

Geography & Regional Planning

January 2015

GARP0102 Physical Geography (4 Credits)

CLASSROOM: Online

INSTRUCTOR: Robert S. Bristow, Ph.D.

OFFICE: Please direct all communications regarding this course through the web site (Plato)

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 \$.**

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 Plato. The class is arranged to have online 6 laboratory assignments (40 points each), and two multiple choice exams (100 points each). The exams are timed (60 minutes) and both must be completed by Midnight. The 5 best labs will count for the final grade so you can drop one. 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.



GARP0102

Physical Geography Online

Winter 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Lab</u>
Unit 1 (5-6 Jan)	Intro to course	1, 2	Remote Sensing, due 7 Jan
Unit 2 (7 Jan)	Atmosphere	3, 4	World Map Lab, due 9 Jan
Unit 3 (8 Jan)	Pressure & Moisture	5, 6	Wx (Weather), due 11 Jan
Unit 4 (9-10 Jan)	Storms	7	
By Sunday 11 January 2015 MIDNIGHT Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)			
Unit 5 (12 Jan)	Landforms	13	Urban Heat Islands, due 13 Jan
Unit 6 (13 Jan)	Internal Earth	14	Hazards, due 14 Jan
Unit 7 (14 Jan)	Erosion & Fluvial	15, 16	no lab
Unit 8 (15 Jan)	Glaciation	19	Glaciers, due 15 Jan
By Friday 16 January 2015 MIDNIGHT Final Exam (chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 19)			

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



Temperature predictions for 2014-15 Winter (source: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141016_winteroutlook.html)