

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Fall 2015 SYLLABUS GEOG 1710D.030- Earth Science 3Hrs**  
**GEOG 1710D.330- Laboratory 0Hrs**  
**Division of Liberal Arts & Life Sciences**

<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Dr. Lynda Folts
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Virtual Monday & Wednesday 7:15-8:15am – 10-11:00 am
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Online
<b>Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Online
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Principles and processes of physical geography. Introduction to mapping, weather and climate, soil and vegetation, and landforms of rivers, coasts and deserts. May be used to satisfy a portion of the Natural Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	GEOG 1710.330 Lab
<b>Required Text:</b>	Geosystems: 8th Edition, 2012, by Robert W. Christopherson
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	The book includes an access code to the Mastering Geography website ( <a href="http://www.masteringgeography.com/">http://www.masteringgeography.com/</a> ), which can be used to study and review material in conjunction with the textbook, lectures, and laboratory exercises.
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com

**Course Goals or Overview:**

The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the study of the Earth and its component systems in particular to the physical and biological factors that create the biosphere in which we live. The goal of this class is to provide you with a basic, yet comprehensive, understanding of your physical environment.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** At the end of this course, the student will

1. Be able to understand and apply the scientific method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.
2. Be able to recognize scientific and quantitative methods of inquiry, and to be able to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretations based upon these approaches.
3. Be able to identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.

## Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by in-class and blackboard announcements

Week	Starting	TOPICS	Readings Due
1	8/24	Introduction & Essentials of Geography <b>Lab 1 Due 08/31</b>	Ch. 1 <b>Self Intro Board 1- 8/30</b>
2	8/31	Solar Radiation & Earth's Modern Atmosphere <b>(Quiz 1 due 9/04)</b>	Ch. 2 & 3 <b>Board 2- 9/06</b>
3	9/07	Atmosphere & Surface Energy Balance	Ch. 4 & 5 <b>Board 3- 9/13</b>
4	9/14	<b>Exam 1 (Thur 9/17)</b>	Ch. 6 <b>D. board 4-9/20</b>
5	9/21	Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulation & Weather <b>(Quiz 2 due 9/25)</b>	Ch. 7 & 8: pages 163-172, 178-186, 191-217 <b>Board 5- 9/27</b>
6	9/28	Water & Atmospheric Moisture <b>Lab 2 Due 10/5</b>	Ch.9 & 10: pages 223-228, 231-247, 252-259, 282-291 <b>D. Board 6-10/4</b>
7	10/05	Weather, Climate Systems & Climate Change <b>(Quiz 3 due 10/09)</b>	Ch. 11 <b>D. board 7-10/11</b>
8	10/12	<b>Exam 2 (Thur 10/15)/ The Dynamic Planet</b>	Ch. 12 <b>D. board 8-10/18</b>
9	10/19	Tectonics, Earthquakes, & Volcanism <b>Lab 3 Due 10/26</b>	Ch. 13 <b>D. board 9-10/25</b>
10	10/26	Weathering, Karst, & Mass Movement	Ch.14 <b>D. board 10-11/01</b>
11	11/02	River Systems and Landforms <b>(Quiz 4 due 11/06)</b>	Ch. 15 <b>D. board 11-11/08</b>
12	11/09	The Oceans, Coastal Processes, & Landforms <b>Lab 4 Due 11/16</b>	Ch. 16 & 17 <b>D. board 12-11/15</b>
13	11/16	<b>Exam 3 (Thur 11/19)</b> Glacial & Periglacial Processes & Landforms <b>(Quiz 5 due 11/20)</b>	Ch. 18 <b>D. board 13- 11/22</b>
14	11/23	Geography of Soils	Ch. 19 <b>D. board 14- 11/29</b>
15	11/30	Ecosystem Essentials/Earth & The Human Denominator <b>(Quiz 6 due 12/04)</b>	Ch. 20 & 21 <b>D. board 15- 12/06</b>
16	12/07	<b>Final Exam (Mon. 12/07)</b>	

## GEOG 1710 Research Paper Guidelines and Dates

**Term paper** Write a review paper on one of the current research topics related to Earth Science. Topic selection and **outline paper is due by September 13, 3 Peer Reviews should be completed by November 22, and the paper is due by December 4.** Both outline paper and term paper need to be prepared in MS word (.doc or .docx) and uploaded to the corresponding link provided. Misplaced assignments will not be graded.

□ *Contents of the paper:* Discuss a focused “hot topic”, with sufficient discussion of background information to allow anyone taking the class to understand the significance. Research approaches and future directions should also be briefly discussed. The length of the paper is **minimum 8 pages of double spaced text (font size no bigger than 12)**. You can provide figures. Write with your classmates as the targeted readers. You should not “reuse” a topic used from other courses.

□ *Sources and their use:* In recent years there has been a tendency to rely more heavily on web pages as sources. Students are warned that plagiarizing any source is a serious violation of academic standards—credit and use your sources properly. A definition of plagiarism can be found in the section of University Statement. **\*\*Note:** I allow the use of some figures downloaded from the web, but you should cite the reference or give the website. Figure legends should be your own with succinct and clear information.

□ *Style:* Papers will be judged on their organization and the clarity of writing. Papers that have numerous misspellings or grammatical errors will be rated poorly and this rating will seriously impact the grade. Proofread carefully. Use spelling checkers. Have others read the paper both for clarity and content.

The paper should follow **APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition writing style 12 point font- citation systems of Name-Year.**

Categories of term paper topics you can choose from;

Earth	Soils	Plants
Water	Streams	Rivers Pollution

Wind                      Tornados                      Earthquakes  
Geological Features                      Volcanos

If you have a topic in mind that is not list ask the instructor if the topic is acceptable.

Student may further develop and use a specific sub-topic from each category.

You have to provide **1- page outline** of your term paper outline along with minimum 3 references (full-text scientific research papers in PDF format) covering your term paper topic (**Due: September 13th**).

**Peer-review** You will **upload your working draft of term paper by November 15th** and start to receive comments and suggestions from your class mates. You will incorporate those suggestions and recommendations in your finalized term paper. You will review the papers of at least 3 class mates using Microsoft Word Review Tools. You will complete the review then upload it to the Group link provided using the following format: **last name\_ Review Authors last name\_ date** This process allows the student to improve the paper with suggestions from peers before the final submission. **To receive full credit:**

**i) you have to upload your draft by November 15th,**

**ii) Read and provide feedback on minimum 3 drafts of your classmates (due by November 22)**

**iii) Submit your Final paper by December 4th midnight to the link provided.**

#### Course Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (Percentage or points)	Total
Exams	3 at 100 points each	300
Final Exam	100 points	100
Blackboard Quizzes	6 at 25 each	150
Group Discussion Boards	14 at 10 point each	140
Self- Introduction Practice D. Board	1 at 10 points	10
Laboratory Exercises	4 at 25 points each	100
Research Term Paper	100 points (20 outline, 20 Peer review, 60 Final paper)	100
Total		900

#### Grade Determination:

A = 810 - 900

B = 720 - 809

C = 630 - 719

D = 540 -629

F = 539 or less

#### University Policies and Procedures

##### Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, in Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

##### Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

##### Assignment Policy:

Late submissions for blackboard quizzes and discussions will not be accepted unless they are accompanied with a doctor's note or proof of legitimate school-related activity before the beginning of the next class.

Discussions should be built using notes and readings from the textbook slides. You may draw on previous knowledge or experience that is not covered in the chapter. Use this opportunity to be creative and think critically about the material you have read in the chapter to formulate a good discussion post. During class we will address discussion subject matter and address any questions students may have regarding expectations.

**Exam Policy:**

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at

[http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

**Bad Weather Policy:**

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Optional Policies:**

Blackboard will be used to administer quizzes and provide access to power point presentations. Condensed versions of power point presentations will be available after lecture at my earliest convenience. It will not be used to keep track of grades for students. I recommend that you keep track of your grades on your copy of the syllabus.

Laptops use should be limited to note taking purposes.

Cell phones and mp3 players should be turned off and put up during class.

Food is prohibited in the classroom. It is ok to have drinks, but make sure they have tight-fitting lids to prevent spills and embarrassment.

A grade of incomplete "I" will only be given if the student has a passing grade before they are legitimately prevented from attending and completing the course.