

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 1 (Start of the semester), Week 9 (Spring Break), and Week 15 (Field Trip).
- Lab sessions labeled **OUT** are outdoor labs where 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. Note: the first outdoor lab (Week 2) is in late January – dress warm!
- Lab #12 (Week 14) is designated as an At-Home Lab – we will not be meeting formally 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 during 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 Spring 2009 Lab Schedule

Week	Lab	Dates	Theme(s)
Week 1		1/23	No Lab
Week 2	Lab #1	1/26, 1/30	Stanley Park / Little River in the Winter Environment and Ecology (OUT)
Week 3	Lab #2	2/2, 2/6	Topographic Maps Location, Scale, and Generalization
Week 4	Lab #3	2/9, 2/13	The Earth in Space: The Distribution of Insolation
Week 5	Lab #4	2/17, 2/20	Earth's Radiation Balance: Variations in Time and Space
Week 6	Lab #5	2/23, 2/27	Hurricane Katrina Air Pressure and Wind Speed
Week 7	Lab #6	3/2, 3/6	Moisture, Condensation, Clouds: Why does it rain and where?
Week 8	Lab #7	3/9, 3/13	Weather Forecasting and Climate in the Mid-Latitudes
Week 9		3/16, 3/20	No Lab (Spring Break)
Week 10	Lab #8	3/23, 3/27	Extreme Physical Geography: Iceland (Glaciers and Volcanoes)
Week 11	Lab #9	3/30, 4/3	Environment, Ecology, and Climate around Westfield State College (OUT)
Week 12	Lab #10	4/6, 4/10	Stanley Park / Little River in the Spring Environment and Ecology (OUT)
Week 13	Lab #11	4/13, 4/17	The Little River Fluvial Processes and Streamflow (OUT)
Week 14	Lab #12	4/20, 4/24	At-Home Lab The Cost of Climate Change
Week 15		4/27, 5/1	No Lab (Field Trip)