

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**2015 Summer Session 2 Syllabus**  
**GEOG 1710D.031 Earth Science 3Hrs**  
**GEOG 1710D.331 Laboratory 0Hrs**  
**Division of Liberal Arts & Life Sciences**

<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Charcacia T Sanders
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	N/A
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11am - 1pm if you need another time, please email)
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Online
<b>Class 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 1710.390 Lab
<b>Required Text:</b>	Geosystems: Ninth Edition, 2014, 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) 338-1616; web: <a href="http://www.untdallas.edu/ourcampus/library">http://www.untdallas.edu/ourcampus/library</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a>

**Course Goals or Overview:**

The goal of this course is to...  
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 be able to:

1	Understand and apply the scientific method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.
2	Recognize scientific and quantitative methods of inquiry, and to be able to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretations based upon these approaches.
3	Relate how energy from the Sun drives atmospheric processes and how atmospheric currents transport matter and transfer energy.

4	Analyze the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the oceans and the flow of energy through the oceans.
5	Characterize the water cycle in terms of its reservoirs, water movement among reservoirs and how water has been recycled throughout time.
6	Describe elements of weather and the factors that cause them to vary from day to day.
7	Examine the natural and human-caused processes that cause Earth's climate to change over intervals of time ranging from decades to millennia.
8	Describe the development of the current theory of plate tectonics and the evidence that supports this theory.
9	Demonstrate ability to recognize, describe, and measure geologic features and surface processes and use them to interpret landforms
10	Analyze the characteristics and importance of Earth's systems and their effect on living systems

### Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by announcements posted in Blackboard by Monday during the week of the change.

TOPICS	POINTS	TIMELINE
Module 1: The Energy – Atmosphere System		
Discussion Board: Self Introduction	10	Due: 07/15
Lab Exercise: Solar Radiation and Heating	25	Due: 07/17
Practice Quiz	25	Due: 07/20
Project: Phase 1 – Evaluate Data	15	Due: 07/20

Module 2: The Water, Weather, and Climate Systems		
Discussion Board	30	Due: 07/22
Lab Exercise: Climate Change	25	Due: 07/24
Practice Quiz	25	Due: 07/27
Project: Phase 2 – Generate Strategies (will not be graded)	0	Due: 07/27
Midterm Exam (Module 1 and 2)	100	Due: 08/01

Module 3: The Dynamic Earth		
Discussion Board	30	Due: 07/29
Lab Exercise – Plate Tectonic Theory	25	Due: 07/31
Practice Quiz	25	Due: 08/03
Project: Phase 3 – Draft	45	Due: 08/04

Module 4: The Biosphere		
Discussion Board	30	Due: 08/05
Peer Review	50	Due: 08/07
Lab Exercise: Soil Porosity and Permeability Lab	25	Due: 08/07
Practice Quiz	25	Due: 08/10
Project: Phase 4 – Revision/Presentation	90	Due: 08/12
Final Exam (Modules 3 and 4)	100	Due: 08/14
<b>Total Points Accumulated</b>	<b>700</b>	

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

**Assignments** – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

**Projects** – web development assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented course material

**Class Participation** – participation in class discussions and peer reviews

### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Laboratory Exercises	4 exercises at 25 points each	100
Practice Quizzes	4 quizzes at 25 points each	100
Project	1 project for 150 points	150
Midterm Exam	1 exam at 200 points	100
Final Exam	1 exam at 200 points	100
Class Participation/ Discussion	3 discussion boards at 30 each/1 peer review for 50 points	140
Self Introduction Discussion	1 discussion at 5 points	10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>700</b>

### Grade Determination:

A = 700 – 630 pts

B = 629 – 560 pts

C = 559 – 490 pts

D = 480 – 420 pts

F = 419 pts or below

## 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, 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:**

- All assignments will be submitted on Blackboard and will not be accepted via email unless otherwise arranged.
- Discussion boards will be based on case studies related to the current content. You may use materials from the course, personal experiences, and outside resources as a tool in the discussion board. Although, you may use outside resources, please adhere to academic integrity using MLA format to reference resources.
- Late submission of quizzes and discussion board posts will result in a 15% point deduction each day past due.
- Quizzes and discussion board posts submitted more than 2 days after the due date will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.
- The last quiz and discussion board will not be accepted late.
- Projects and Exams will not be accepted unless student can provide valid documentation for missing the due date.

**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%20Integrity.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. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. 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:**

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.