

Geosciences 200-100: The Global Environment Summer Classes Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Donald J. Biddle
dj.biddle@louisville.edu

Office Hours
Each day, directly after class

Textbook: Robert W. Christopherson, Ginger Birkeland: *Elemental Geosystems*, 8th Edition, Pearson.

Course Description and Objectives: An introduction to the global environment, emphasizing the evolution and interaction of Earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere; energy and material cycles, and global change. You will learn about the spatial dimensions of the Earth's dynamic systems and the interactions among them. These systems include energy, air, water, climate, landforms, soils, and ecosystems. You will learn about these systems at global, regional and local scales. Through this course, I hope that you will gain an appreciation for the marvel that the Earth truly is and feel encouraged to practice good stewardship of our planet.

Course Requirements and Grading: Course requirements consist of 1) a daily quiz on the previous day's material, 2) group assignments in class, and 3) two exams. Together, these requirements constitute 300 points. Following are more detailed descriptions of these requirements and tables showing evaluation criteria and grading policy.

- **Daily quizzes.** Each morning at 8:00 a.m. *en punto*, I will give a short quiz on the previous day's material. These quizzes will consist of five questions. **If you miss a quiz, you will be unable to make it up.**
- **Group Assignments.** At the end of some classes (see schedule on next page), I will assign exercises for you to work on. You may work in groups of up to 4 people and turn these assignments in at the start of the next class. **Please bring your textbook to every class.**
- **Exams.** There will be two exams which will cover the material from the previous week. These will consist of multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank and interpretation questions.

Lectures will be presented in Power Point. Notes and grades will be posted daily on Blackboard.

Evaluation Criteria:

Course Requirement	Total Points
Daily Quizzes (7)	35
Group Assignments (5)	125
Exam 1	70
Exam 2	70
TOTAL	300

Grading Policy:

Grade	% of Total Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Under 60

Plus (+) or minus (-) grades will be assigned to the upper or lower 2 percentage points of each letter grade.

Reading: Reading assignments average about 60 pages per night. Fortunately, the bulk of these pages consist of maps and graphics. I strongly urge you to get a head start on your reading and keep up with it as the course progresses. This is a science course. Due to the amount of technical material presented, you may find it difficult to catch up if you get behind.

Daily Schedule: Class will be held from 8 a.m. – 12 noon, Monday – Friday, July 17-28. There will be a 20-30 minute break halfway through.

Course Schedule (subject to change):

Class	Topic(s)	Reading	Activities
1	Foundations of Geography Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Geospatial Revolution Video Assignment 1
2	Atmospheric Energy and Global Temperatures Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Assignment 2
3	Atmospheric Water and Weather Water Resources	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Assignment 3
4	Earth's Climatic Regions Climate Change	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	Climate Change Film
5	Exam 1, starts at 9:00am		July 21: Exam 1
6	The Dynamic Planet Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Mt. St. Helens Film
7	Weathering, Karst, and Mass Movement River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Assignment 4: Death Valley Film
8	Oceans, Coastal Systems, Wind Processes Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Assignment 5
9	Ecosystem Essentials Terrestrial Biomes	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Planet Earth Film
10	Exam 2, starts at 9:00am		July 28: Exam 2

Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams: As a student, it is your responsibility to complete all required coursework **on time**. Grades for assignments will be reduced 10% for each day late. Make up exams will be issued only for those who have excused absences.

Blackboard: Lectures will be presented in Power Point format. All class notes and grades will be posted on Blackboard (blackboard.louisville.edu). It is YOUR responsibility to check Blackboard on a regular basis for course announcements. If you have not used Blackboard and need help or a tutorial, go to:

<http://louisville.edu/delphi/blackboard/>

Important Note: I will not tolerate talking during the class lectures. It is a distraction to me and to other students who are trying to hear the lecture. If you disrupt the class through loud and/or continual talking you will receive negative points. These points will be posted in the ***Talking Points*** column in Blackboard and will be deducted from your final course grade! Egregious talking offenses will result in dismissal from the lecture for the day.

Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives or to compensate for missed classes and other unforeseen events.