

Doane University

Physical Geography-Geg 112

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tom King

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the living and nonliving environments of the earth. Topics addressed include the weather and climate, landforms, solar energy, seasons, the hydrologic cycle, biogeography, and natural hazards. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the principles that govern the circulation of the atmosphere, the processes that produce the physical landscape, and the role of both in contributing to the distribution of living things upon the earth.

TEXT:

Earth: Portrait of a Planet, Fifth Edition

Stephen Marshak

W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

ISBN: ISBN: 978-0-393-93750-3

Required

LEARNING Goals:

The primary purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of the physical environment in which we live. Toward that end, a variety of topics will be covered. As you work your way through the course, keep in mind that many of the topics are interrelated.

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

1. an awareness of the important concepts, facts and terminology of physical geography;
2. an introduction into the way natural systems function at global and regional scales; and
3. an appreciation of the interrelationships between humans and their environment.

LEARNING STRATEGIES:

1. Textbook readings

2. Chapter PPT slideshows
3. Discussion Board Questions
4. Open Book Chapter Exams
5. Short Video Case Studies

Course Requirements

This will be an online course.

Computer Requirements

This course requires that you have access to a computer that can access the internet. You will need to have access to, and be able to use, the following software packages:

- A web browser (ISafari, Chrome or Mozilla Firefox)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Microsoft Office or use **Google Apps**
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You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course.

Email and Internet

You must have an active Doane University e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Doane e-mail account.*

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Blackboard Course Site can be accessed at <http://bb2.doane.edu>

Campus Network or Blackboard Outage

When access to Blackboard is not available for an extended period of time (greater than one entire evening - 6pm till 11pm) you can reasonably expect that the due date for assignments will be changed to the next day (assignment still due by midnight).

Attendance/Participation

Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings & reviewing all information required for that week. *Attendance* in an online course means logging into the Blackboard and on a regular basis and *participating* in the all of activities that are posted in the course.

Late or Missed Assignments

All assignments must be finished and turned in to complete the course. Unless the instructor is notified BEFORE the assignment is due and provides an opportunity for the student to submit his/her assignment late, points may be taken off for a late assignment.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, MUST be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated place to submit the assignment.

Drop and Add dates

If you feel it is necessary to withdraw from the course, please contact your advisor for full details on the types of withdrawals that are available and their procedures.

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Academic Integrity

Doane University expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity, and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. For more information on academic integrity, including the policy and appeal procedures.

Course Grading

Grades and Grading Scale

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
E	59 and below

How to Succeed in this Course

- Check your Doane University email regularly
- Log in to the course web site daily
- Communicate with your instructor
- Create a study schedule so that you don't fall behind on assignments

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email or phone. My preference is that you will try to email me first. I will usually respond to email and phone messages from 8am to 5pm on weekdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond.

If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance (contact information is listed below).

Student Conduct Statement

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in **Doane University Policy Manual**

Appropriate classroom behavior is defined by the instructor. This includes the number and length of

individual messages online. Course discussion messages should remain focused on the assigned discussion topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board messages may be deleted if an instructor feels it is necessary. Students will be notified privately that their posting was inappropriate.

Student access to the course Send Email feature may be limited or removed if an instructor feels that students are sending inappropriate electronic messages to other students in the course.

Technical Support Contact Information

For technical assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please contact the Doane University Technology Office Help Desk:

Phone: 402-826-8411

Email: helpdesk@doane.edu

Web: <http://www.doane.edu>

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at Doane University facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Doane staff coordinate transition from high schools and community colleges, in-service training for faculty and staff, resolution of accessibility issues, community outreach, and collaboration between all Doane regarding disability policies, procedures, and accommodations.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes face-to-face, via email or in the course site Announcements. Please remember to check your Doane University **email** and the course site **Announcements** often.

Weekly Course Schedule: Content subject to change!

Week	Topics/Lessons	Activities	Assignments/Assessments
Week 1 Start - End	Cosmology and the Birth of the Earth	Reading Chapter 1 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz Life in Space Assignment How the Earth Was Made
Week 2 Start – End	Journey to the Center of Earth	Reading Chapter 2 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz
Week 3 Start – End	Drifting Continents	Reading Chapter 3 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Watch Planet Earth Video Study Questions Reading Quiz
Week 4 Start – End	The Way the Earth Works	Reading Chapter 4 Review Slideshow Discussion Board	Open Book Reading Quiz
Week 5 Start – End	Wrath of Vulcan	Reading Chapter 9 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz
Week 6 Start – End	Earthquakes	Reading Chapter 10 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz
Week 7 Start – End	Energy Sources	Reading Chapter 14 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz
Week 8 Start – End	Earth's Atmosphere	Reading Chapter 20 Review Slideshow Discussion Board Videos	Open Book Reading Quiz