

## Geography 1301-151/1301-451 – SS1\_2022

Instructor: Greg Ramzinski ([gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu))

### Office Hours:

- I will not have specific office hours in the summer.
- Please e-mail me to set up an appointment to meet with me in my office, this will allow me to prepare for our meeting. My office locations are:
  - Reese Center Office 316F (Located in Building 3)
  - Levelland Campus Office (AD 128)
- You can also e-mail me at the address above to set up a time to speak virtually via Zoom if you are unable to meet at one of my office locations.
- You may also e-mail me your questions and I will respond to them as well.

### Course Description

- The course will provide the student with a general overview of the planet Earth by an examination of the climate, soil, flora, and fauna from the equator to the polar regions. The course will also examine the interaction of various processes on the planet and the impact of human interactions with the planet.
- The schedule of topics covered is located on the last page.

**Credit:** 3      **Lecture:** 3      **Lab:** 0 (there is no lab associated with this course)

### Contact Information

- If you have questions during the semester, please contact me sooner rather than later. The sooner we resolve the situation and get your questions answered, the sooner you can proceed in the course. If the presentation of the material is not clear, please ask.

### **I am available to answer questions in the following manners:**

- Send me an e-mail with questions. My e-mail is [gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu)
  - ***Due to the increasing rate of phishing, e-mails from non-SPC accounts will be immediately deleted. E-mail me from your SPC e-mail account only.***
- Send me an e-mail to set up an online meeting via Zoom or a face-to-face meeting if you prefer a live conversation. I will send you a link for the Zoom meeting or schedule the time to meet face-to-face.
- DO NOT send me a message using Blackboard, I do not check this forum. E-mail is the best way to contact me.
- I typically **do not** check my e-mail after 9:00 AM on Sundays so I can spend time with my family.

### **Materials for the course:**

- There is not a textbook for this course.
- Students will need access to a computer with internet access.
- Materials will be found on Blackboard.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. **Critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Empirical & Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of data and observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
6. **Social Responsibility:** to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence of local, national, and global issues, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### **Grading**

- Grading will be based on:
  - Results of three examinations, each worth 100 points.
  - Results of an individual project designed and presented by each student.
  - Result of an assignment completed by each individual student.
  - Results of quizzes on Blackboard each worth 5 points.
  - Scoring breakdown:
    - Exam #1 – 100 points
    - Exam #2 – 100 points
    - Exam #3 – 100 points
    - Quizzes – 70 points (14 quizzes over the course of the semester)
    - Assignments
      - One Assignment - 5 points
      - Project Presentation – 100 points
        - Project proposal – 20 points
        - Project presentation – 80 points
    - Total possible points during the semester = 475 points.
- Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.
  - Exam questions will be taken from the course materials as presented in lecture and videos posted in Blackboard. Take the time to watch the videos, they provide an excellent supplement to the materials presented in class. Most videos are 10 – 15 minutes in length and can be viewed on a smartphone, tablet, or computer.

- The project description and criteria will be posted on Blackboard.
- Quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true/false.
- Grades will be determined by division of the total possible points (475) divided by the total of points earned by adding the scores of each of the three exams, assignments, and the total points obtained on the quizzes.
  - For example:
    - Exam #1 – 88
    - Exam #2 – 92
    - Exam #3 – 94
    - Project – 82
    - Total points earned on quizzes and assignment – 65
    - $88 + 92 + 94 + 82 + 65 = 421$  (total points earned)
    - $421 \div 475 = 88.6$  (B)
- The grading scale will be:
  - $100 - 90 = A$
  - $89 - 80 = B$
  - $79 - 70 = C$
  - $69 - 60 = D$
  - $< 60 = F$
  - If a student receives a final grade ending in .5 or higher, the grade will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g.: 89.5 would be rounded up to 90).
  - If a student received a final grade ending in .4 or lower, the grade will be rounded down to the previous whole number (e.g.: 89.4 would be rounded down to 89).
- Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the entire class and found in the “Course Resources” section on Blackboard.

### **Instruction Delivery**

- Instruction will be delivered online through video lectures and supplemental materials.
  - Due to this being an online course, you will need the following:
    - Appropriate technological skill and technology to complete the class.
    - An up-to-date laptop or daily computer access.
    - Daily internet access.
    - Access to MySPC, Blackboard, and SPC e-mail.
- Students will take a brief quiz over the materials of the previous class before moving on to the next class. It is highly recommended quizzes be taken on a computer.
- Students are expected to view class presentation each week of the semester.
- Supplemental materials can be viewed on your smartphone or other mobile device.

### **Attendance Policy**

- Each student is expected to participate in each class. If a student is absent from class or misses an assignment, proper documentation must be provided to the instructor to

receive an excused absence or time to make up the assignment. Excessive absences will result in the student being dropped from the class.

- This class is an online class and attendance will be taken by the completion of a quiz. Each student is expected to complete the quiz covering materials from the previous class before reviewing the materials from the scheduled class period.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth's physical systems and processes.
2. Describe and explain the processes of Earth's physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes, and landform development. Ability to explain the various types of flora and fauna in specific geographic regions and adaptations promoting survival in the environment.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth's physical systems.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth's physical systems.

### **Course Management**

1. A student with a disability, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning, who wishes to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office within three weeks after the semester begins so appropriate arrangements can be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide appropriate documentation of the disability. For more information, please call or visit the Disability Service Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office or call 806-716-2577.
2. Assignment extensions and make-up examinations will be made on a case-by-case basis and granted at the discretion of the instructor. A significant and verifiable reason must exist. If an assignment or exam is missed, please contact the instructor by phone or e-mail. For consideration for an extension or make-up exam, the student must contact the instructor before the due date.
3. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated!** Each student is to be familiar with South Plains College's policy on academic integrity. Any violations of these policies will be dealt with in accordance with the current South Plains College policy. If there are questions regarding this policy, please contact your instructor.
4. The syllabus is a living document and can be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor. If changes are made, the changes will be announced in class and the current syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.
5. Classes will be made available at the beginning of each week. Students are highly recommended to watch each week of classes as they are posted during the semester. Studies have shown class attendance and participation reflect a higher grade at the end of the semester. An excused absence does not relieve you of meeting all course requirements. If you are unable to attend class, please notify the instructor ahead of

time and/or provide the instructor with an approved excused absence. Excessive absences can result in your dismissal from the course.

6. If you are unable to view a class due to unforeseen circumstances, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Keeping the instructor informed will help you in the event you fall behind and need extra time to complete quizzes and/or exams. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.
7. Plan ahead. This will help you balance your schedule during the entire course of the semester. If you need help in planning your schedule to balance school, work, and family, ask for help. If the instructor does not know, help cannot be provided.

### **Course Expectations/Policies**

1. The classroom is a learning environment. This space is understood to be a location where all are respected and all participants will conduct themselves in a mature and courteous manner permitting open and honest discussion no matter the mannerism, idea, opinion, or belief.
2. College is a privilege, not a right! Take advantage of this opportunity.
3. *Attendance in a college class means active participation in the class.* Ask questions, take notes, raise points for discussion, engage the instructor and your classmates. You will benefit the more you are engaged.

### **Late Assignments & Extra Credit**

- If extra credit is offered, it will be due on the specified day. If the work is late, the student will not receive credit for the extra credit work.
- Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the entire class and found in the “Course Resources” section on Blackboard.
- No late work will be accepted without an approved excuse. Please see the SPC General Catalog under “Class Attendance”  
[http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=1492&hl=absence&returnto=search#Class Attendance](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=1492&hl=absence&returnto=search#Class%20Attendance)
  - This will also apply to the missing of quizzes or exams which are open for a limited period of time. If you are unable to access a quiz or exam during the time it is open, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor immediately to rectify the situation.
- The project will be worked on during the course of the entire semester. The due date will be posted on Blackboard and in the project description. Late projects will not be accepted.

### **Class Materials**

- Supplemental class materials can be found on Blackboard.

### **Course Materials**

- The materials for this course are all open source. The student will need access to a computer to be able to view the referenced materials and videos used during the course. The material and videos links will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Drops and Withdrawals**

- From the South Plains College Catalog page 21, “Any student withdrawing from all classes on the Levelland Campus must report in person to the Advising Center in the Student Services Building for a withdrawal form. Instructions for obtaining a clearance from some departments of the college will be given at this time. Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from classes at the South Plains College Reese Center must report, in person, to the Advising Center at the South Plains College Reese Center building 8 for a withdrawal form. Students at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center should contact the advisor at the center for the withdrawal from. Students at the Plainview Extension Center must contact the Counseling Office in person for a withdrawal form. Students who stop attending a class should go through the procedure for dropping a course; otherwise they may be administratively withdrawn for lack of attendance and their record will show an “X” or “F” instead of a “W.” Failure to follow college policy by withdrawing according to this procedure will be reflected on a student’s transcript by the presence of “X” or “F” marks, as determined by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through his or her student online account with Campus Connect. A mark of “W” will be given for student-initiated drops or withdrawals that occur prior to and through “The Last Day to Drop” as indicated in the online academic calendar. A student who quits attending class and is administratively withdrawn from class will receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor through “The Last Day to Drop” as indicated in the online academic calendar. A student administratively dropped by the instructor may be reinstated, with the approval of the appropriate instructor. A student must initiate a request for reinstatement within seven (7) calendar days of the official date of drop by personally contacting the course instructor.”
- Dropping the course: The student must drop this course at the South Plains College registrar’s office (there is no on-line drop system so on-line students must take care of this in person at the registrar’s office). This is an official procedure which is described in the South Plains College Catalog. No one but the student can initiate the drop and it must conform to the procedure for dropping a course. Failure to initiate and finalize the drop procedure will result in an F grade on your transcript. The drop cannot be made retroactive. The drop date can be found on the South Plains College calendar.

### **Academic Honesty & Integrity**

- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. This includes the submission of

work completed by another individual or the purchase and submission of materials completed by another individual as your own work.

- Materials used in the research and development of the project must be cited and referenced in the Bibliography/Annotations section of the project. All citations will follow the Chicago author-date style (see the website links on the first page under “Course Objectives”).
  - **Wikipedia is NOT to be used as a source.**
  - Use only credible sources. Read the following articles to determine if your source is a credible source.
    - <https://www.academia-research.com/freelance-writing/crediblenon-credible-sources/>
    - <https://elink.io/p/credible-vs-non-credible-sources-9e08d40>
- *Any student found to be in violation of the academic honesty policy will immediately be dropped from the course.*

### **Student Code of Conduct**

- Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others’ behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

- South Plains College does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.
- Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement: If you are pregnant, or have given birth been within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations, you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student’s responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

- Please refer to the SPC Concealed Carry policy found here <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

### **SPC Face Covering Statement**

- As we return to full capacity, there is still the potential for the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Face-coverings are optional but should be worn should you feel the need.

- If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.
  - Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
  - Fever or chills
  - Muscles or body aches
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376.

### **Blackboard Accessibility Standards**

- Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third-party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®) tool, see the VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1. For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA see Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement. To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)
- All technological questions should be directed to the South Plains College technology center (their information is on the opening page of Blackboard). I do not solve technological/computer problems.

### **Student Privacy**

- South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, the instructor will NOT release or discuss the student's class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but the student. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from the instructor – if they need this sort of information, they must ask the student for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

## **Calendar Schedule – SS1 2022**

- Week 1 – Week of June 5
- Week 2 – Week of June 12
- Week 3 – Week of June 19
- Week 4 – Week of June 26
- Week 5 – Week of July 3
- SPC Finals – July 8

## **Topic Schedule**

- Week 1
  - Course introduction & The Earth
  - The Earth
  - The Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification System
- Week 2
  - Tropical
    - Tropical wet
    - Tropical wet and dry
  - Exam #1
- Week 3
  - Dry
    - Arid
    - Semi-arid
  - Moderate
    - Mediterranean
    - Humid sub-tropical
    - Marine west coast
- Week 4
  - Continental
    - Humid continental
    - Sub-artic
  - Exam #2
- Week 5
  - Polar
    - Tundra
    - Ice cap
  - Highland
  - Miscellaneous topics
  - Exam #3