GEOGRAPHY 3301.01: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

TuTh 11:00 am - 12:20 pm, LDB #220 Spring 2018

Instructor: Ava R. Fujimoto-Strait Phone: 936-294-2355 Office: Lee Drain Building #335 Office Hours: TuTh 10:00-11:00; F 1:00-2:00; or by appointment Email Address: axf011@shsu.edu

Course Description:

This course examines the spatial dimensions of the interaction between humans and their physical environment. Key principles on how the Earth and the Earth's ecosystems work, how they are interconnected, and how human use has impacted these natural resource systems, will be introduced. In addition, throughout the course, students will improve written and verbal skills by writing and discussing various environmental issues through written assignments and also through class discussion and debate. I hope that over the course of the semester, you will enjoy exploring these on-going patterns and processes that shape our complex world.

Recommended or Required Materials:

*Marsh, 2005. *Environmental Geography*. 3rd Edition. Wiley Publishers. (ISBN: **978-047-148-2802**) (recommended but NOT required)

*The instructor will also distribute and/or post on Blackboard, supplementary reading material (e.g., newspaper articles; journal articles; etc.) necessary for the course. You will receive a reading packet for the course.

*Non-fictional environmental book (student's choice) - see Book Review

The textbook may also be useful to you as a reference for key concepts and ideas. However, it is important to understand that there is *no substitute for attending class*. Due to the nature of the course, some of the material that is covered and discussed in class will *not* be found in the textbook. Class lectures are drawn from a variety of sources and goes beyond the information covered in the textbook.

Course Format and Grading Policies:

This course will be primarily lecture-based, however, there will be a substantial part of the course designated for discussion on specific complex environmental topics. The instructor will provide students with the necessary readings to complete this discussion component. Material from these discussions will also be incorporated on the mid-term and final exam.

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of your grade. If a student misses more than 25% of the course, the student will fail the course. The course grade will be determined according to the student's performance on 2 exams (a mid-term exam and a final exam), a lab assignment, a research project on a Physical Geographer, a written book review, and class participation/discussion.

Exams (2 exams – each worth 25%)	-	50%
Research Project on a Physical Geographer	-	10%
Lab Assignment	-	10%
Book Review	-	20%
Class Participation/Discussion	-	10%

All assignments must be turned in on time. Any late assignment will have points deducted (10% off for every day the assignment is late). In addition, make-up exams are only given if there is a valid documented excuse. Please make every effort to contact the instructor (either by phone or email) if you will be missing class or need to make-up an exam.

Exams: The exams will be a combination of subjective (i.e., multiple-choice, true/false, matching) and objective (short answer, essay) questions. Exam questions will be drawn from lecture, textbook readings, supplemental readings distributed in class, visual presentations, films, guest lectures, classmate presentations, and class discussion/debate. The final exam is NOT cumulative.

Research Project on a Physical Geographer: Students will choose a Physical Geographer (e.g., climatologist; biogeographer; geomorphologist; oceanographer; etc.) to research and present to the class. Be sure to choose a geographer whose research correlates to your own interests. Research should include a published journal article by your geographer and, if possible, an interview asking how and why this person became a geographer. Presentation dates will be assigned and will occur throughout the semester.

Lab Assignment: There will be one lab assignment this semester that will involve data collection, a few calculations and analysis of an environmental topic. Students may work together on this assignment but each student must turn in their own work.

Book Review: During the semester, students will get to choose a non-fictional environmental book to read, review and relate to the course. Book reviews should be 4-6 pages in length, 12 point font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins. Book reviews are due on the last day of class. Instructor approval of book is necessary.

This is an abbreviated list of possible environmental books to review:

Edward Abbey – Desert Solitare
Al Gore – Earth in the Balance
Julian Simon – The Ultimate Resource
Charles Darwin – On the Origin of Species
Michael Pollan – Second Nature
Jared Diamond – Guns, Germs and Steel
E.O. Wilson – The Diversity of Life
Dixy Lee Ray – Environmental Overkill
Thomas Malthus – Essay on Population
E. Kolbert – Field Notes from a Catastrophe

Sample book reviews can be viewed at the following website linked to the AAG: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rrob20/1/1#.Usj55NGA0dV

Class Attendance/Participation/Discussion: Regular attendance and relevant/insightful discussion (during lecture; on discussion/debate days in class) will be the criteria for 10% of the student's grade in this course.

Important Dates:
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February 1 st	Book and Physical Geographer submitted to instructor for approval
TBA	Research Project on a Physical Geographer
February 22 nd	Mid-Term Exam
March 22 nd	Lab Assignment due
May 3 rd	Book Review due
May 10 th	Final Exam (begins at 12 noon)