

Introduction to Physical Geography – Lab

GARP 0102, Sections 01A/01B (Mo, Fr 10:25 to 12:05, Bates 05)

The Physical Geography Lab builds on your knowledge of Physical Geography developed through class lectures, the study of your textbook, and the series of homework assignments. Here you can put your knowledge to use in solving problems that are based on topics addressed in the lecture. Some of the lab exercises also reach out into new directions and explore topics not covered in the lecture or textbook. We will also spend time, as needed, to review material, answer questions, and discuss geography-related news items.

- There is no formal lab manual for this class. Instead, the weekly exercises and related assignments will be distributed at the start of each lab period.
- All lab exercises and assignments must be completed during the respective lab session (unless explicitly stated otherwise).
- Attendance is mandatory as we meet only once every week. Therefore, missing lab (for any reason) leaves you with a considerable gap in your learning process.
- No make-up labs (see grading policy).
- If you feel that you are not progressing as well as you hoped, please feel free to talk to me. The sooner the better! Please do not wait until the end of the semester.
- Please bring each week: notebook, 3-ring binder, ruler, calculator, pencils, etc.

Some Details

- No lab in Week 7 (10/13 and 10/17) and Week 13 (11/24 and 11/28).
- The first two labs sessions are outdoor labs. We will explore the physical geography in the immediate vicinity of Westfield State College and Stanley Park. Please dress appropriately for about 1.5 hours of trail hiking: NO flip flops or sandals – you will not be allowed to participate in the outdoor labs!
- Lab #9 (Week 11) is designated as an At-Home Lab – we will not be meeting for lab that week.

➔ Adjustments to the lab schedule and lab exercises assignments may be required to account for unforeseeable or unavoidable situations during the semester, such as inclement weather.

Lab Grading

Each lab exercise (n = 12) is graded. The mean of the 12 grades will be your lab grade and contributes 25 percent to your final course grade (see lecture syllabus for more grading details).

GARP 0102 Fall 2008 Lab Schedule

Week	Lab	Dates	Theme(s)
Week 1		9/3, 9/5	No Lab
Week 2	Lab #1	9/8, 9/12	Environment, Ecology, and Climate around Westfield State College (outdoor lab)
Week 3	Lab #2	9/15, 9/19	Fluvial Processes and Streamflow: The Little River, Stanley Park (outdoor lab)
Week 4	Lab #3	9/22, 9/26	Topographic Maps I: Location, Scale, and Generalization
Week 5	Lab #4	9/29, 10/3	Topographic Maps II: Elevation, Contour Lines, and Cross Sections
Week 6	Lab #5	10/06, 10/10	Glaciers and Volcanoes: Iceland
Week 7		10/13, 10/17	No Lab
Week 8	Lab #6	10/20, 10/24	The Science of Climate Change and Global Warming: Past, Present, and Future
Week 9	Lab #7	10/27, 10/31	The Earth in Space: The Distribution of Insolation
Week 10	Lab #8	11/3, 11/7	Earth's Radiation Balance: Variations in Time and Space
Week 11	Lab #9	11/10, 11/14	At-Home Lab: The Cost of Climate Change
Week 12	Lab #10	11/17, 11/21	Hurricane Katrina: Air Pressure and Wind Speed Variations
Week 13		11/24, 11/28	No Lab (Thanksgiving Week)
Week 14	Lab #11	12/1, 12/5	Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation: Why does it rain and where?
Week 15	Lab #12	12/8, 12/12	Weather Forecasting and Climate in the Mid-Latitudes and Beyond