



College of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture Biological & Environmental Sciences

ENVS489 Independent Study: Environmental Geography

I. General Information

Course syllabus summer II 2015

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Phone:

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Book: Pulsipher, L.M. and Pulsipher, A. 2014. 6th ed. World Regional Geography without subregions: Global patterns, local lives. W.H. Freeman and Company 495p.

Requires enrollment in Lab

II. Course Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of Environmental Geography, which encompasses natural science, social science, and humanistic understandings of the Earth. Environmental Geographers study the complex relationships between humans and the natural environment over time and through space.

III. Student Learning Objectives

To understand basic concepts in environmental geography and related disciplines.

To analyze the geographic dimensions (e.g., scale, connectivity across space, etc.) of the activities of agencies or individuals working on solutions to environmental problems in a particular location.

To develop a reading tradition.

IV. Learning strategies

Reading assignments

Lectures

Analysis of Case Study Samples

Individual work, analysis of free reading

Homework

V. Assumptions, Expectations, Philosophy

University students are a select group of students soon to be professionals.

Instructors can have high expectations of student performance.

Demanding courses benefit students more than easy courses.

Assignments are due on time unless you have made a prior arrangement with me (only granted for unusual or extenuating circumstances and in case of health



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issues proper medical excuse is required.

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. This will help you become a better writer, a more rounded individual, and expose you to subjects outside of your immediate knowledge.

VI. Tentative course outline

Part I. An exploration of Connections (week 1)

- Population
- Gender
- Development
- Food
- Urbanization
- Globalization
- Power and Politics
- Water
- Global change

Part II. Geography Perspectives (weeks 2-3)

- Physical Geography
- Human Geography
- Cultural Geography

Part III. Regions (weeks 3-5)

- North America
- Central and South America
- Europe
- Russia and Post-Soviet States
- North Africa
- South West Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- East Asia
- South East Asia
- Oceania

VII. Course Requirement and Evaluation Method

Readings, lectures, quizzes, exams, case study project and discussions are required.

Grade basis:

- 1 case study (50 points)
- 5 assignments (50 points)
- 5 quizzes (100 points)
- 5 laboratory activities (75 points)
- Total 300 points

Grading Scale: The following scale is adhered to strictly.



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90.0 - 100% = A
80.0 - 89.9% = B
70.0 - 79.9% = C
60.0 - 69.9% = D
<60.0% = F

Assignments (5)

Journal articles

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. For each assign date, a journal is named in the right column of the table, choose and read a paper from that journal that you find interesting or relevant. These journals are available in our library (online resources). On that date, provide me a citation and a short description of the paper (10 sentences).

Date	Journal
JUL 12-17	Applied Geography
JUL 19-25	Geography and Natural Resources
JUL 26-1	Journal of Environmental Geography
AUG 2-8	Geography Compass
AUG 9-13	GEO: Geography and Environment

Case Study

Each student will identify a case study exemplifying Environmental Geography principles. You will be responsible of understand and apply this scenario to other potential case studies. You also will propose alternative solutions (scenarios) to complement and improve the example you are presenting. You will develop an essay (800-1000 words) to document your case study, deadline will be the last day of class (**August 13th**).

Format for the case study:

- I. Describe the problem or case question.
- II. Describe the case
 - Introduction
 - Background
 - Affected area, species, communities, ecosystems
 - Environmental policy in place (if any, or potential)
 - Implications
- III. Conclusions

LABORATORY:

The laboratory will account for 25% of your final grade and will follow the same topics of the class. The laboratory sessions/activities will be posted each week.

VIII. Course and University and Policies



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University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement-Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.