Geography 102-001  
Fall 2010 Syllabus

Faculty: Dr. Jean Pilon  
Office: Robinson Hall, Room 475D  
Class Location: Krug Hall, room 242  
Meeting times: Monday, Wednesday, 3:00 to 4:15  
Office Hours: 2:00 to 3:00 Monday, Wednesday at other times by appointment.  
Office Phone (703) 993-4509  
Email: jpilon@gmu.edu  E-mail is the best way to contact me.

Objective:  
This is an introductory course in physical geography. It is designed to provide an understanding of the natural features of the earth including earth-sun relations, weather, climate, soils, vegetation, geology and landforms. As a beginning course, there is considerable introduction of vocabulary as well as processes and concepts. As a geography course, there will be linkages between the various physical features and their location. Little attention will be paid to the impact of man on his environment as this course seeks to establish an understanding of the natural processes prior to additional courses on environmental studies.


Student Requirements: To successfully complete this course, students must complete all assigned readings as well as attend class; neither the textbook nor lecture notes alone will suffice. Students should also complete the exercises related to the chapter being covered in class on the web. Please take note that this course will challenge you intellectually.

Examinations and Examination Policies and Grading Scheme:

1. 5 tests 50%  
2. Participation 10%  
3. Final examination 40%

a. The final examination begins and ends as indicated in the class schedule; there is no additional time for late arrivals.  
b. Once an examination begins you may not leave the room until you have turned in your examination papers.
c. You will not be able to begin any of the examinations after the return of the first completed examination. **Plan ahead, be there early.**

d. Attendance in this course is required. **A sign in sheet will be circulated at every class. It is your responsibility to sign it.** Any absence unless it is a major emergency must have prior approval by the faculty. **Note, missing 60% or more of the classes will result in a grade of S/A.**

e. The Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule and requirements as deemed necessary.

Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be assigned for completion of this course based on the cumulative score of all evaluated work. Rather than assign individual letter grades for each project listed below, they will be evaluated on a percent basis from which the final, total, score will be determined.  
A+ = 100-98, A= 97-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-86, B=85-83, B-82-80, C+=79-76, C=75-71, C-= 70-69, D=68-60, F=below 60.

**Academic Integrity:**  
Academic integrity is essential, each individual is expected to do his or her own work; violations of the University Honor Code will not be tolerated and will result in course failure. The University Honor Code is detailed in [http://catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu). The Honor Code will be strictly enforced.

**Individuals with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703/993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Classroom Expectations:**
1. Students are expected to be on time for class. Regular attendance is strongly recommended. Classes are particularly intensive and missing classes will jeopardize your performance in this class.
2. Should circumstances arise that make you late, do not disrupt the class as you enter, take the first available seat and do not walk across the room.
3. Do not eat or drink in the class, unless you bring enough for everyone.
4. Clean up after yourself. If you pack it in, pack it out; leave your seat better than you found it. Remember, take only notes and leave only a warm seat.
5. In the event of any class cancellation, including inclement weather (e.g. snow), the class will resume where we left off. Adjustments, if necessary, will be made later.
6. For each hour of in-class time you should anticipate three hours to complete out-of-class work and preparation.
7. Cell Phones and pagers **must be turned off** during class. Zero tolerance!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/20</td>
<td>Introduction to Physical Geography</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/25</td>
<td>The Geographer’s Tools</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>01/27</td>
<td>Earth-Sun Geometry and the Seasons</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/01</td>
<td>The Global Energy System</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/03</td>
<td>Global Temperature Patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/08</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>02/10</td>
<td>Review test 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/15</td>
<td><strong>Atmospheric Pressure, Wind and Global Circulation</strong></td>
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<td>02/17</td>
<td>Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation</td>
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<td>02/22</td>
<td>Air Masses and Cyclonic Weather Systems</td>
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<td>03/01</td>
<td>Global Climate Processes and Patterns</td>
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<td>03/03</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
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<td>03/15</td>
<td>Plant Geography</td>
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<td>Pedogenic Processes and Soils</td>
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<td>03/22</td>
<td><strong>Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle and Geologic Time</strong></td>
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<td>The Lithosphere and Tectonic Landforms</td>
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<td>Test 3</td>
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<td>03/31</td>
<td>Weathering Processes and Mass Movements</td>
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* 02/02 Last Day to drop with no tuition liability  
**02/02 Last day to add classes  
***02/19 Last day to drop classes
Martin Luther King Day: January 18
Spring Break: Monday March 8 to Sunday March 14
04/05  The Hydrologic Cycle, Groundwater Processes, and Karst Landscapes  15
04/07  Fluvial Processes and Landforms  16
04/12  Test 4
04/14  Glacial Processes and Landforms  17
04/19  Eolian Processes and Landforms  18
04/21  Coastal Processes and Landforms  19
04/26  Test 5
04/28  Review 1-9
05/01  Review 10-19
05/10  **Final Examination 1:30 to 4:15**

NOTE THE DATES FOR THE CHAPTERS ARE FLEXIBLE

Faculty and students should consult the web at [http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/index.html](http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/index.html) for the complete academic calendar and exam schedule.