

## **GEOG 103: Our Dynamic Planet**

Department of Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences

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### ***Course Description: GEOG 103 (GEOL 103):***

Our Dynamic Planet will introduce the spatial dimension of Earth's dynamic systems with a special emphasis on how their many interrelationships affect humans and their environment. These systems include air, water, weather, climate, tectonics, landforms, and ecosystems.

### ***Learning Objectives for Colonnade Program:***

For students entering WKU in Fall 2014 or after, this course FULFILLS the Colonnade Program's requirements for the Natural and Physical Sciences subcategory of the Explorations Category. As part of that program, GEOG 103 (GEOL 103) has the following learning objectives:

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of science inquiry.*
- 2. Explain basic concepts and principles in one or more of the sciences.*
- 3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences.*
- 4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance*

### ***Learning Objectives for GEOG 103 (GEOL 103):***

The course objectives for GEOG 103 (GEOL 103) are designed to integrate fully with the Colonnade Program. Upon successfully completing GEOG 103(GEOL 103), you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic earth system characteristics applied to the physical laws of science.
- Describe the physical forces that interact to yield the weather, climate, geologic, and hydrologic processes of a specific location.
- Observe and interpret visual representations of variations and trends in earth systems, such as energy, temperature, water, carbon, and landforms.
- Identify and apply applicable information to real-life situations, and communicate said information effectively.

### ***Class Format and Policies:***

- 1- This course is administered with WKU's Blackboard software, which is accessible at <http://blackboard.wku.edu/> . The Blackboard web site will be your entry point for all course materials not contained in the textbook.

#### ***Special Note on Blackboard & Web Browsers:***

*Some web browsers interact with Blackboard better than others. Firefox is the*

*preferred browser for use with WKU's Blackboard for most. If you receive an error message about an invalid file type when attempting to upload an assignment file, then you need to change the browser version or type of browser that you use. In Blackboard, see the tab "Browser Compatibility" for further information or call the IT HelpDesk at 270-745-700*

**2- Material needed:**

- **Text: (Required) Physical Geography:** A Landscape Appreciation 11<sup>th</sup> edition by Darrel Hess. Published by Pearson. I recommend an e-text version that can be purchased from the publisher. The exercises are built on the 11<sup>th</sup> edition so if you purchase an earlier edition there may be a few discrepancies but it will work.
- **You must use your topper/WKU email.**
- **Courteousness:** Please be professional and courteous at all times during this course in emails, discussion boards etc., not only with the professor but also with classmates. Treat emails with professionalism and remember that you are not texting.

**Grades & Course Expectations:**

- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale is as follows: A (90% - 100%), B (80-90%), C (70-80%), D (60- 70%), F (Below 60%). Keep track of your grades on Blackboard. Curving will be done by my discretion. There is no extra credit, please do not ask.
- The final course grade is based on:  
Exams (5) 65%  
Exercise 15%  
Quizzes 20%
- Exams are timed and closed book. Students must pass the each exam with a 60% or higher before moving on to the next unit. If an exam score is below 60% then students are encourage to spend more time on the material and to retake the exam when better prepared. This must be established with the instructor before the retake will be available. Moving on to the next unit should not begin until the current exam has been passed. The second score must be greater than 60% but the grade received, for the exam, will be an average of the two exam scores. If students fail the exam twice then the student and instructor will meet to establish what must take place.

**Suggested Course Schedules:** Below you will find two suggested course schedules to help you organize your studies. These schedules are meant as a guideline to help those who need to complete their course in a certain timeframe.

**Need to finish your course within a semester? Here is a suggested course schedule:**

Week	Assignments	Exams
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1	Chapter 1 and 2	
2	Chapter 3	
3	Chapter 4	Exam 1
4	Chapter 5 and 6	
5	Chapter 7	
6	Chapter 8	Exam 2
7	Chapter 9 and 10	
8	Chapter 11	
9	Chapter 12	Exam 3
10	Chapter 13 and 14	
11	Chapter 15	
12	Chapter 16	Exam 4
13	Chapter 17 and 18	
14	Chapter 19	
15	Chapter 20	Exam 5

Need to finish your course within seven weeks? Here is a suggested course schedule:		
Week	Assignments	Exams
1	Chapter 1, 2, and 3	
2	Chapter 4, 5, and 6	Exam 1
3	Chapter 7, 8, and 9	Exam 2
4	Chapter 10, 11, and 12	Exam 3
5	Chapter 13, 14, and 15	
6	Chapter 16, 17, and 18	Exam 4
7	Chapter 19 and 20	Exam 5

***Other important details:***

***AI tools prohibited:*** Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#).

***Ogden Student Course Attendance Statement:***

The faculty and staff of Ogden College of Science and Engineering are committed to providing you with learning experiences and opportunities. You must assume ownership of your education and be an active participant in the classroom and laboratory to take advantage of these opportunities. Active participation requires you to attend. Scientific studies have shown that attendance during scheduled classroom and laboratory meetings is directly correlated to your performance on assignments and exams and the potential to earn higher grades. Additionally, if you do not regularly attend class, you are missing important information about course topics, due dates, and assignment details that are crucial to your success in the course. Therefore, as a student enrolled in an Ogden course, you are expected to attend every class meeting and to inform your instructor regarding the reasons for any absences as soon as practical. Your instructor may incorporate class attendance/participation as part of the grading

criteria.

***Students with disabilities:***

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email [atsarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:atsarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

***Inclusion Statement:***

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

***Land Acknowledgement Statement:***

The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This particular region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (ᏌᏍᏏᏉᏍᏏ Tsalaguwetiyi) tribes.

We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the [Jonesville History Project](#), "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain

***Schedule Change Policy:***

The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences strictly adheres to university policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented stress will not be considered legitimate circumstances.

***Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:***

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated. WKU adheres to a strict policy against plagiarism and cheating (see Scholastic Dishonesty Code in your Handbook). Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated, and appropriate penalties will be faced by anyone who violates this policy. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. All academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. Other examples of academic dishonesty include but are not allowing other students to copy your work, using work from previous semesters, and plagiarism. To take exams with the help of someone else in the class or notes/book is considered cheating. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an 'F' with special designation for plagiarism/cheating. This will remain on your permanent academic record.

***Title IX Discrimination and Harassment:***

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

***Learning Center (TLC):***

Should you require academic assistance; TLC provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DSU and TLC@ FAC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and 8 academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area and offers a 32-machine computer lab to complete academic coursework. TLC has 4satellite locations; each is a quiet study center equipped with a small computer lab. These satellite locations are located in FAC, Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. Contact TLC @ DSU for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. 270 745- 6254.

***The Writing Center:***

The Writing Center has locations in Cherry Hall 123 and in the Commons at Cravens Library on the Bowling Green campus. The Glasgow Writing Center is located in room163 on the Glasgow campus. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance

or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions on the website ([www.wku.edu/writingcenter](http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter)) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment. More information about the Glasgow Writing Center hours can be found at the website: <http://www.wku.edu/glasgow/writingcenter.php>.

***The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:***

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc).