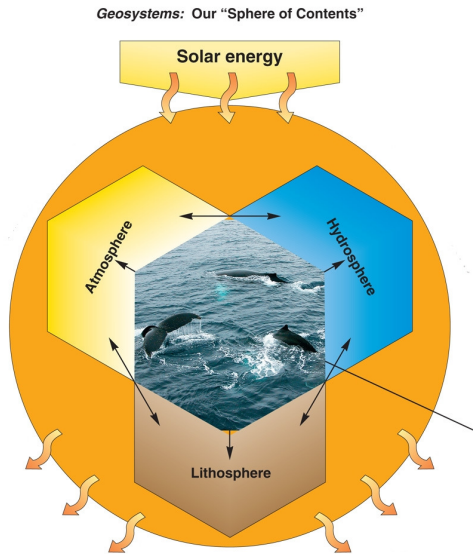


Introduction to Physical Geography
(GARP 0102, 4 credits)



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

<u>Lecture</u>	GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 31396), Wilson 130, MWF	09:20 to 10:10
<u>Lab</u>	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 31397), Bates 05, Monday	10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 31399), Bates 05, Friday	10:25 to 12:05

Please choose one of the lab sessions to accompany the lecture

Your Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun cbraun@wsc.ma.edu
 www.wsc.ma.edu/garp/faculty/cb.html
 413.572.5595
 Office: Bates 06
 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, 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)

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

Course Logistics

The first section of the course focuses on Climatology (Weeks 1 to 8), the second section of the semester focuses on Geomorphology (Weeks 10 to 16). 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 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 textbook readings. 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 2009 Exam period. It is not possible to take any test early, so plan accordingly.
- 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 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 (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, printed, and written in acceptable English – proof-read as needed.
- Monday (04/27/2009) is a mandatory All-Day Field Trip – we will explore some of the natural highlights of Western Massachusetts. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. No lab in Week 15.

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 (4 tests)
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

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	60 to 66
B+	87 to 89	C	73 to 76	F	< 59
B	83 to 86	C–	70 to 72		

The Fine Print...

- Be on time (i.e. get to class before class starts) and don't leave before the end of class.
- Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic gizmos.
- 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.

GARP 0102 Spring 2009 Lecture Schedule

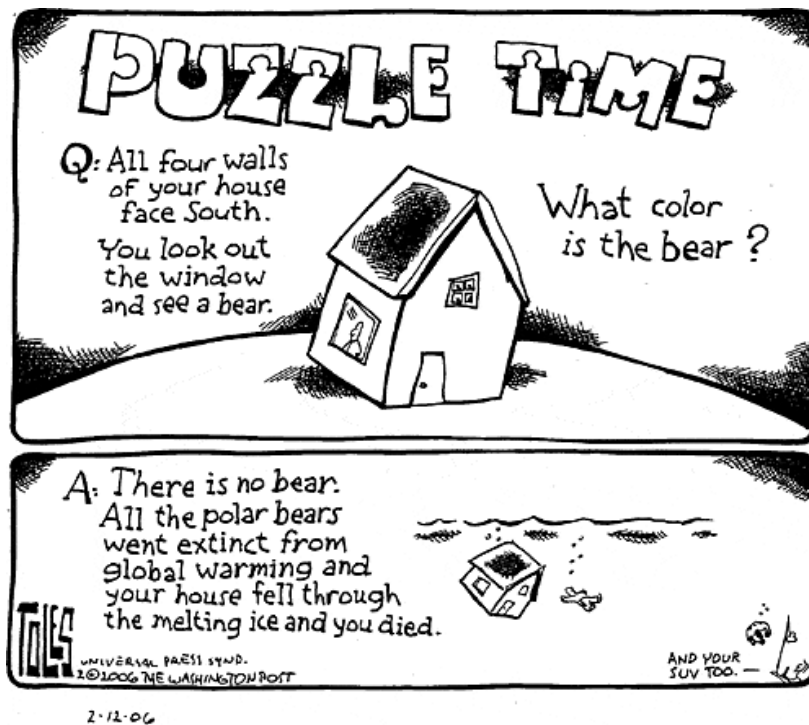
Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	01/21 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	01/23 (Fr)	Climate vs. Weather		p.67-69
Week 2	Class 3	01/26 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth I	HW#1 out	Ch.1/2
	Class 4	01/28 (We)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch.1/2
	Class 5	01/30 (Fr)	The Earth in Space	HW#1 due	Ch.1
Week 3	Class 6	02/02 (Mo)	Earth's Atmosphere	HW#2 out	Ch.3
	Class 7	02/04 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 8	02/06 (Fr)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW#2 due	Ch.4
Week 4	Class 9	02/09 (Mo)	Earth's Greenhouse Effect		Ch.4
	Class 10	02/11 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 11	02/13 (Fr)	Test #1		Ch.1-4
Week 5		02/16 (Mo)	No class = President's Day		
	Class 12	02/17 (Tu=Mo)	Pressure and Wind I		Ch.5
	Class 13	02/18 (We)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch.5
	Class 14	02/20 (Fr)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch.5
Week 6	Class 15	02/23 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW#3 out	Ch.5
	Class 16	02/25 (We)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch.6
	Class 17	02/27 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation II	HW#3 due	Ch.6
Week 7	Class 18	03/02 (Mo)	Mid-Latitude Climate I	HW#4 out	Ch.7
	Class 19	03/04 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate II		Ch.7
	Class 20	03/06 (Fr)	Global Climates	HW#4 due	Ch.8
Week 8	Class 21	03/09 (Mo)	Extreme Weather/Climate		Ch.7
	Class 22	03/11 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 23	03/13 (Fr)	Test #2		Ch.5-8
Week 9		03/16 (Mo)	No class = Spring Break		
		03/18 (We)	No class = Spring Break		
		03/20 (Fr)	No class = Spring Break		
Week 10	Class 24	03/23 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I	HW#5 out	Ch.13
	Class 25	03/25 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13
	Class 26	03/27 (Fr)	Plate Tectonics	HW#5 due	Ch.14
Week 11	Class 27	03/30 (Mo)	Volcanism/Earth Quakes	HW#6 out	Ch.14
	Class 28	04/01 (We)	Weathering/Erosion I		Ch.15
	Class 29	04/03 (Fr)	Weathering/Erosion II	HW#6 due	Ch.15
Week 12	Class 30	04/06 (Mo)	Soils & Groundwater		Ch.9,12
	Class 31	04/08 (We)	Review and Discussion		
	Class 32	04/10 (Fr)	Test #3		Ch.9,12-15

GARP 0102 Spring 2009 Lecture Schedule (continued)

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 13	Class 33	04/13 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW#7 out HW#7 due	Ch.16
	Class 34	04/15 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch.16
	Class 35	04/17 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I		Ch.19
Week 14		04/20 (Mo)	No class = Patriots Day		
		04/22 (We)	No class = CB at conference		
	Class 36	04/24 (Fr)	Glacial Processes II		Ch.19
Week 15	Class 37	04/27 (Mo)	All Day Field Trip	HW#8 out	hand-out
	Class 38	04/29 (We)	New England Geography		hand-out
	Class 39	05/01 (Fr=We)	No class = CB at conference		
Week 16	Class 40	05/04 (Mo)	Coastal Processes	HW#8 due	Ch.20
	Class 41	05/06 (We)	Test #4 (08:00 to 10:00)		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.
- Monday (04/27/2009) is an All-Day Field Trip (mandatory!). Please arrange your schedule accordingly No lab in Week 15.
- Test #4 (05/06/2009) is from 08:00 to 10:00 during the Spring 2009 exam period.



SPRING 2009	
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No Classes
January 20	Classes begin
February 16	Presidents' Day – No Classes
February 17	Follow Monday Schedule
February 27	Last Day to Withdraw for Session A
March 13	Session A Classes End
March 16 - 20	Spring Break
March 23	Classes Resume <u>and</u> Session B Classes Begin
April 10	Last Day to Withdraw for Full Semester Classes
April 20	Patriots' Day – No Classes
April 21	Last Day to Withdraw for Session B
April 29	Community Service Day
May 1	Follow Wednesday Schedule
May 4	Classes End – Day Division
May 5	Reading Day (No Classes - Day Division Only)
May 6, 7, 8, 11	Examination Period
May 13	Senior Grades Due by Noon
May 16	Commencement
May 22	All Other Grades Due by Noon

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

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