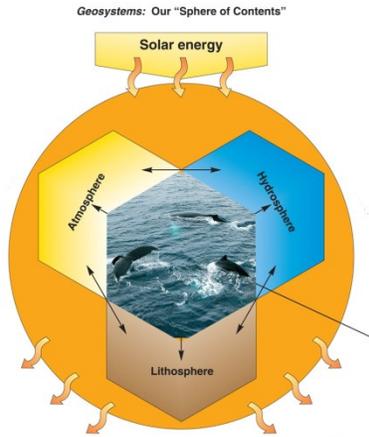


GARP 0102 Introduction to Physical Geography

4 credits, no prerequisites



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 explore the 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 three) lab sessions (MWF, 10:25 to 12:05).

Lecture	GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 10714) Wilson 138	MWF, 09:20 to 10:10
Labs	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 10715)	Bates 05 Monday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 10716)	Bates 05 Wednesday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01C (CRN# 10717)	Bates 05 Friday, 10:25 to 12:05

Learning Goals

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

Instructor

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413.572.5595, Office: Wilson 203
Office Hours: MWF, 12:15 to 13:15 (or anytime by appointment)

➔ My goal for this course is simple: I want us to be excited about the Earth that surrounds us. Physical Geography is actually quite 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 understand why, how, and so what!

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)

This is a fantastic and well-illustrated textbook. The companion website and included CD provide additional media, illustrations, and useful self-test features. Consider using these resources to 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 projects.

- You need a 3-ring binder (to organize the hand-outs) and a notebook for lecture notes. Be organized with your time and materials. Take good notes and don't try to memorize facts without understanding the underlying concepts. I encourage you to learn with a partner or small group to 'test' each other and expand your knowledge by explaining the material to each other.
- The tests draw from the material covered in lecture and lab, the hand-outs, the assignments, and the readings and are a combination of Multiple Choice 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 will be administered during the Fall 2011 exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- Review the Academic Honesty Policy at Westfield State University. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be severely sanctioned and handled by the appropriate authorities on campus.
- The four homework assignments expand your learning process through writing. The assignments typically require you to answer a series of review questions in a few paragraphs each. These are not 'trick' questions – the answers are readily available in the textbook or on the web. I expect the homework assignments typed, printed, and written in professional English.
- Wednesday (10/14/2011) is our All-Day Field Tri. We will explore some of the natural highlights of Western Massachusetts. Please arrange your schedule accordingly! Detailed information will be provided. This field trip requires some hiking on mostly paved trails, although there are a few steeper dirt trail sections. **Please consult with me in advance if you have any concerns about this field trip – we can figure out an alternative assignment if necessary.**

Weeks 4 and 5

I will be part of an international research expedition to summit glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro between 9/21 and 10/7 2011. This is a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about the impacts of glacier recession, but requires some rearrangement of our course schedule:

- No class (lecture or lab) is cancelled and attendance remains mandatory.
- The course schedule has been rearranged to ensure that our learning goals are met.
- You will be working on a semester project about the causes and impacts of glacier recession on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Detailed information and instructions will be provided.

Grading Policy

Your final grade is a function of your learning process throughout the entire semester and combines four tests, all lab projects, all homework assignments, and the semester project. You cannot ‘flunk’ this course based on any one poor grade!

- If you are concerned about your grades or performance in the course – please talk to me.
- Grading is time-consuming – allow at least one week for grades to be ready.
- No make-up labs, homework assignments, and project unless you are experiencing a documented emergency.
- No extra-credit assignments.
- Late policy: 10 point deduction for each day late, ‘skipped’ = zero.

Tests	50 percent of final grade
Labs	25 percent of final grade
Homework	10 percent of final grade
Project	15 percent of final grade

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

➔ If you feel that you are not progressing as well as you hoped, please 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.

Fall 2011 Academic Calendar

September 5	Labor Day - No Classes
September 6	Opening Day/College Meeting
September 7	Classes Begin
October 10	Columbus Day (No Classes)
November 11	Veterans' Day Observed (No Classes)
November 17	Last Day to Withdraw for Full Semester Classes
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Recess(begins at 12:20 p.m.)
November 28	Classes Resume
December 13	Classes End – Day Division
December 14	Reading Day(No Classes - Day Division Only)
December 15/16/19/20	Examination period
December 21	Snow Make-Up Day
December 28	All Grades Due by 12 Noon

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

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

Geography 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, including geology, biology, chemistry, etc. 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. Geography is therefore ‘the bridge’ between the human and physical sciences.

GARP 0102 Physical Geography Lecture Schedule – Fall 2011

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	9/7 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	9/9 (Fr)	Mapping the Earth		Ch. 1/2
Week 2	Class 3	9/12 (Mo)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch. 14/15
	Class 4	9/14 (We)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW 1 out	Ch. 14/15
	Class 5	9/16 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I		Ch. 19
Week 3	Class 6	9/19 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II		Ch. 19
	Class 7	9/21 (We)	Glaciers and Climate Change	HW 1 due	hand-out
	Class 8	9/23 (Fr)	Test #1		
Week 4	Class 9	9/26 (Mo)	tba.		
	Class 10	9/28 (We)	tba.		
	Class 11	9/30 (Fr)	tba.		
Week 5	Class 12	10/03 (Mo)	tba.		
	Class 13	10/05 (We)	tba.		
Week 6	Class 14	10/07 (Fr)	tba.		
		10/10 (Mo)	<i>No class (Columbus Day)</i>		
Week 7	Class 15	10/12 (We)	Africa and Kilimanjaro		hand-out
	Class 16	10/14 (Fr)	All-Day Field Trip		hand-out
Week 8	Class 17	10/17 (Mo)	New England Geography		hand-out
	Class 18	10/19 (We)	Fluvial Processes I	HW 2 out	Ch. 16
Week 9	Class 19	10/21 (Fr)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch. 16
	Class 20	10/24 (Mo)	Coastal Processes I		Ch. 20
	Class 21	10/26 (We)	Coastal Processes II	HW 2 due	Ch. 20
	Class 22	10/28 (Fr)	Test #2		
Week 10	Class 23	10/31 (Mo)	Climate vs. Weather		p. 60-62
	Class 24	11/02 (We)	The Earth in Space		Ch. 1
	Class 25	11/04 (Fr)	Earth's Atmosphere		Ch. 3
Week 11	Class 26	11/07 (Mo)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch. 4
	Class 27	11/09 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance II		Ch. 4
Week 12		11/11 (Fr)	<i>No class (Veterans Day)</i>		
	Class 28	11/14 (Mo)	Pressure and Wind I	HW 3 out	Ch. 5
	Class 29	11/16 (We)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch. 5
Week 13	Class 30	11/18 (Fr)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch. 5
	Class 31	11/21 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW 3 due	Ch. 5
	Class 32	11/23 (We)	Test #3		
Week 14		11/25 (Fr)	<i>No class (Thanksgiving Recess)</i>		
	Class 33	11/28 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch. 6
	Class 34	11/30 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch. 6
Week 15	Class 35	12/02 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate I		Ch. 7
	Class 36	12/05 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW 4 out	Ch. 7
Week 16	Class 37	12/07 (We)	Extreme Weather and Climate		Ch. 7
	Class 38	12/09 (Fr)	Global Climates		Ch. 8
	Class 39	12/12 (Mo)	Climate Change, Global Warming	HW 4 due	Ch. 8
	Class 40	12/16 (Fr)	Test #4 (12:20 to 14:20)		

The Fine Print

- Adjustments to the schedule/assignments may be needed to account for unforeseeable situations.
- 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. No texting in class!
- Attendance is mandatory.
- It is your responsibility to keep up with the course material, hand-outs, lecture notes, tests, assignments, grades...I'm not your secretary!
- If you have to miss a class...please inform me in advance to make arrangements.