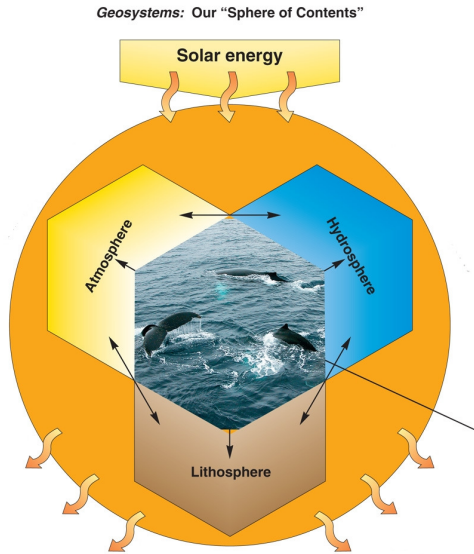


**Introduction to Physical Geography**  
(GARP 0102, 4 credits)



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 (M, F, 10:25 to 12:05). No prerequisites.

**Lecture** GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 30524) WILSN SAV-C, MWF, 09:20 to 10:10

<b>Lab</b>	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 30525)	Monday	10:30 to 12:10
	GARP 0102-01C (CRN# 30527)	Friday	10:30 to 12:10
	All labs in Bates 05		

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

**Your Instructor**

Dr. Carsten Braun	cbraun@wsc.ma.edu	413.572.5595
	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/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!

### **Textbook (required)**

Tom L. McKnight and Darrel Hess: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation – 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Lab Manual (required)**

Darrel Hess: Laboratory Manual – 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

- Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN-13: 978-0-13-238113-0), available at the WSC bookstore.

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 provides additional media, illustrations, and links to useful WWW resources.

### **Course Logistics**

The first section of the course focuses on Climatology (Week 1 to 9), the second section of the semester focuses on Geomorphology (Week 9 to 15). 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 2008 Exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- Please 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 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 and printed. Hand-written assignments are not acceptable.

### **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.  
Each test represents 15 percent of the final grade.  
No make-up tests.

**Labs**                25 percent of the final grade.  
13 lab exercises in total, the lowest grade is dropped, 12 grades remain.  
Each lab exercise presents 2.1 percent of the final grade.  
Late = Zero, “skipped” = Zero, No make-up/late labs.

**Homework**        15 percent of the final grade.  
8 homework assignments, the lowest grade is dropped, 7 grades remain.  
Each homework assignment represents 2.14 percent of the final grade.  
Late = Zero, “skipped” = Zero, No make-up assignments.

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Points</b>
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

### **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.
- 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.

### Spring 2008 Class Schedule

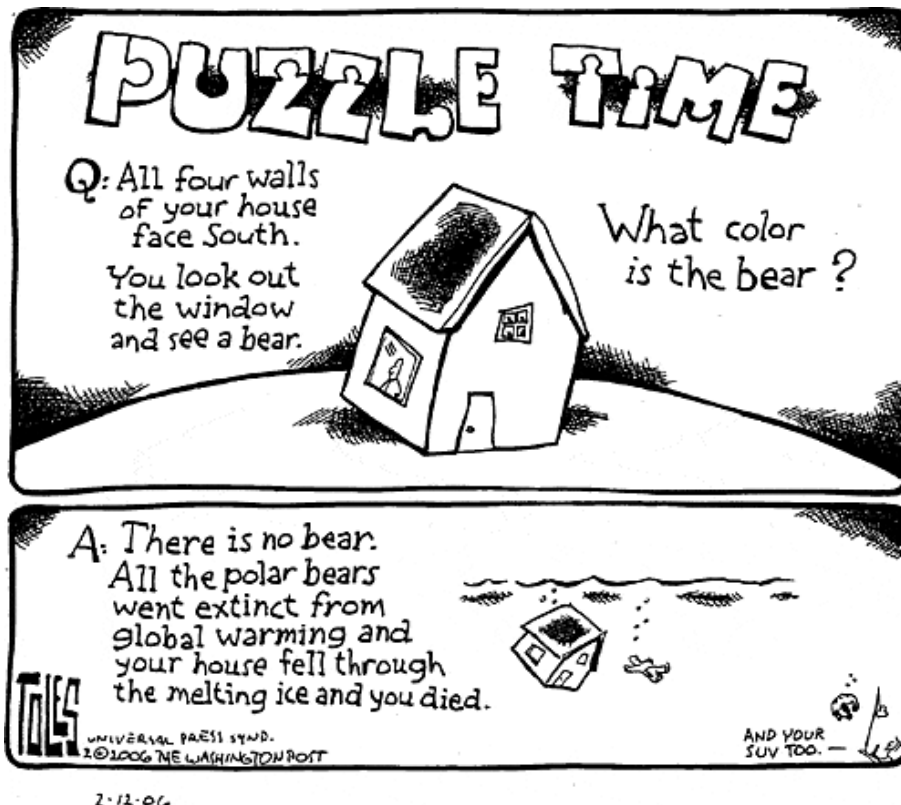
Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	01/23 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus p.67-69
	Class 2	01/25 (Fr)	Climate vs. Weather		
Week 2	Class 3	01/28 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth I	HW#1 out	Ch.1/2
	Class 4	01/30 (We)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch.1/2
	Class 5	02/01 (Fr)	The Earth in Space	HW#1 due	Ch.1
Week 3	Class 6	02/04 (Mo)	Earth's Atmosphere	HW#2 out	Ch.3
	Class 7	02/06 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 8	02/08 (Fr)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW#2 due	Ch.4
Week 4	Class 9	02/11 (Mo)	Earth's Greenhouse Effect		Ch.4
	Class 10	02/13 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 11	02/15 (Fr)	<b>Test #1</b>		Ch.1-4
Week 5		<b>02/18 (Mo)</b>	<b>No Class = President's Day</b>		
	Class 12	02/20 (We=Mo)	Pressure and Wind I		Ch.5
	Class 13	02/22 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch.5
Week 6	Class 14	02/25 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I	HW#3 out	
	Class 15	02/27 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II		Ch.5
	Class 16	02/29 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation I	HW#3 due	Ch.6
Week 7	Class 17	03/03 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation II	HW#4 out	Ch.6
	Class 18	03/05 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate I		Ch.7
	Class 19	03/07 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW#4 due	Ch.7
Week 8		<b>03/10 (Mo)</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
		<b>03/12 (We)</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
		<b>03/14 (Fr)</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
Week 9	Class 20	03/17 (Mo)	Extreme Weather/Climate		Ch.7
	Class 21	03/19 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 22	03/21 (Fr)	<b>Test #2</b>		Ch.5-7
Week 10	Class 23	03/24 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I	HW#5 out	Ch.13
	Class 24	03/26 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13
	Class 25	03/28 (Fr)	Plate Tectonics	HW#5 due	Ch.14
Week 11	Class 26	03/31 (Mo)	Volcanism/Earth Quakes	HW#6 out	Ch.14
	Class 27	04/02 (We)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch.15
	Class 28	04/04 (Fr)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW#6 due	Ch.15
Week 12	Class 29	04/07 (Mo)	Soils & Groundwater		Ch.9,12
	Class 30	04/09 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 31	04/11 (Fr)	<b>Test #3</b>		Ch.9,12-15

### Spring 2008 Class Schedule (continued)

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 13	Class 32	04/14 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW#7 out HW#7 due	Ch.16
	Class 33	04/16 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch.16
	Class 34	04/18 (Fr)	Coastal Processes I		Ch.20
Week 14	Class 35	04/22 (Tu=Mo)	Coastal Processes II		Ch.20
	Class 36	04/23 (We)	Glacial Processes I		Ch.19
	Class 37	04/25 (Fr)	Glacial Processes II		Ch.19
Week 15	Class 38	04/28 (Mo)	New England Geography	HW#8 out	hand-out
	Class 39	04/30 (We)	<b>All Day Field Trip</b>		hand-out
	Class 40	05/02 (Fr)	Glaciers and Climate Change	HW#8 due	hand-out
Week 16	Class 41	05/05 (Mo)	Fire & Ice: Iceland		
	Class 42	05/07 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 43	05/09 (Fr)	<b>Test #4 (08:00 – 10:00)</b>		Ch.16,19,20

### Notes on the class schedule

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be required to account for unforeseeable or unavoidable situations during the semester.
- Wednesday (04/30/2008) is an All-Day Field Trip (mandatory!) – Please arrange your schedule accordingly. No lab in Week 15.
- Test #4 (05/09/2007) is from 08:00 to 10:00 during the Spring 2008 exam period.



## Academic Calendar

WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE 2007/2008 Academic Calendar	
FALL SEMESTER 2007	SPRING SEMESTER 2008
<b>Monday, September 3</b> Labor Day (No classes)	<b>January 16-18</b> Transfer/New Student/Readmits Advising
<b>Tuesday, September 4</b> Opening Day	<b>Monday, January 21</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes)
<b>Wednesday, September 5</b> Classes Begin	<b>Tuesday, January 22</b> Classes Begin
<b>Monday, October 8</b> Columbus Day, Observed (No Classes)	<b>Monday, February 18</b> President's Day (No Classes)
<b>Tuesday, October 23</b> Session A Classes End	<b>Wednesday, February 20</b> Wednesday follow Monday Schedule
<b>Wednesday, October 24</b> Session B Classes Begin	<b>Monday, March 7</b> Session A Classes End
<b>Monday, November 12</b> Veterans' Day, Observed (No Classes)	<b>March 10-14</b> Spring Break
<b>Tuesday, November 13</b> Tuesday follow Monday Schedule	<b>Monday, March 17</b> Session B Classes Begin
<b>Wednesday, November 21</b> Thanksgiving Recess begins @ 12:20 p.m. November 22-23 -- No Classes	<b>Monday, April 21</b> Patriots' Day, Observed (No Classes)
<b>Monday, November 26</b> Classes Resume	<b>Tuesday, April 22</b> Tuesday follow Monday Schedule
<b>Friday, December 14</b> Last Day of Classes	<b>Wednesday, May 7</b> Last Day of Classes
<b>December 17 -20</b> Exam Period Begins	<b>Thursday, May 8</b> Exam Period Begins May 8, 9, 12, 13
<b>Friday, December 21</b> Exam Snow Makeup Day	<b>Wednesday, May 14</b> Senior Grades Due by Noon
<b>Thursday, December 27</b> Grades Due by Noon	<b>Friday, May 16</b> Rehearsal
	<b>Saturday, May 17</b> Commencement

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

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