

The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Geography 200: Physical Geography

CRN 20511, Section 1AS (online)

General Studies: Natural Sciences (Category 2 – Earth and Space Science)

Spring 2019

3 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Meeting Time: n/a

Room: n/a

Professor: Dr. Tom Saladyga

Office: Admin 125B

Email: saladygat@concord.edu

Website: www.saladyga-EGL.com

Office Hours: MW 10-11/1-2; TR 11-12

Phone: 304-384-6040

Course Description:

Whether we know it or not, we all depend on Earth's physical and biological systems. These are our life support systems. Geography 200 is an introductory course that studies the Earth as the environment of humans. We will address the reciprocal relationships between Earth systems and humans, emphasizing the spatial and temporal patterns of climates, vegetation, water resources, and soils.

Course Management System:

Blackboard - <https://elearn.concord.edu>. Sign in with your MYCU user name and password.

This course is organized in Blackboard as follows:

- **Welcome Page:** Look here for course announcements throughout the semester. Announcements will also be sent to your CU email account.
- **Syllabus:** View and download the course syllabus here.
- **Learning Units:** Each learning unit and associated modules will be posted here.
- **Final Exam:** The final will be available here on the Monday of finals week.

Required Textbook:

Physical Geography: Great Systems and Global Environments, Marsh and Kaufman (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

This Course Addresses the Following Concord University Educational Goals:

Knowledge Outcome 2 – An awareness of the fundamental characteristics and properties of the physical universe.

Knowledge Outcome 5 – A recognition of the complex interactions between organisms, including human beings, and their environments.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. *Define* and/or *explain* key terms and concepts in physical geography.
2. *Analyze* and *interpret* maps, graphs, and figures in the context of physical geography.
3. *Apply* this knowledge to understanding current events.

National Standards:

All geography courses rely on the “Geography for Life” standards put forward by the Association of American Geographers, The National Geographic Society, and the National Council for Geographic Education.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

Many students are attracted to taking online courses because it allows them the flexibility to work at home. I agree that this is great! Some students, though, mistakenly think that not having class means less of a time commitment – after all, you do not have to come to class. I would like to clarify from the beginning that the opposite is probably the case.

Students in online courses have to read and learn all of the material that would normally be taught in the classroom. And, then, they have regular homework on top of that. I will, of course, be available to help in every way I can – answering questions and giving feedback along the way. However, do not come into this class with the expectation that you simply get a free pass from the 150 minutes per week that you would normally spend in the classroom. Instead, you need to expect that you will have approximately FOUR HOURS of work per week – the 150 minutes we would normally have in class, in addition to homework. You will have assignments due EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

Communication:

It is your responsibility to email me (at saladygat@concord.edu) with any questions you might have during the semester. I will respond to your email within 12 hours. I will not respond to an email that resembles a text message. This means that you must include an appropriate salutation (Dr. Saladyga, Professor S, etc.), use complete sentences, and include your name.

You are required to check your e-mail *at least* every other day and are responsible for updates sent to the class. This is my only way to contact you, so you NEED to check your e-mail.

Late Work:

All worked is expected to be completed/submitted on time. Ten percentage points will be deducted for each calendar day an assignment is late.

Computer Issues:

Computer issues cannot be used as excuse for late or incomplete work.

For technical issues concerning Blackboard, contact the Concord University IT Help Desk:

<http://hub.concord.edu/technology/node/12>. You must also have a backup plan if your computer is having issues. This may including borrowing a computer from a friend or using a computer on campus or at a public library.

Grade Breakdown:

	Points
Syllabus Quiz	10
Unit 1 – Physical Geography Explained	30
Unit 2 – Climate	30
Unit 3 – Life	30
Unit 4 – Water	30
Unit 5 – Land	30
Final Exam	50
Total	210

Letter Grade	Total Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

	Due Date	Reading/Resource	Learning/Assessment
Unit 1: Physical Geography Explained			
Week 1	Mon 1/14	Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz
	Wed 1/16	The American Association of Geographers	Module 1.1: Introducing Physical Geography
Week 2	Mon 1/21	No Class – MLK Day	
	Wed 1/23	Chapter 1	Module 1.2: Geographic Systems
Unit 2: Climate			
Week 3	Mon 1/28	Chapter 3	Module 2.1: Earth-Sun Relationships
	Wed 1/30	Chapter 4	Module 2.2: Radiation and Heat
Week 4	Mon 2/4	Chapter 5	Module 2.3: Atmospheric Circulation
	Wed 2/6	Chapter 5	Module 2.4: Ocean Circulation
Week 5	Mon 2/11	Chapter 7	Module 2.5: Global Climate Systems
	Wed 2/13	Chapter 8/ NOAA's Paleoclimatology Database	Module 2.6: Climate Change and Variability
Week 6	Mon 2/18	NASA: Responding to Climate Change	Module 2.7: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
	Wed 2/20	<i>Amazon Forest Becoming Less of a Climate Change Safety Net</i> (NY Times)	Module 2.8: Climate in the News
Unit 3: Life			
Week 7	Mon 2/25	Chapter 9	Module 3.1: Biosphere Form and Function
	Wed 2/27	Chapter 9	Module 3.2: Energy and Productivity
Week 8	Mon 3/4	Chapter 10	Module 3.3: Plant Geography
	Wed 3/6	Climate Change Atlas – USDA Forest Service	Module 3.4: Species Range Maps
----- Spring Break -----			
Week 9	Mon 3/18	Wild Ways (NOVA documentary)	Module 3.5: Island Biogeography and Conservation
	Wed 3/20	<i>Study Finds Climate Change as Threat to 1 in 6 Species</i> (NY Times)	Module 3.6: Biodiversity in the News

Unit 4: Water			
Week 10	Mon 3/25	Chapter 14	Module 4.1: Global Water System
	Wed 3/27	Chapter 14	Module 4.2: Modification of the Hydrologic System
Week 11	Mon 4/1	Chapter 15	Module 4.3: Watershed Processes
	Wed 4/3	Chapter 16	Module 4.4: Water Resources
Week 12	Mon 4/8	West Virginia watershed organization websites	Module 4.5: Watershed Organizations
	Wed 4/10	<i>In California, a Wet Era May Be Ending</i> (NY Times)	Module 4.6: Water Resources in the News
Unit 5: Land			
Week 13	Mon 4/15	Chapter 12	Module 5.1: Soil Systems
	Wed 4/17	Chapter 12	Module 5.2: Soil Horizons and Profiles
Week 14	Mon 4/22	Chapter 13	Module 5.3: Soil Geography
	Wed 4/24	Chapter 13	Module 5.4: Soil and Land Use
Week 15	Mon 4/29	The Land Institute	Module 5.5: The Land Institute
	Wed 5/1	<i>Farmers Put Down the Plow for More Productive Soil</i> (NY Times)	Module 5.6: Soil in the News
Finals Week	TBA	FINAL EXAM	

Institutional Information and Policies

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly.