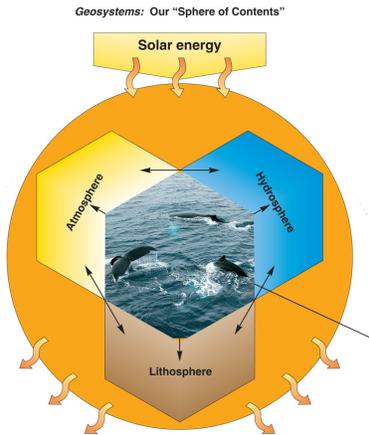


GARP 0102: Introduction to Physical Geography (4 credits)



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 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# 11142)	Wilson 134	MWF, 09:20 to 10:10
Labs	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 11137)	Bates 05	Monday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 11318)	Bates 05	Wednesday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01C (CRN# 11135)	Bates 05	Friday, 10:25 to 12:05

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

Learning Goals

1. Knowledge
Facts, concepts, and ideas in Physical Geography
Systems, processes, and interconnections of the Earth
2. Skills and Critical Thinking
Application of geographic knowledge
Intellectual inquiry and effective communication
3. Perspective
Space and spatial patterns as global concepts
Interactions and connections between human and environmental systems

Your Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun cbraun@wsc.ma.edu or www.wsc.ma.edu/garp/faculty/cb.html
413.572.5595, Office: Bates 217
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, or rock – 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)

McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation – 10th Edition (Darrel Hess and Dennis Tasa)

- Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN-13: 978-0-321-67734-1)
- Available at the WSC bookstore or various online seller

This is a fantastic, well-designed, informative, and well-illustrated textbook. The comprehensive companion web site and included 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 without understanding the underlying concepts. I encourage you to study with someone else or in a small group, so you can 'test' each other and expand your 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. 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 documented emergency. Let me know in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter. Make-up tests, if necessary, will be administered during the Fall 2010 Exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- Review the Academic Honesty Policy at Westfield State College. Cheating or Plagiarism will be severely sanctioned. 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 (for maximum two pages combined). These are not 'trick' questions – the answers are readily available in the textbook. I expect the homework assignments typed, printed, and written in acceptable English – proof-read as needed.
- Wednesday (10/06/2010) is a mandatory All-Day Field Trip – we will explore some of the great natural highlights of Western Massachusetts. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. This field trip requires some reasonable amount of hiking on mostly paved trails, although there are a few steeper dirt trail sections. More detailed information will be given in class. Please consult with me in advance if you have any concerns about participating in this field trip – we can always figure out an alternative assignment if necessary.

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 tests, lab exercises, and homework assignments to be graded.

- 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

➔ Please note: No extra credit assignments!

Grade Conversion	
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

FALL 2010 Academic Calendar

- September 1 Opening Day / College Meeting
- September 2 Classes Begin
- September 6 Labor Day (No Classes)
- October 7 Last Day to Withdraw for Session A
- October 11 Columbus Day (No Classes)
- October 13 Follow Monday Schedule
- October 22 Session A Classes End
- October 25 Session B Classes End
- November 11 Veterans' Day (No Classes)
- November 16 Last Day to Withdraw for Full Semester Classes
- November 23 Last Day to Withdraw for Session B
- November 24 - 26 Thanksgiving Recess (begins at 12:20 pm)
- November 29 Classes Resume
- December 10 Classes End – Day Division
- December 13, 14, 15, 16 Examination period
- December 17 Snow Make-Up Day
- December 27 All Grades Due by Noon

“Geography is to Space what History is to Time.”

(J.E. Dobson, 2007, ArcNews, 29(1), 1-5)

Geography (from Greek γεωγραφία - geografia) is the study of the earth and its features, inhabitants, and phenomena. A literal translation would be “to describe or write about the Earth”. Four historical traditions in geographical research are (1) the spatial analysis of natural and human phenomena (geography as a study of distribution), (2) area studies (places and regions), (3) study of human-land relationship, and (4) research in earth sciences. Modern geography is an interdisciplinary science that seeks to understand the world and all of its human and natural complexities – not merely where objects are, but how they have changed and come to be. As “the bridge between the human and physical sciences” geography is divided into two main branches: human geography and physical geography.

Human geography focuses largely on the built environment and how space is created, viewed, and managed by humans as well as the influence humans have on the space they occupy. Physical geography examines the natural environment and how the climate, vegetation, life, soil, water, and landforms are produced and interact. As a result of the two subfields using different approaches a third field has emerged, which is environmental geography. Environmental geography combines physical and human geography and looks at the interactions between the environment and humans.

GARP 0102 Physical Geography Lecture Schedule Fall 2010

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	9/3 (Fr)	Course Overview		syllabus
Week 2		9/6 (Mo)	<i>No class (Labor Day)</i>		
	Class 2	9/8 (We)	Mapping the Earth I		Ch. 1/2
	Class 3	9/10 (Fr)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch. 1/2
Week 3	Class 4	9/13 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I	HW 1 out	Ch. 13
	Class 5	9/15 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch. 13
	Class 6	9/17 (Fr)	Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics	HW 1 due	Ch. 14
Week 4	Class 7	9/20 (Mo)	Weathering/Erosion I	HW 2 out	Ch. 15
	Class 8	9/22 (We)	Weathering/Erosion II		Ch. 15
	Class 9	9/24 (Fr)	Test #1	HW 2 due	
Week 5	Class 10	9/27 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW 3 out	Ch. 16
	Class 11	9/29 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch. 16
	Class 12	10/1 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I	HW 3 due	Ch. 19
Week 6	Class 13	10/4 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II		Ch. 19
	Class 14	10/6 (We)	All-Day Field Trip		hand-out
	Class 15	10/8 (Fr)	New England Geography		hand-out
Week 7		10/11 (Mo)	<i>No class (Columbus Day)</i>		
	Class 16	10/13 (We=Mo)	Glaciers and Climate Change	HW 4 out	hand-out
	Class 17	10/15 (Fr)	Groundwater and Soils		hand-out
Week 8	Class 18	10/18 (Mo)	Coastal Processes I		Ch. 20
	Class 19	10/20 (We)	Coastal Processes II	HW 4 due	Ch. 20
	Class 20	10/22 (Fr)	Test #2		
Week 9	Class 21	10/25 (Mo)	Climate vs. Weather		p. 60-62
	Class 22	10/27 (We)	The Earth in Space		Ch. 1
	Class 23	10/29 (Fr)	Earth's Atmosphere		Ch. 3
Week 10	Class 24	11/1 (Mo)	Earth's Radiation Balance I	HW 5 out	Ch. 4
	Class 25	11/3 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance II		Ch. 4
	Class 26	11/5 (Fr)	The Greenhouse Effect	HW 5 due	Ch. 4
Week 11		11/8 (Mo)	<i>No class (CB at conference)</i>		hand-out
	Class 27	11/10 (We)	Pressure and Wind I	HW 6 out	Ch. 5
	Class 28	11/12 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch. 5
Week 12	Class 29	11/15 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I	HW 6 due	Ch. 5
	Class 30	11/17 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II		Ch. 5
	Class 31	11/19 (Fr)	Test #3		
Week 13	Class 32	11/22 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch. 6
		11/24 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch. 6
		11/26 (Fr)	<i>No class (Thanksgiving Recess)</i>		
Week 14	Class 33	11/29 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate I	HW 7 out	Ch. 7
	Class 34	12/1 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate II		Ch. 7
	Class 35	12/3 (Fr)	Global Climates	HW 7 due	Ch. 8
Week 15	Class 36	12/6 (Mo)	Climate Change, Global Warming	HW 8 out	Ch. 8
	Class 37	12/8 (We)	Extreme Weather and Climate		Ch. 7
	Class 38	12/10 (Fr)	Review of the Semester	HW 8 due	
Week 16	Class 39	12/15 (We)	Test #4 (12:20 to 14:20)		

The Fine Print...

- Adjustments to the schedule and assignments may be required to account for unforeseeable situations.
- Refer to the Fall 2010 course booklet and academic calendar for more information, important dates, and dead lines.
- Please be on-time (= get to class before class starts) and do not leave before the end of class.
- Please turn-off your cell phone and other electronic gizmos. Please: no texting in class!
- Remember: attendance is mandatory.
- It is your responsibility to keep up with the course material, hand-outs, lecture notes, tests, homework assignments, grades...I'm not your secretary!
- If you have to miss a class...please inform me in advance to make arrangements.