

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Geography
GEOG 1300B: Physical Geography
Winter 2016

Instructor:	Mark Moscicki	Lectures:	Mon & Wed 12:30 – 1:20 pm Weldon Library 258
E-mail:	mmoscic@uwo.ca	Labs:	Mon 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Mon 2:30 – 4:30 pm Tue 4:30 – 6:30 pm All labs are in SSC 1059
Office:	SSC 2219		
Office Hours:	Wed 2:00 – 5:00 pm		

Overview:

The course examines the phenomena and processes of the Earth-atmosphere system that underlie human environment interactions and environmental change. The natural physical components and processes operating within the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere are studied. The course introduces a variety of fundamental geographic concepts.

Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to provide students with:

- an understanding of the core themes and concepts in physical geography
- an explanation of the physical principles of atmospheric, lithospheric, hydrologic, and biogeographic processes and their mutual interaction
- a description of the spatial and temporal variations in the characteristics of the environment
- an explanation of the direct and indirect effects of human activity on the physical environment
- an introduction to numerical based geographical problem solving skills
- improved map reading skills and general geographic knowledge

Textbook:

Christopherson, R., Birkeland, G., Byrne, M. and P. Giles (2016): Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography (4th Canadian Edition), Pearson: Toronto, Ont.

Assessment:

<i>Assessment Method</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Laboratory Exercises	Weekly	32%
Midterm Exam #1	Feb 8	14%
Midterm Exam #2	Mar 21	14%
Final Exam	TBA	40%

The midterm exams are each 50 minutes in length. Midterm Exam #1 covers material from Jan 4 through Feb 3. Midterm Exam #2 covers material from Feb 10 through March 16. The final exam is three hours in length and will be scheduled by the registrar's office; it is cumulative therefore it covers material from the entire course. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and discussion questions.

Schedule:

<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>	
			<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Pages</i>
1	Mon Jan 4	Introduction		
2	Wed Jan 6	Geographic Techniques	1	4-37
3	Mon Jan 11	Solar Energy and the Seasons	2	44-58
4	Wed Jan 13	The Atmosphere	3	66-84
5	Mon Jan 18	Energy Balances	4	92-111
6	Wed Jan 20	Wind	6	144-152
7	Mon Jan 25	Global Circulations	6	153-171
8	Wed Jan 27	Atmospheric Moisture	7	182-198
9	Mon Feb 1	Global Temperatures	5	118-138
10	Wed Feb 3	Global Climate Systems	10	276-301
	Mon Feb 8	Midterm Exam #1		
11	Wed Feb 10	Weather Systems	8	208-220
12	Mon Feb 22	The Water Budget	9	242-252
13	Wed Feb 24	Water at the Surface	9	253-268
14	Mon Feb 29	Internal Structure of the Earth	12	348-375
15	Wed Mar 2	Crustal Formation	13	384-400
16	Mon Mar 7	Weathering	14	424-434
17	Wed Mar 9	Karst Landscapes	14	435-447
18	Mon Mar 14	River Systems	15	454-472
19	Wed Mar 16	Floodplains	15	473-484
	Mon Mar 21	Midterm Exam #2		
20	Wed Mar 23	Coastal Environments	16	495-513
21	Mon Mar 28	Glacial Processes	17	534-550
22	Wed Mar 30	Periglacial Landscapes	17	551-561
23	Mon Apr 4	Soils	18	572-599
24	Wed Apr 6	Ecosystems	19	606-634

Laboratory Exercises:

There are eight laboratory exercises; each one will be introduced at the beginning of the lab session and is due one week later. Each exercise is worth 4% of your grade. You may work together when completing the assignments but you each must submit your own exercise.

Laboratory Schedule:

<i>Exercise</i>	<i>Date (Mon)</i>	<i>Date (Tue)</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Jan 18	Jan 19	Topographic Maps; Geographic Techniques
2	Jan 25	Jan 26	Earth-Sun Relations; Seasonality; Air Pressure
3	Feb 1	Feb 2	Radiation Balances; Wind
4	Feb 22	Feb 23	Weather Systems
5	Feb 29	Mar 1	The Water Budget; Groundwater
6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Landforms and Landscapes
7	Mar 14	Mar 15	Fluvial Processes
8	Mar 28	Mar 29	Google Earth Explorations

Accommodation Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed assessments must notify the instructor within 48 hours of the missed assessment. Students must then apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home faculty and provide documentation to that office. For the University of Western Ontario policy on accommodation for medical illness and a downloadable Student Medical Certificate, see this link:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Accessibility:

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for everyone studying, visiting and working at the university. Please contact the instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make the course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at ssd@uwo.ca for any specific questions regarding an accommodation.

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offense at this site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All essays will be submitted to the plagiarism detection software Turnitin and will then be included as documents in the database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in essays subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the current licensing agreement between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.

Computer marked multiple choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate academic misconduct.

Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices other than calculators will be permitted during examinations.

Mental Health:

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources at the university to assist. Visit this site for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

Support Services:

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>