

GEOGRAPHY 200

INTRODUCTION

TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Spring, 2006

Course Instructor: Dr. Allan James; AJames@sc.edu 777-6117.

Office Hours Wed. 1:15-2:15 & Thurs. 2:00-3:00, Rm 206 Callcott Building.

Course Web site: Home Page (Public Access): <http://people.cas.sc.edu/ajames/200/>

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.sc.edu/> [log in and go to Geography 200]

Lectures: Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 - 1:45 in Room 101 Callcott Building.

Objectives:

Physical geography explores the physical processes and forms of the Earth's surface systems, including climate, hydrology, biogeography, soils, and landforms. Geography 200 is an introductory level course that emphasizes basic processes and forms of the *atmosphere* (including climates and meteorology), *hydrosphere* (including rivers and oceans), *biosphere* (with emphasis on the distribution and diversity of plants and animals), and the *lithosphere* (with emphasis on the surface forms and processes such as weathering, soils, and landforms). Dominant themes of the course include the spatial distribution of basic physical, chemical, and biological processes, as well as the interactions of humans with the natural systems that support them.

Required TextBook: Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 5th Edition, by Robert W. Christopherson, Prentice Hall. Available in University book stores.

Alternative (not recommended but acceptable): Online digital book subscription. Prentice Hall offers an online, 150-day, digital subscription to the book for ~half price. This option is experimental and carries no guarantee of ease or reliability. Not having a traditional textbook at your disposal could put you at a disadvantage. For example, if the computer goes down the day before the final exam. If interested in this option, visit: <http://www.safarix.com/>

Grades:

Grades will be determined based on points earned on exams, homeworks, quizzes, and attendance. A total of 450 points is possible as follows:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>% Grade</u>
Two Midterm Exams @100 pt each	200	44
Final Exam	150	33
Homeworks and quizzes	75	17
Attendance	<u>25</u>	<u>6</u>
Total:	450	100

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 26 - 2:00 p.m. in Room 101.