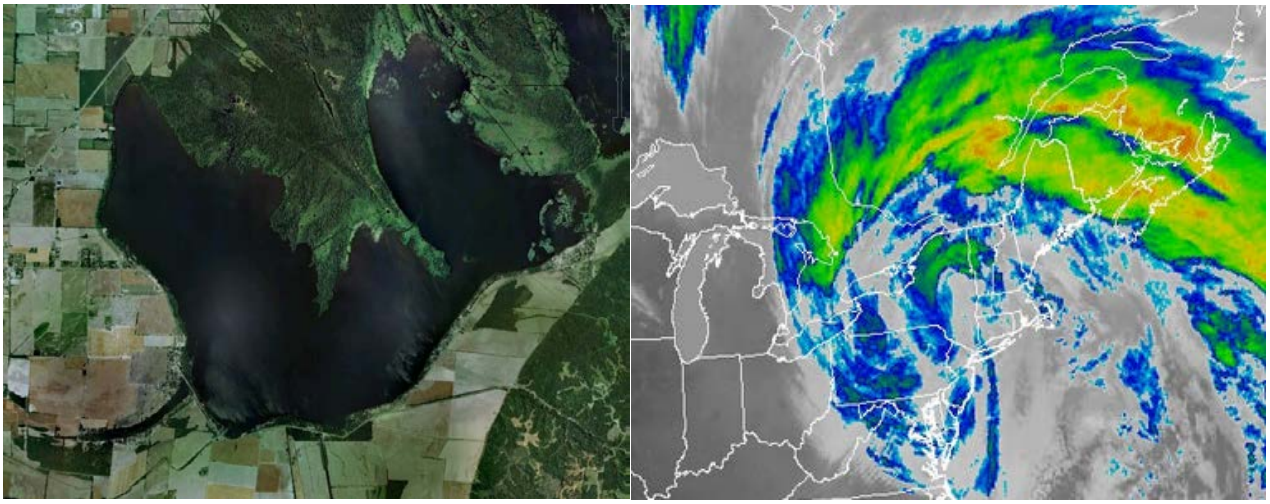
Why Physical Geography?

Well, you know about the quakes in Japan and California, right? What about in the US? And not California! A relatively recent quake in the States caused a major river to change directions.



And of course what about our New England weather! Who remembers the winter we just had? What's this thing called a Nor'easter? And how does it affect us.

The big difference between **Physical Geography** and other lab science courses is that in **Geography** we look at both the **natural landscape and the human one**. It is sort of like combining psychology with biology, or economics with geology, or political science with chemistry. Geography does all that. And Sandy could have flooded this portion of Cape Cod, had it hit landfall in Connecticut.

Potential loss of land on Cape Cod (http://www.climateatlas.org/neslr.html)

After all Geography is:

The study of people and their environments including the spatial distributions, movements and interactions.

If you are still reading this, move to the next page for the details of the course ….

Geography & Regional Planning **Summer 2014 Semester**

GARP0102 Physical Geography (4 Credits)

CLASSROOM: Online
INSTRUCTOR: Robert S. Bristow, Ph.D.
OFFICE: Wilson 203, 572-5215, rbristow@westfield.ma.edu
Please direct all communications regarding this course through the web site (Socrates)
OFFICE HOURS: Asynchronous (online) or by Appointment

GARP0102 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (4 CREDITS): Physical Geography is the study of the spatial variations of the physical phenomena on the surface of the Earth. It focuses on the geosystems of the Earth, including the four major "Spheres": Atmosphere (weather, climatology), Lithosphere (landforms), Hydrosphere (water resources) and Biosphere (flora and fauna). The human-environmental interaction is emphasized. Laboratory and field experiments will explore the various spheres of the Earth and include map interpretation, remote sensing analysis, atmospheric studies, geomorphology investigation and other human-environment interactions. **This course satisfies WSU lab Science core requirement.** No prerequisites.

Course objectives:

1. Identify and understand the scientific theories and processes of the physical environment and the natural world.
2. Employs scientific methodology.
3. Recognize, understand and appreciate the ethical issues and societal impact of scientific endeavors.
4. Recognize and understand the relationships of scientific theories and concepts to human behavior and development.

Text: I use the text by McKnight and Hess. Physical Geography. 9th ed. Prentice Hall. ***But feel free to get any contemporary Introductory Physical Geography text from Amazon or eBay to save $.***

Recommended: *Goode's World Atlas*. Rand McNally. *Any World Atlas will do.*

Course Outcomes and Assessment:

Goal	Outcome	Measurement
Learns the basic vocabulary, history, major theories, and key figures in the fields of geography and planning.	Recognition and appropriate use of terms and context references to historical evolution of the field	Exams and labs that require application of terminology and integration of theory.
Applies spatial analysis skills based on the fundamental concepts of physical, social and cultural geography	Demonstrates geographic literacy in the physical and human dimensions of geography	Place Location/ Outline maps, Quizzes. Classification, Organization, pattern Recognition/ i.e., Köppen's climate Typology

Format: This is an online course where all readings, assignments and tests are found via Socrates. The class is arranged to have six (6) laboratory assignments (40 points each), and six (6) quizzes (40 points each). The 5 best labs and 5 best quizzes will count for the final grade so you can drop a few. Exams are open book.

Grading: 400 total points.

A = 360 + points
B = 320 - 359 points
C = 280 - 219 points
D = 220 - 279 points

Plus and minus grades are determined at end of semester.

Please note the following schedule may change.

Date	Topic	Reading	Laboratory	Quiz
Week 1 19-25 May	Introduction to Physical Geography Portraying Earth	1 2	Geography Trivia Due Mon 26 May 2014 @ midnight	Chaps 1 & 2 Due Mon 26 May 2014 @ midnight
Week 2 26 May – 1 June	Introduction to Atmosphere Insolation and Temperature	3 4	Introduction to Remote Sensing Due Sun 1 June 2014@ midnight	Chaps 3 & 4 Due Sun 1 June 2014 @ midnight
Week 3 2-8 June	Atmospheric Pressure and Wind Atmospheric Moisture Transient Atmospheric Flow	5 6 7	Mapping Weather Data and Forecasting Due Sun 8 June 2014 @ midnight	Chaps 5, 6 & 7 Due Sun 8 June 2014 @ midnight
Week 4 9-15 June	Landforms Internal Processes	13 14	Climate Due Sun 15 June 2014 @ midnight	Chaps 13, 14 Due Sun 15 June 2014 @ midnight
Week 5 16-22 June	Erosion Fluvial	15 16	Hazards Due Sun 22 June 2014 @ midnight	Chaps 15, 16 Due Sun 22 June 2014 @ midnight
Week 6 23-29 June	Glaciation Final Quiz by midnight Sat 29 June 2014	19	Hurricanes (TBD) Due Sat 29 June 2014 @ midnight	Comprehensive Plus Chap 19 Due Sat 29 June 2014