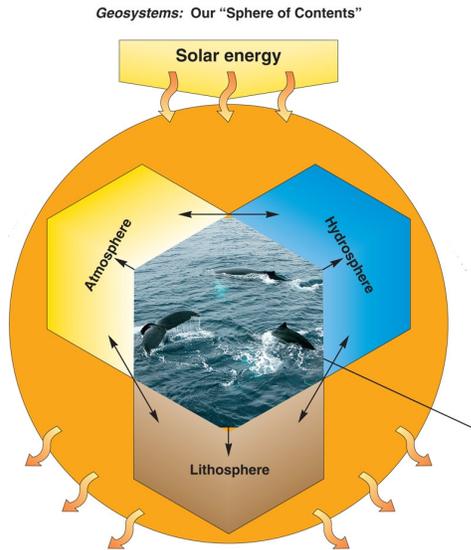


Introduction to Physical Geography
(GARP 0102, 4 credits)



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 two) lab sessions (MF, 10:25 to 12:05). No prerequisites.

Lecture GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 11445), Wilson 134, MWF 09:20 to 10:10

Lab GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 11448), Bates 05, Monday 10:25 to 12:05
GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 11449), Bates 05, Friday 10:25 to 12:05
Please choose one of the lab sessions to accompany the lecture

Your Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun cbraun@wsc.ma.edu
www.wsc.ma.edu/garp/faculty/cb.html
413.572.5595
Office: Bates 06
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 us. 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/snows, 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. I’m happy to support you to help you succeed.

Textbook (required)

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>

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.

Course Logistics

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

- In addition to the textbook, you need a 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 textbook readings. 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 2008 Exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- 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 find yourself interacting with the Dean of Students.
- The 8 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, printed, and written in acceptable English – proof-read as needed.
- Wednesday (10/08/2008) is a mandatory All-Day Field Trip – we will explore some of the natural highlights of Western Massachusetts. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. No lab in Week 7.

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 60 percent of the final grade.
No make-up tests, 'skipped' = zero

Labs 25 percent of the final grade (12 lab exercises)
Late = Zero, 'skipped' = zero, no make-up/late labs

Homework 15 percent of the final grade (8 homework assignments)
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	56 to 66
B+	87 to 89	C	73 to 76	F	< 55
B	83 to 86	C–	70 to 72		

The Fine Print...

- Be on time (i.e. get to class before class starts) and don't leave before the end of class.
- Turn off your cell phones and other electronic gizmos.
- 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.

GARP 0102 Lecture Schedule Fall 2008

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	9/3 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	9/5 (Fr)	Mapping the Earth I		Ch. 1/2
Week 2	Class 3	9/8 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth II	HW #1 out	Ch. 1/2
	Class 4	9/10 (We)	Rocks and Minerals I		Ch. 13
	Class 5	9/12 (Fr)	Rocks and Minerals II	HW #1 due	Ch. 13
Week 3	Class 6	9/15 (Mo)	Volcanism & Plate Tectonics	HW #2 out	Ch. 14
	Class 7	9/17 (We)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch. 15
	Class 8	9/19 (Fr)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW #2 due	Ch. 15
Week 4	Class 9	9/22 (Mo)	Groundwater/Soils		Ch. 9/12
	Class 10	9/24 (We)	Review & Discussion		
	Class 11	9/26 (Fr)	Test #1		
Week 5	Class 12	9/29 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW #3 out	Ch. 16
	Class 13	10/1 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch. 16
	Class 14	10/3 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I	HW #3 due	Ch. 19
Week 6	Class 15	10/6 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II		Ch. 19
	Class 16	10/8 (We)	All-Day Field Trip		hand-out
	Class 17	10/10 (Fr)	New England Geography	HW #4 out	hand-out
Week 7		10/13 (Mo)	<i>No class (Columbus Day)</i>		
	Class 18	10/15 (We)	Coastal Processes I		Ch. 20
	Class 19	10/17 (Fr=Mo)	Coastal Processes II	HW #4 due	Ch. 20
Week 8	Class 20	10/20 (Mo)	Glaciers and Climate Change		hand-out
	Class 21	10/22 (We)	Review & Discussion		
	Class 22	10/24 (Fr)	Test #2		
Week 9	Class 23	10/27 (Mo)	Climate vs. Weather		p.67-69
	Class 24	10/29 (We)	The Earth in Space		Ch. 1
	Class 25	10/31 (Fr)	Earth's Atmosphere		Ch. 3
Week 10	Class 26	11/3 (Mo)	Earth's Radiation Balance I	HW #5 out	Ch. 4
	Class 27	11/5 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance II		Ch. 4
	Class 28	11/7 (Fr)	The Greenhouse Effect	HW #5 due	Ch. 4
Week 11		11/10 (Mo)	<i>No class (CB at conference)</i>		
	Class 29	11/12 (We)	Pressure and Wind I	HW #6 out	Ch. 5
	Class 30	11/14 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch. 5
Week 12	Class 31	11/17 (Mo)	Climate Change vs. Global Warming	HW #6 due	hand-out
	Class 32	11/19 (We)	Review & Discussion		
	Class 33	11/21 (Fr)	Test #3		

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GARP 0102 Lecture Schedule Fall 2008 (continued)

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 13	Class 35	11/24 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch. 5
	Class 36	11/26 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch. 5
Week 14	Class 37	12/1 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation I	HW #7 out	Ch. 6
	Class 38	12/3 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch. 6
	Class 39	12/5 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate I	HW #7 due	Ch. 7
Week 15	Class 40	12/8 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW #8 out	Ch. 7
	Class 41	12/10 (We)	Extreme Weather and Climate		Ch. 7
	Class 42	12/12 (Fr)	Review & Discussion	HW #8 due	Ch. 8
Week 16	Class 43	12/15 (Mo)	Test #4 (10:10 to 12:10)		

Notes on the Schedule

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be required to account for unforeseeable situations during the semester.
- Refer to the Fall 2008 course booklet and academic calendar (see below) for more information.

Westfield State College Academic Calendar (Fall 2008)

FALL 2008	
September 1	Labor Day – No Classes
September 2	Opening Day College Meeting
September 3	Classes Begin
September 27	Family Day/Convocation
October 9	Last Day to Withdraw for Session A
October 13	Columbus Day – No Classes
October 17	Follow Monday Schedule
October 24	Session A Classes End
October 27	Session B Classes Begin
November 11	Veterans' Day - No Classes
November 18	Last Day to Withdraw for Full Semester Classes
November 25	Last Day to Withdraw for Session B
November 26	Thanksgiving Recess (begins at 12:20 p.m.)
December 1	Classes Resume
December 12	Classes End – Day Division
December 15, 16, 17, 18	Examination period
December 19	Snow Make-Up Day
December 29	All Grades Due by Noon

