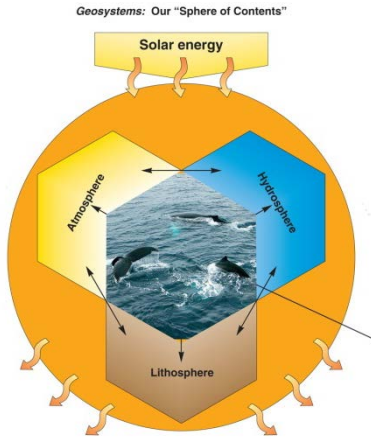


GARP 0102 Introduction to Physical Geography



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 two) lab sessions (MW, 10:25 to 12:05).

Lecture	GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 10179)	Wilson 138	MWF, 09:20 to 10:10
Labs	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 10183)	Bates 05	Monday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 10184)	Bates 05	Wednesday, 10:25 to 12:05

Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun Office Hours: MWF, 12:15 to 13:15 (or anytime by appointment)
 Wilson 203, 413.572.5595
cbraun@westfield.ma.edu or www.westfield.ma.edu/cbraun

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!

Learning Goals

Knowledge of the Earth – *You will be able to:*

- know and apply facts, concepts, and ideas in Physical Geography.
- understand the Earth as an interconnected system of interacting processes and feedbacks.

Skills and Critical Thinking – *You will be able to:*

- construct new knowledge of the Earth using scientific methods.
- to apply geographic thinking and scientific research to other questions.

Perspective – *You will be able to:*

- recognize and describe space, spatial patterns, time, and change as global organizing concepts.
- evaluate interactions and connections between human and environmental systems.

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 7), the second section of the semester focuses on Climatology (Weeks 8 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 expand your understanding by explaining the material to each other.
- The four tests draw from the material covered in lecture and lab, the handouts, 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 – you have to let me know in advance or as soon as possible thereafter and provide appropriate documentation. Make-up tests will be administered during the Fall 2012 exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- Please 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, the library, or on the web. I expect the homework assignments typed, printed, and written in professional English.
- Wednesday (10/10/2012) is our All-Day Field Trip when we 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.**

Grading Policy

Your course 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.
- Please allow at least one week for grades to be ready.
- No make-up tests, 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
Lab Projects	30 percent of final grade
Homework Assignments	10 percent of final grade
Semester Project	10 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 2012 Academic Calendar

September 3	Labor Day - No Classes
September 4	Opening Day/College Meeting
September 5	Classes Begin
October 8	Columbus Day (No Classes)
October 9	Follow Monday Schedule
November 12	Veterans' Day Observed (No Classes)
November 20	Last Day to Withdraw for Full Semester Classes
November 21	Thanksgiving Recess begins at 12:20 pm
November 26	Classes Resume
December 14	Classes End – Day Division
December 17/18/19/20	Examination period
December 21	Snow Make-Up Day
December 27	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 2012

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1		9/5 (We)	<i>No class (Registrar error)</i>		
	Class 1	9/7 (Fr)	Course Overview		syllabus
Week 2	Class 2	9/10 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth I		Ch. 1/2
	Class 3	9/12 (We)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch. 1/2
Week 3	Class 4	9/14 (Fr)	Rocks and Minerals		Ch. 13
	Class 5	9/17 (Mo)	Plate Tectonics / Volcanoes	HW 1 out	Ch. 14
	Class 6	9/19 (We)	Weathering and Erosion I		Ch. 15
Week 4	Class 7	9/21 (Fr)	Guest Lecture		Handout
	Class 8	9/24 (Mo)	Weathering and Erosion II	HW 1 due	Ch. 15
	Class 9	9/26 (We)	Glacial Processes I		Ch. 19
	Class 10	9/28 (Fr)	Test #1		
Week 5	Class 11	10/01 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II		Ch. 19
	Class 12	10/03 (We)	<i>All-Day Field Trip</i>		Handout
Week 6	Class 13	10/05 (Fr)	New England Geography		Handout
		10/08 (Mo)	<i>No class (Columbus Day)</i>		
	Class 14	10/09 (Tu)	Glaciers and Climate Change	HW 2 out	Handout
Week 7	Class 15	10/10 (We)	Fluvial Processes I		Ch. 16
	Class 16	10/12 (Fr)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch. 16
	Class 17	10/15 (Mo)	Coastal Processes I	HW 2 due	Ch. 20
	Class 18	10/17 (We)	Coastal Processes II		Ch. 20
	Class 19	10/19 (Fr)	Test #2		
Week 8	Class 20	10/22 (Mo)	Climate vs. Weather		P. 60-62
	Class 21	10/24 (We)	The Earth in Space I		Ch. 1
Week 9	Class 22	10/26 (Fr)	The Earth in Space II		Ch. 1
	Class 23	10/29 (Mo)	Earth's Atmosphere		Ch. 3
	Class 24	10/31 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch. 4
Week 10	Class 25	11/02 (Fr)	Earth's Radiation Balance II		Ch. 4
	Class 26	11/05 (Mo)	The Greenhouse Effects		Handout
	Class 27	11/07 (We)	Pressure and Wind I	HW 3 out	Ch. 5
Week 11	Class 28	11/09 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch. 5
		11/12 (Mo)	<i>No class (Veterans Day)</i>		
	Class 29	11/14 (We)	Review and Reflection	HW 3 due	Handout
	Class 30	11/16 (Fr)	Test #3		
Week 12	Class 31	11/19 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch. 5
	Class 32	11/21 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II		Ch. 5
Week 13		11/23 (Fr)	<i>No class (Thanksgiving)</i>		
	Class 33	11/26 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch. 6
	Class 34	11/28 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch. 6
Week 14	Class 35	11/30 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate I	HW 4 out	Ch. 7
	Class 36	12/03 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate II		Ch. 7
	Class 37	12/05 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate III		Ch. 7
Week 15	Class 38	12/07 (Fr)	Global Climates	HW 4 due	Ch. 8
	Class 39	12/10 (Mo)	Extreme Weather and Climate		Ch. 7
	Class 40	12/12 (We)	Climate Change / Global Warming		Handout
Week 16	Class 41	12/14 (Fr)	Reflection and Review		Handout
	Class 42	12/19 (We)	Test #4 (12:20 to 14:20)		

The Fine Print

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be needed to account for unforeseeable situations.
- Please be on-time (= get to class *before* class starts)! Attendance is mandatory!
- Please turn-off and stow your cell phone and other electronic gizmos. No texting in class!
- 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.