

Geography 105: The Dynamic Earth Syllabus:

Dr. Eric Larsen

Office: Science B331

Phone: 715-346-4098

Email: elarsen@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00, Tuesday 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

Text: The Blue Planet

Brian Skinner & Barbara Murck

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts in physical geography & earth science. Topics are organized around the following “spheres:”

- 1.) Atmosphere
- 2.) Biosphere
- 3.) Hydrosphere/cryosphere
- 4.) Lithosphere

The emphasis of the course is on the **processes** driving physical systems on the earth, the interactions between physical systems/spheres, and human influences on the physical environment. These processes result in specific geographic **patterns** that affect all aspects of the earth's physical environment. The **overall objective** of the course is to understand how the 4 spheres interact and combine to form the (ever-changing) world physical system.

Format and Policies:

There are two hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory each week. You are expected to attend lecture since the material covered in lecture provides the basis for work done in lab. Additionally, lecture material will not necessarily duplicate material presented in the assigned readings. You are **REQUIRED** to attend lab, since some of the materials required for lab are not available outside of the scheduled lab time.

You are responsible for all material covered in class and lab. Exams and quizzes will be given during lab time as listed in the course calendar. **Make-up exams or quizzes are only allowed for extreme cause and with a verified excuse.**

Required material:

- Skinner & Murck. The Blue Planet: An Introduction to Earth System Science. Available as a rental text.
- Lemke, K.A., M.E. Ritter & N. Heywood The Dynamic Earth.
- Lab materials: pencils, eraser, colored and calculator. You must purchase/provide these.

Class meeting times:

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, 11:00-12:00 Science B328

Lab: Monday, 1:00-3:00 – Science B328

Grading: The final course grade is based on 3 exams and lab exercises. They are weighted as follows:

Exam 1	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Exam 2	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Exam 3	100 points	(your percentage score on exam)
Lab exercises	100 points	(your percentage score on exercises)

Exams and quizzes should be taken at the scheduled time. Make-up exams/quizzes are only allowed for **just cause** and **advance notice** to the instructor.

How grades are calculated: There are 400 points possible. Let's say (for example) you received the following PERCENTAGE scores on your work:

Exam 1	87%
Exam 2	75%
Exam 3	92%
Lab Exercises	95%

So your final grade would be $(87+75+92+95) = 349/400 = 87.25\%$

<u>Grades:</u> Letter grade	Percentage of total points
A	≥ 93%
A-	≥90%
B+	≥87%
B	≥83%
B-	≥80%
C+	≥77%
C	≥73%
C-	≥70%
D+	≥67%
D	≥60%
F	<60%

Exams: Exam questions are based on lectures, the textbook, location list (next page), and any other required readings. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

Lab Exercises: Lab exercises are due at the end of lab class unless otherwise stated. Labs will be checked for completeness, but only selected questions (2-5 per lab, chosen at random) will be graded on each lab. The instructor will post answers to lab questions. **You are responsible for checking your own answers, correcting your mistakes, and asking for help when needed. Late labs will be assessed a 20% penalty. They will only be accepted up to two weeks from original due date.**

Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Student Commitment: You are expected to attend class, actively participate, complete all assignments, and take personal responsibility for your education. You are also expected to read all assigned materials and to ask informed questions regarding the subject matter. As per the Student Handbook, students should anticipate two hours of outside course work for each hour of lecture or lab. If you're having difficulty completing the course work you should consult with the instructor.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Your rights and responsibilities within the UWSP campus community, including required behavior by students and faculty within the classroom environment are detailed in these documents:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>.

Please make note of the following PDF document, specifically pages 2-9, that explains your 1. responsibility and rights within the UWSP campus community, 2. required academic respect by students and faculty within the classroom environment, and 3. academic dishonesty policy and procedure.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Location List:

Various maps are included in the geog105 class Canvas folder, covering different continents. The following is a list of some of the geographic places and features which will be referred to in class. You will need to be able to identify these places/features on a map on exams (as explained in class). In addition to the online class folder, the internet and the library have many maps available. Alternately, you may wish to purchase an atlas (not required).

- 1.) **Continents and Oceans:** North America, South America, Europe & Asia (Eurasia), Africa, Australia, Antarctica. Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, North Sea, Bering Sea.
- 2.) **North America:** Canada, United States (including individual states), Mexico, Greenland, Belize, Costa Rica. Coast Range(s), Cascade Range, Sierra Nevada, Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, Gulf-Atlantic coastal plain, Aleutian Islands. Mississippi River, Missouri River, Ohio River, Yukon River, Colorado River, Snake River, Rio Grande River, Columbia River, the Great Lakes (individual lakes), Hudson Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of California.
- 3.) **South America:** Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Galapagos Islands. Andes Mountains, Atacama Desert, Pampas, Patagonia, Amazon River.
- 4.) **Eurasia (Europe & Asia):** Iceland, Great Britain, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Mongolia, China, India, Japan, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand. Alps (mountains), Arabian Peninsula, Himalaya Mountains, Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert. Aral Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Lake Baykal (Baikal), Ganges River, Brahmaputra River, Salween River, Mekong River, Yangtze River.
- 5.) **Africa:** Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Atlas Mountains, Sahara Desert, Kalahari Desert, Namib Desert. Nile River, Congo River, Senegal, Madagascar, Algeria, Gabon.
- 6.) **Australia and New Zealand:** Australia, New Zealand. Great Sandy Desert, Great Victoria Desert, Great Dividing Range, Southern Alps, Campbell Island, Stewart Island.
- 7.) **Antarctica:** Transantarctic Mountains, Ross Ice Shelf.