

GEO 320 W: ALABAMA GEOGRAPHY, FALL SEMESTER 2006
LSCB 18, THURSDAY, 6:00 – 9:40

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed., 1:30-4:00 PM; Thurs. 5:00-6:00 PM, or by appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In GEO 320 students improve writing skills as well as develop an understanding of physical and human features in Alabama. Lectures stress a regional approach to studying spatial patterns, variation, and controls/causative factors across the state of Alabama. The weekly writing assignment (one-two pages) is on the same topic covered at the state level in lecture, but the student researches that topic within his/her chosen Alabama county. Students learn editing skills by peer reviewing assignments in class and by revising their own assignments based on reviews by fellow students and the teacher. They compile their rewritten assignments into a final term paper on their selected county.

COURSE CONTENT: (See attached schedule for details)

Alabama's relative location and its boundaries

Geologic history, physiographic regions, and characteristic landforms

Alabama's weather and climate

Surface water in Alabama

Natural vegetation and soils of Alabama

Soils of Alabama

European settlement patterns and early agriculture

Exploitation of Alabama's forests

Transportation, economic & industrial development

Population characteristics, urban areas, and level of development

Environmental issues in Alabama

Culture (way of life), politics, food, religion

TEXT

No text is available at the college level

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICY

Students are expected to attend and to be on time for ALL classes. Attendance is checked (directly or indirectly). Problems should be discussed with the instructor PRIOR to missing class.

No smoking or eating is allowed during class. You are encouraged to share your ideas and opinions, and you are expected to treat your classmates and professor with courtesy and respect.

MAKEUP EXAMS

Makeup exams must be scheduled as soon as the student returns to class. Makeup exams will be primarily discussion type questions.

ASSIGNMENTS

There is a weekly writing assignment. To receive full credit, it must be turned in on the announced due date unless other arrangements have been made **IN ADVANCE**. Late assignments lose 10% per day. Students should use a word processor for writing assignments and should bring two copies of each writing assignment to class, one to be peer reviewed and returned that night and the other to be turned in to the teacher. Computers are available in the department if you do not have access to your own. After receiving feedback on the writing assignment, students should rewrite it. **For the final term paper, both the reviewed draft assignments and the final revised compiled paper must be turned in.**

EXAMS AND GRADING POLICY

Exams are mostly discussion type questions. They come from the material covered in class. Exam 1 = 10% of final grade, Exam 2 = 11%, and Exam 3 = 12%. Although not totally comprehensive, each exam will incorporate some questions taken directly from any previous exams. Weekly writing assignments count 28% (2% each), participation counts 13% (1% per review + 2% attendance), and the final term paper counts 26%. Final grade is based on the following scale: 100 to 90 = A; 89 to 80 = B; 79 to 70 = C; 69 to 60 = D; below 60 = F.

DISABILITIES

The University of South Alabama provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Andrea Agnew and is located in the Student Center, room 270. The phone number is (251) 460-7212.

CHANGES

The class schedule may be changed if necessary, but students will receive at least 48 hours notice if possible.