

GEOG 2180 – Geosystems, Environment, and Society
Fall 2023
MW 12:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m., ENV 120

Welcoming Remarks

Welcome! My name is Paul Hudak, and I look forward to working with you this semester. In addition to meeting in class, feel free to reach me after class, in my office, via email (hudak@unt.edu), over the phone (940-565-4312), or via Zoom. My office is 310H ENV. Office hours are 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, or by appointment.

About Me

I am a professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at UNT. Originally, I am from northern California, but have also lived in southern California, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and of course Texas. Prior to coming to UNT in 1992, I received a B.S. in geology from Allegheny College, M.S. in geology from Wright State University, and Ph.D. in geography, emphasis in water resources, from the University of California at Santa Barbara. At UNT, I teach various courses in physical geography, geology, water resources, and research methods, as well as supervise graduate students. I also have an active research program, with current interests in groundwater monitoring and remediation, environmental geology, and wetland mitigation. My hobbies include observing nature, hiking, and hanging out with my dogs.

Readings

Readings are from open (free) sources and available in Canvas.

Notes

Notes (slides) presented in class are available in Canvas.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the earth's physical structure and major systems
2. Analyze interactions between humans and the physical environment

Schedule

We will cover several topics, with corresponding readings, in the order presented below:

1. Big Ideas (Reading 1)
2. Sustainability and Ethics (Reading 2)
3. Human Population (Reading 3)
4. Biodiversity (Reading 4)

5. Plate Tectonics and Volcanism (Reading 5)
6. Volcanic Hazards (Reading 6)
7. Earthquakes (Reading 7)
8. Mass Wasting (Reading 8)
9. Coastal Erosion (Reading 9)
10. Water Resources (Reading 10)
11. Flooding (Readings 11 and 11.1)
12. Essential Climate Principles (Reading 12)
13. Air Pollution and Climate Change (Reading 13)
14. Extreme Weather Trends (Reading 14)
15. Energy (Reading 15)

Graded components of the course include: four in-class exams (each 14 points); three homework assignments (each 9 points); and one project (17 points). Total=100 pts. A=90-100 points; B=80-89 points; C=70-79 points; D=60-69 points; and F=less than 60 points.

Exams are written (short answer); closed phone, book, and notes; and non-cumulative. They are scheduled for September 13, October 11, and November 8 during regular class time; and December 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Homework assignments include an online discussion on carrying capacity, an earthquake exercise, and an online discussion on flooding. Assignments are described at the ends of relevant sections in the course notes (slides). Complete them in Canvas by their respective deadlines, which will be announced later during the semester.

For your project, delve further into one of the topics that we addressed during the semester. For example, you might report on a case study (place) that exemplifies one of the topics covered in class; or you might present recent developments, or new perspectives, on a particular topic. Write approximately five pages of typed, double-spaced text. Cite at least five references (sources) in the text and attach a bibliography. Use good search engines such as www.library.unt.edu or Google Scholar to find information on your topic. Also cite and attach any figures or tables referred to in your text. Upload your report to Canvas by 11:59 p.m., December 7.

Extra Credit

The Department of Geography does not allow extra credit assignments (work not specified on a course syllabus).

Academic Integrity Policy

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the university.

Students who cheat or plagiarize will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy

UNT prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The university takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom,

labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.