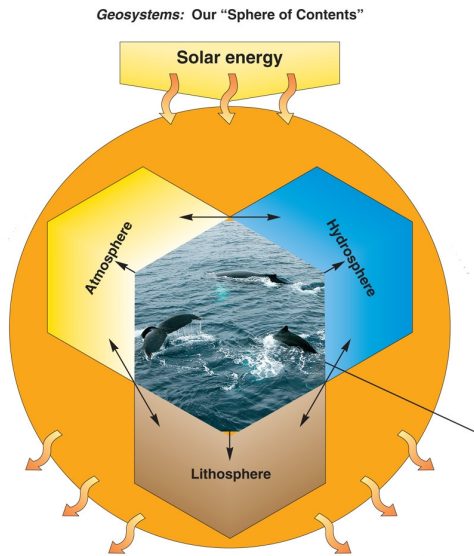


Introduction to Physical Geography
(GARP 0102, 4 credits)



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, Section 001 (CRN# 10533) Bates 218, MWF, 09:20 to 10:10

Lab GARP 0102, Section 01A (CRN# 10534) Monday 10:25 to 12:05
 GARP 0102, Section 01B (CRN# 10535) Wednesday 10:25 to 12:05
 GARP 0102, Section 01C (CRN# 10536) Friday 10:25 to 12:05
 All labs in Bates 05

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

Your Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun (cbraun@wsc.ma.edu 413.572.5595)
 Office: 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 – 8th Edition

Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN 0-13-145139-1), \$118 (comes with a CD)

Online version: <http://www.safarix.com/0131451391> (\$55.35 for 150 days)

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

This is a fantastic, well-designed, informative, and well-illustrated textbook. The comprehensive companion WWW site (http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_mcknight_physgeo_8) provides additional media, illustrations, and very useful self-test features. I encourage you to make use of this online resource – it will help you expand and test your knowledge throughout the semester.

Lab Manual

Darrel Hess

Laboratory Manual – 8th Edition Physical Geography – A Landscape Appreciation

Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN 0-13-145213-4), 308 pages plus maps, \$56.25

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

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 (http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_mcknight_physgeo_8) provides additional media, illustrations, and links to useful WWW resources.

Course Logistics

The first section of the semester focuses on Climatology (Week 1 to 8), the second section of the semester focuses on Geomorphology (Week 10 to 17). 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 Spring 2007 Exam period (Tuesday, 05/15/2007, 02:30 to 04:30). It is not possible to take any test early.

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.

→ If you come to class, do the assigned reading, answer the questions appropriately, and hand-in the assignments on-time, then there is no reason why you shouldn't receive full credit for each homework assignment.

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.
 13 lab exercises in total, the lowest grade is dropped, 12 grades remain.
 Each lab exercise presents 2.5 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

Spring 2007 Schedule

Week	Class	Date	Theme	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	1/17 (We)	Course Overview		Syllabus
	Class 2	1/19 (Fr)	Climate vs. Weather		Ch.8
Week 2	Class 3	1/22 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth I	HW#1 out	Ch.1/2
	Class 4	1/24 (We)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch.1/2
	Class 5	1/26 (Fr)	The Earth in Space	HW#1 due	Ch.1
Week 3	Class 6	1/29 (Mo)	The Atmosphere	HW#2 out	Ch.3
	Class 7	1/31 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 8	2/2 (Fr)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW#2 due	Ch.4
Week 4	Class 9	2/5 (Mo)	The Greenhouse Effect		p.82-84
	Class 10	2/7 (We)	Review and Discussion		Ch.1-4
	Class 11	2/9 (Fr)	Test #1		Ch.1-4
Week 5	Class 12	2/12 (Mo)	Pressure and Wind I	HW#3 out	Ch.5
	Class 13	2/14 (We)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch.5
	Class 14	2/16 (Fr)	Atmospheric Circulation I	HW#3 due	Ch.5
Week 6	Class 15	2/20 (Tu=Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW#4 out	Ch.5
	Class 16	2/21 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch.6
	Class 17	2/23 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation II	HW#4 due	Ch.6
Week 7	Class 18	2/26 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate I	HW#5 out	Ch.7
	Class 19	2/28 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate II		Ch.7
	Class 20	3/2 (Fr)	Global Climate Zones	HW#5 due	Ch.8
Week 8	Class 21	3/5 (Mo)	Extreme Weather/Climate		Ch.7
	Class 22	3/7 (We)	Review and Discussion		Ch.5-8
	Class 23	3/9 (Fr)	Test #2		Ch.5-8
Week 9		3/12 (Mo) 3/14 (We) 3/16 (Fr)	Spring Break (No class) Spring Break (No class) Spring Break (No class)		
Week 10	Class 24	3/19 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I	HW#6 out	Ch.13
	Class 25	3/21 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13
	Class 26	3/23 (Fr)	Plate Tectonics	HW#6 due	Ch.14
Week 11	Class 27	3/26 (Mo)	Volcanism	HW#7 out	Ch.14
	Class 28	3/28 (We)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch.15
	Class 29	3/30 (Fr)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW#7 due	Ch.15
Week 12	Class 30	4/2 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW#8 out	Ch.16
	Class 31	4/4 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch.16
	Class 32	4/6 (Fr)	Fluvial Processes III	HW#8 due	Ch.16
Week 13	Class 33	4/9 (Mo)	Groundwater	HW#9 out	Ch.9
	Class 34	4/11 (We)	Review and Discussion		Ch.9, 13-16
	Class 35	4/13 (Fr)	Test #3		Ch.9, 12-16

Week	Class	Date	Theme	Assignment	Reading
Week 14		4/16 (Mo)	<i>Patriots Day (No class)</i>		
	Class 36	4/18 (We)	Coastal Processes I		Ch.20
	Class 37	4/20 (Fr)	Coastal Processes II	HW#9 due	Ch.20
Week 15	Class 38	4/23 (Mo)	Glacial Processes I	HW#10 out	Ch.19
	Class 39	4/25 (We)	Glacial Processes II		Ch.19
	Class 40	4/27 (Fr)	New England Geography	HW#10 due	Hand-outs
Week 16	Class 41	4/30 (Mo)	Glaciers and Climate Change	HW#11 out	Hand-outs
	Class 42	5/2 (We)	Arid Environments		Ch.18
	Class 43	5/4 (Fr)	Soils	HW#11 due	Ch.12
Week 17	Class 44	5/7 (Mo)	Geography "Live": Iceland		Hand-outs
	Class 45	5/9 (We)	Review and Discussion		Ch.12,18-20
	Class 46	5/11 (Fr)	Test #4 (08:00 to 10:00)		Ch.12,18-20

(Test #4 will be held during the Spring 2007 exam period)

Notes on the Schedule

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be required to account for unforeseeable situations during the semester.
- Tuesday (02/20/2007) follows a Monday schedule at WSC.
- Spring Break begins AFTER classes end on Friday (03/09/2007) – DO NOT plan to leave town before that. We will have Test #2 that day from 09:20 to 10:10.
- Monday (04/16/2007) is Patriots Day holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Go to Boston and watch/run the marathon!
- Test #4 is on Friday (05/11/2007) from 08:00 to 10:00 during the Spring 2007 exam period. Test #4 will be similar in length and scope to the previous three tests and only cover material from Week 14 to Week 17.
- All make-up tests will be given, if needed, on Tuesday (05/15/2007) from 02:30 to 04:30 during the Spring 2007 exam period. DO NOT plan to leave town before that.

➔ Refer to the Spring 2007 course booklet and academic calendar for more information

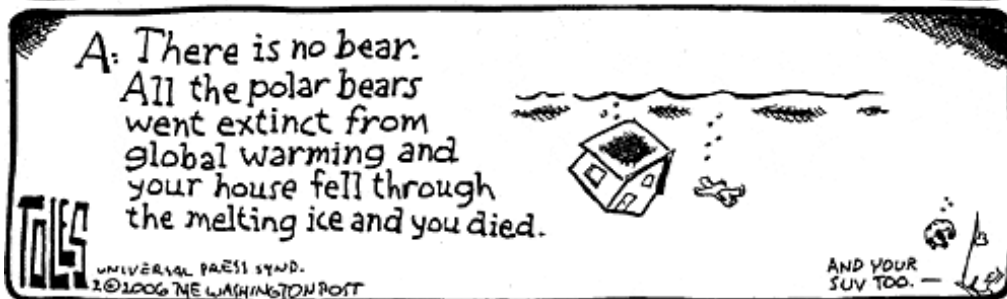
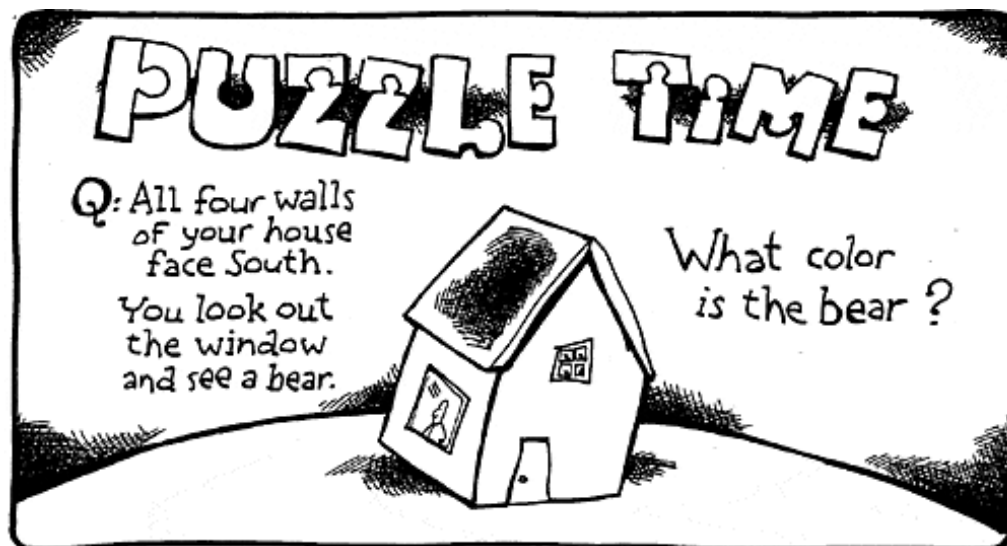
The Fine Print...

- Please 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 hand-outs, lecture notes, and assignments.
- If you have to miss a class...inform me in advance.

➔ **The Three Secrets To Success: (1) Mutual Respect, (2) Shared Responsibilities, and (3) Proactive Communication.**

Westfield State College Academic Calendar (Spring 2007)

SPRING SEMESTER 2007	
Martin Luther King's Birthday (No Classes)	Monday, January 15
Classes Begin	Tuesday, January 16
President's Day (No Classes)	Monday, February 19
Tuesday follow Monday Schedule	Tuesday, February 20
Session A Classes End	Friday, March 9
SPRING BREAK	Monday, March 12 - Friday March 16
Session B Classes Begin	Monday, March 19
Patriot's Day, Observed (No Classes)	Monday, April 16
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday, May 9
Exam Period Begins	May 10, 11, 14, 15
Senior Grades Due	Wednesday, May 16
Commencement	Saturday, May 19
All Other Grades Due by Noon	Tuesday, May 22



2-12-06