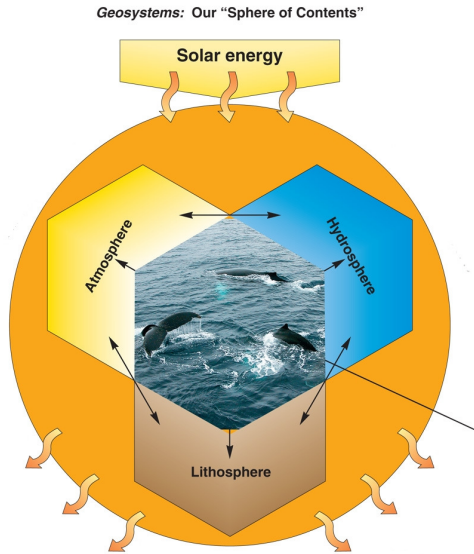


Introduction to Physical Geography
(GARP 0102, 4 credits)



Physical Geography is the study of the physical phenomena and processes that shape the surface of the Earth and their associated variability in time and space.

We will explore the four interlocking “geosystems” of the Earth, including the Atmosphere (weather, climate), Lithosphere (landforms), Hydrosphere (surface/ground water), and Biosphere (life).

We will also assess and discuss the interactions between (us) humans and our (natural?) changing surroundings.

This course consists of three lecture classes per week (MWF, 09:20 to 10:10) and one (of three) lab sessions (MWF, 10:25 to 12:05). No prerequisites.

Lecture GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 11723) Bates 218, MWF, 09:20 to 10:10

Lab GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 11724) Monday 10:30 to 12:10
GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 11725) Wednesday 10:30 to 12:10
GARP 0102-01C (CRN# 11726) Friday 10:30 to 12:10
All labs in Bates 05

➔ Please choose one of these lab sessions to accompany the lecture

Your Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun cbraun@wsc.ma.edu 413.572.5595
Bates 06 (basement, next to the lab room)
Office Hours: MWF 12:15 to 13:15 (or anytime by appointment)

My goal for this course is simple: I want to get you excited about the Earth and the natural environment that surrounds you every day. Physical Geography is actually quite applicable and useful on a daily basis: You will learn what goes on around you and why! So, the next time it rains/snow, or you come across a river/lake, you will know why, how, and so what!

➔ If you feel that you are not progressing as well as you hoped, please feel free to talk to me during my office hours or a mutually convenient time – the sooner the better! Please DO NOT wait until the end of the semester!

Textbook

Tom L. McKnight and Darrel Hess: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation – 9th Edition

- Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN-13: 978-0-13-223901-1), available at the WSC bookstore.
- Online version: <http://www.safarix.com>.

→ You are required to have (access to) this textbook for the course, starting immediately.

This is a fantastic, well-designed, informative, and well-illustrated textbook. The comprehensive companion WWW site and CD-Rom provide additional media, illustrations, and very useful self-test features. I encourage you to make use of these free resources – they will help you expand and test your knowledge throughout the semester.

Lab Manual

Darrel Hess: Laboratory Manual – 9th Edition Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

- Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN-13: 978-0-13-238113-0), available at the WSC bookstore.

→ You are required to have your own copy of the lab manual for this course, starting immediately.

The exercises in this updated lab manual give you an opportunity to apply many of the concepts discussed in the lecture. The companion WWW site provides additional media, illustrations, and links to useful WWW resources.

Course Logistics

The first section of the course focuses on Climatology (Week 1 to 8), the second section of the semester focuses on Geomorphology (Week 9 to 15). We will not cover the entire textbook or lab manual. Instead, the course is structured around carefully selected themes and associated textbook chapters and lab exercises.

In addition to the textbook and lab manual, you will need a standard 3-ring binder (to organize the hand-outs) and a notebook for your lecture notes. I urge you to be organized with your time and your materials. Take good notes, use your critical thinking when studying, and don't try to "blindly" memorize facts and data without understanding the underlying concepts and processes. I encourage you to study with someone else or in a small group, so you can "test" each other and expand your own knowledge by explaining things to each other.

Each of the four tests will draw from the materials presented in class (lecture and lab), the hand-outs, and the assigned readings in the textbook. We will have a discussion/review session before each test as preparation. The tests will last the entire class period and consist of a combination of Multiple Choice questions and Short-Answer questions.

There are no make-up tests, unless you are experiencing a real and documented emergency. You have to let me know in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter. Make-up tests, if necessary, will be administered during the Fall 2007 Exam period.

→ It is NOT possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly...

I encourage you to review the Academic Honesty Policy at Westfield State College (available on the WWW site). Any attempt of cheating during your tests will be severely sanctioned by canceling your test and receiving zero points. Depending on the gravity of the situation, you may be also find yourself interacting with the Dean of Education and/or the Dean of Academic Affairs.

The 11 homework assignments are designed to formalize the reading and learning process through writing. The assignments will require you to answer a series of review questions from the textbook in a few paragraphs each (maximum 2 pages combined). These are not “trick” questions – the answers are readily available in the textbook and will form the basis for our discussion and review sessions before each test. I expect the homework assignments typed and printed. Hand-written assignments are not acceptable.

Grading Policy

Your final grade is a function of your performance throughout the entire semester and combines the four tests, the lab exercises, and the homework assignments. You will not “flunk” this course based on any one poor test result, lab exercise, or homework assignment. If you are concerned about your grades or performance in the course – please talk to me.

→ Grading is a time-consuming process – please allow at least one week for the test results to be ready.

Tests 40 percent of your final grade.
Each test represents 10 percent of your final grade.
No make-up tests.

Labs 30 percent of your final grade.
12 lab exercises in total, the lowest grade is dropped, 11 grades remain.
Each lab exercise presents 2.73 percent of your final grade.
Late = Zero, “skipped” = Zero, No make-up/late labs.

Homework 30 percent of your final grade.
11 homework assignments, the lowest grade is dropped, 10 grades remain.
Each homework assignment represents 3 percent of your final grade.
Late = Zero, “skipped” = Zero, No make-up assignments

Letter	Points	Letter	Points	Letter	Points
A	93 to 100	B–	80 to 82	D+	67 to 69
A–	90 to 92	C+	77 to 79	D	63 to 66
B+	87 to 89	C	73 to 76	D–	55 to 62
B	83 to 86	C–	70 to 72	F	<55

Fall 2007 Class Schedule

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	9/5 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	9/7 (Fr)	Climate vs. Weather		p.67-69
Week 2	Class 3	9/10 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth I	HW#1 out	Ch.1/2
	Class 4	9/12 (We)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch.1/2
	Class 5	9/14 (Fr)	The Earth in Space	HW#1 due	Ch.1
Week 3	Class 6	9/17 (Mo)	Earth's Atmosphere	HW#2 out	Ch.3
	Class 7	9/19 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 8	9/21 (Fr)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW#2 due	Ch.4
Week 4	Class 9	9/24 (Mo)	Earth's Greenhouse Effect		Ch.4
	Class 10	9/26 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 11	9/28 (Fr)	Test #1		Ch.1-4
Week 5	Class 12	10/1 (Mo)	Pressure and Wind I	HW#3 out	Ch.5
	Class 13	10/3 (We)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch.5
	Class 14	10/5 (Fr)	Atmospheric Circulation I	HW#3 due	Ch.5
Week 6		10/8 (Mo)	<i>Columbus Day = No class</i>		
	Class 15	10/10 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW#4 out	Ch.5
	Class 16	10/12 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation I	HW#4 due	Ch.6
Week 7	Class 17	10/15 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation II	HW#5 out	Ch.6
	Class 18	10/17 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate I		Ch.7
	Class 19	10/19 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW#5 due	Ch.7
Week 8	Class 20	10/22 (Mo)	Extreme Weather/Climate		Ch.7
	Class 21	10/24 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 22	10/26 (Fr)	Test #2		Ch.5-7
Week 9	Class 24	10/29 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I	HW#6 out	Ch.13
	Class 25	10/31 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13
	Class 26	11/2 (Fr)	Plate Tectonics	HW#6 due	Ch.14
Week 10	Class 27	11/5 (Mo)	Volcanism/Earth Quakes	HW#7 out	Ch.14
	Class 28	11/7 (We)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch.15
	Class 29	11/9 (Fr)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW#7 due	Ch.15
Week 11	Class 30	11/13 (Tu=Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW#8 out	Ch.16
	Class 31	11/14 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch.16
	Class 32	11/16 (Fr)	The Hydrosphere	HW#8 due	Ch.9
Week 12	Class 33	11/19 (Mo)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 34	11/21 (We)	Test #3		Ch.9,13-16

(Thanksgiving Recess begins Wednesday 11/21 at 12:20)

continued next page...

Fall 2007 Class Schedule (continued)

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 13	Class 35	11/26 (Mo)	Coastal Processes I	HW#9 out	Ch.20
	Class 36	11/28 (We)	Coastal Processes II		Ch.20
	Class 37	11/30 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I	HW#9 due	Ch.19
Week 14	Class 38	12/3 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II	HW#10 out	Ch.19
	Class 39	12/5 (We)	Glaciers and Climate Change		Ch.19
	Class 40	12/7 (Fr)	New England Geography	HW#10 due	hand-outs
Week 15	Class 41	12/10 (Mo)	Soils	HW#11 out	Ch.12
	Class 42	12/12 (We)	Fire & Ice: Iceland		hand-outs
	Class 43	12/14 (Fr)	Review and Discussion	HW#11 due	
	Class 44	12/19 (We)	Test #4 (10:10 to 12:10)		Ch.12,19,20

Notes on the Schedule

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be required to account for unforeseeable situations during the semester.
- Monday (10/08/2007) is Columbus Day = No class!
- Tuesday (11/13/2007) follows a Monday schedule at WSC (to compensate for the Veterans' Day Holiday).
- Thanksgiving Recess starts AFTER classes end on Wednesday (11/21/2007) – do NOT plan to leave town before that. We will have Test #2 that day from 09:20 to 10:10.
- Test #4 is on Wednesday (12/19/2007) from 10:10 to 12:10 during the Fall 2007 exam period. Test #4 will be similar in length and scope to the previous three tests and only cover material from Week 13 to Week 15.
- All make-up tests will be given, if needed, on Wednesday (12/19/2007) from 02:30 to 04:30 during the Fall 2007 exam period. Do NOT plan to leave town before that.
- Snow Exam Make-up day is Friday (12/21/2007).

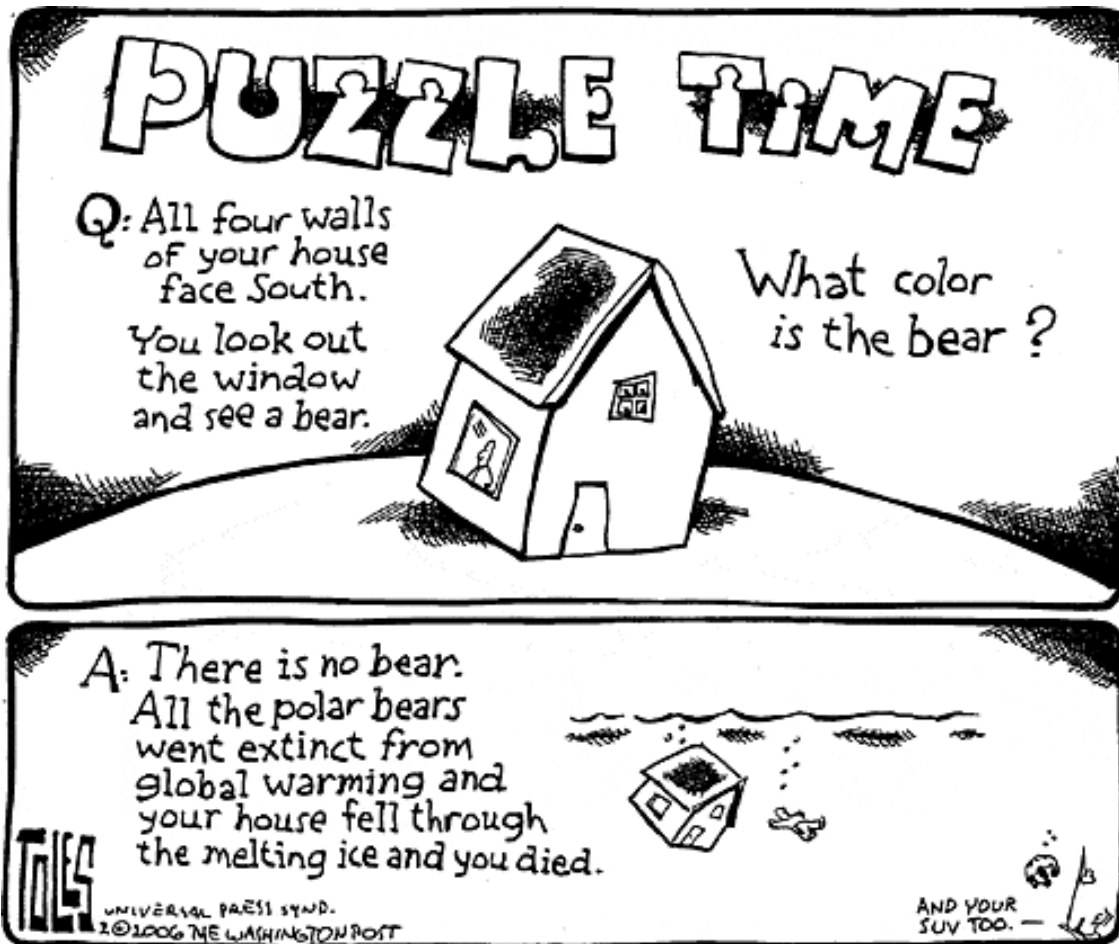
→ Refer to the Fall 2007 course booklet and academic calendar for more information.

The Fine Print...

- Be on time (i.e. get to class before class starts).
- Don't leave before the end of class.
- Turn off your cell phones.
- Attendance is Mandatory.
- It is your responsibility to keep up with the material, hand-outs, lecture notes, tests, assignments, grades, etc.
- If you have to miss a class...inform me in advance.

Westfield State College Academic Calendar Fall 2007

9/03	Labor Day (No Classes)
9/04	Opening Day
9/05	Classes Begin
10/08	Columbus Day, Observed (No classes)
10/23	Session A Classes End
10/24	Session B Classes Begin
11/12	Veterans' Day, Observed (No classes)
11/13	Tuesday follow Monday Schedule
11/21	Thanksgiving Recess begins @ 12:20 p.m. November 22-23 – No classes
11/26	Classes Resume
12/14	Last Day of Classes
12/17	Exam Period Begins December 17-20 – Exam Period
12/21	Exam Snow Makeup Day
12/27	Grades Due by Noon



2-12-06