIC OUTLINE FOR THE LAB SESSIONS**

Water and flooding issues

Rivers and river systems

Introduction to weather and climate

Introduction to natural vegetation

Monsoon systems

Plate tectonics

Volcanos

Weathering and mass wasting

Coastal processes

The personal computers provided in each lab will be used to obtain the necessary information required for each lab. Students are therefore expected to be conversant with basic computer skills in order to take this class.

There is no text book for this course.

Students are required to contact their lab instructor concerning any missed labs due to unavoidable absences.

**Students with special needs -** Every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall semester. This form must be presented to me no later than February 15. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after February 15

**Disruptive Students:** Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.”

**Religious Observance:** By XXXXX, students must provide via email a request for a missed lab if they have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory as labs are to be done on site.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. Students are to contact their instructor by email prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed labs if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, you will be referred to the University’s Student Conduct Office.

**Grading:** Grades for each lab will be used for the calculation of the final grade.

**Academic integrity:** Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that can result in suspension or expulsion from the University of Maryland. All assignments should be your own work. Plagiarism would not be tolerated.  Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html.

Final letter grades will be broken down the following way:

96 – 100 A+

92 – 95 A

90 – 91 A-

88 – 89 B+

82 – 87 B

80 – 81 B-

78 – 79 C+

72 – 77 C

70 – 71 C-

60 – 69 D

Less than 60 F