

Introduction to Physical Geography – Lab
GARP 0102, Sections 01A/01B/01C (MWF 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 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 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).
- I encourage you to work together with a partner on the lab exercises. However, you are each responsible in the end for your own work.
- 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, textbook, 3-ring binder, ruler, calculator, pencils, etc.

Some Details

- No lab in Week 1 and Week 2.
- There are two At-Home Labs this semester: in Week 7 and Week 11 we will not meet for lab. Instead, you get to work on the lab exercises on your schedule.
- The first two labs (Week 3 and Week 4) 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 easy trail hiking: NO flip flops or sandals – you will not be allowed to participate in the outdoor labs!
- Weather-permitting, the Week 8 lab (Topographic Maps) may also have an outdoor component on campus.
- Our All-Day Field Trip on 10/06/2010 counts as the Week 6 lab (i.e. there is no additional lab meetings in Week 6).

→ Please consult with me in advance if you have any concerns about participating in the outdoor labs – we can always create an alternative lab exercise or assignment if necessary.

→ Adjustments to the lab schedule and lab exercises may be required to account for unforeseeable or unavoidable situations during the semester, for example inclement weather during our outdoor labs.

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 Physical Geography Fall 2010 Lab Schedule

Week	Lab	Dates	Theme(s)
Week 1		9/3	No Lab
Week 2		9/6, 9/8, 9/10	No Lab (due to Labor Day Holiday)
Week 3	Lab #1	9/13, 9/15, 9/17	Environment, Ecology, and Climate around Westfield State College (outdoor lab)
Week 4	Lab #2	9/20, 9/22, 9/24	Fluvial Processes and Streamflow: The Little River, Stanley Park (outdoor lab)
Week 5	Lab #3	9/27, 9/29, 10/01	New England Geography: The last 200 million years of landscape evolution
Week 6	Lab #4	10/4, 10/6, 10/08	No Lab Our all-day field trip on 10/06 counts as a lab
Week 7	Lab #5	10/11, 10/13, 10/15	At-Home Lab: Your Ecological Footprint
Week 8	Lab #6	10/18, 10/20, 10/22	Topographic Maps: Location, Scale, Elevation, and Generalization
Week 9	Lab #7	10/25, 10/27, 10/29	Extreme Physical Geography: Glaciers under Volcanoes in Iceland
Week 10	Lab #8	11/1, 11/3, 11/5	The Earth in Space: The Distribution of Insolation in Space and Time
Week 11	Lab #9	11/8, 11/10, 11/12	At-Home Lab: The Cost of Climate Change
Week 12	Lab #10	11/15, 11/17, 11/19	Hurricane Katrina: Air Pressure and Wind Speed/Direction Variations
Week 13		11/22, 11/24	No Lab (due to Thanksgiving Break)
Week 14	Lab #11	11/29, 12/1, 12/3	Moisture, Condensation, and Clouds: Why does it rain and where?
Week 15	Lab #12	12/6, 12/8, 12/10	Weather Forecasting and Climate in the Mid-Latitudes