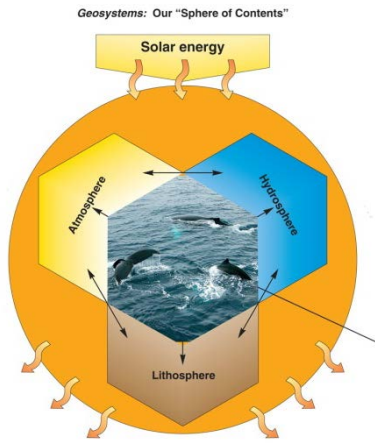


## GARP 0102 *Introduction to Physical Geography*



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.

<b>Lecture</b>	GARP 0102-001 (CRN# 30150)	Wilson 314	MWF, 09:20 to 10:10
<b>Labs</b>	GARP 0102-01A (CRN# 30155)	Bates 05	M, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01B (CRN# 30156)	Bates 05	W, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-01C (CRN# 30154)	Bates 05	F, 10:25 to 12:05

### Instructor

Dr. Carsten Braun      Office Hours: MWF, 12:15 to 13:15 (or anytime by appointment)  
 Wilson 201, 413.572.5595  
[cbraun@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:cbraun@westfield.ma.edu) or [www.westfield.ma.edu/cbraun](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/cbraun)

Our goal for this course is simple: We want to get 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**

McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation – 11<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Darrel Hess and Dennis Tasa, Pearson Prentice-Hall (ISBN-13: 978-0-321-82043-3)

Consider acquiring the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of this textbook to save you some money, but keep in mind that the page numbers and figure numbers will be different.

**Course Logistics**

The first section of the semester focuses on *Climatology* (Weeks 1 to 9) and the second section focuses on *Geomorphology* (Weeks 10 to 16). We do 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 Spring 2014 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 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 30 April 2014 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.  
**Consult with me in advance if you have any concerns about this field trip.**

**Course Website and Resources**

Course Website: <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/cbraun/teaching/physical-geography/>

Resources: <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/cbraun/resources/physical-geography-resources/>

## Grading Policy

Your course grade is a function of your learning process throughout the entire semester and combines four tests, all lab projects, and all homework assignments. 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, or homework assignments unless you are experiencing a documented emergency.
- No extra-credit assignments.
- Late policy: 10 point deduction for each day late, ‘skipped’ = zero.

Grade Conversion	
A	94-100
A-	90-93
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

Tests	50 percent of final grade
Lab Projects	25 percent of final grade
Homework Assignments	25 percent of final grade

➔ *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.*

## Academic Honesty and Disabilities

The University *Academic Honesty Policy* can be found on page 43 of the current Westfield State University Bulletin. Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism and cheating are inexcusable. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will result in no credit for the assignment or failure of the course. The *University Classroom Student Conduct Policy* can be found on page 45 of the current Westfield State University Bulletin available online at <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/uploads/registrar/bulletin.pdf>.

It is the policy of Westfield State University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with the *Banacos Academic Center*, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering your need for reasonable accommodations for disabilities can be discussed with staff at the Banacos Academic Center. Please write to [banacos@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:banacos@westfield.ma.edu).

## The Fine Print

- Adjustments to the course schedule may be required 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 during class.
- No texting in class!
- It is your responsibility to keep up with the course material, hand-outs, lecture notes, tests, assignments, and grades – I’m not your secretary!
- If missing a class – you have to inform me in advance to make arrangements.

**GARP 0102 Physical Geography Lecture (Schedule Spring 2014)**

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	1/22 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	1/24 (Fr)	Mapping the Earth I	HW1 out	Ch.1/2
Week 2	Class 3	1/27 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth II		Ch.1/2
	Class 4	1/29 (We)	Climate vs. Weather	HW1 due	p.60-62
		1/31 (Fr)	<i>No class</i>		
Week 3	Class 5	2/3 (Mo)	The Earth in Space I		Ch.1
	Class 6	2/5 (We)	The Earth in Space II		Ch.1
	Class 7	2/7 (Fr)	Earth's Atmosphere	HW2 out	Ch.3
Week 4	Class 8	2/10 (Mo)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 9	2/12 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW2 due	Ch.4
	Class 10	2/14 (Fr)	<b>Test #1</b>		
Week 5		2/17 (Mo)	<i>No class (President's Day)</i>		
	Class 11	2/18 (Tu=Mo)	The Greenhouse Effect		Ch.4/8
	Class 12	2/19 (We)	Pressure and Wind I		Ch.5
Week 6	Class 13	2/21 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II	HW3 out	Ch.5
	Class 14	2/24 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch.5
	Class 15	2/26 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW3 due	Ch.5
Week 7	Class 16	2/28 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation I		Ch.6
	Class 17	3/3 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch.6
	Class 18	3/5 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate I		Ch.7
Week 8	Class 19	3/7 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW4 out	Ch.7
		3/10 (Mo)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
		3/12 (We)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
Week 9		3/14 (Fr)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
	Class 20	3/17 (Mo)	Extreme Weather and Climate		Ch.7
	Class 21	3/19 (We)	Climate Change/Global Warming	HW4 due	Ch.8
	Class 22	3/21 (Fr)	<b>Test #2</b>		
Week 10	Class 23	3/24 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I		Ch.13/14
	Class 24	3/26 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13/14
	Class 25	3/28 (Fr)	Rock Cycle and Plate Tectonics	HW5 out	Ch.13/14
Week 11	Class 26	3/31 (Mo)	Earthquakes / Volcanoes		Ch.14
	Class 27	4/2 (We)	Weathering and Erosion I	HW5 due	Ch.15
	Class 28	4/4 (Fr)	Weathering and Erosion II	HW6 out	Ch.15
Week 12	Class 29	4/7 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I		Ch.16
	Class 30	4/9 (We)	Fluvial Processes II	HW6 due	Ch.16
	Class 31	4/11 (Fr)	<b>Test #3</b>		
Week 13	Class 32	4/14 (Mo)	Groundwater and Soils		Ch.9/12
	Class 33	4/16 (We)	Coastal Processes I		Ch.9/20
	Class 34	4/18 (Fr)	Coastal Processes II	HW7 out	Ch.9/20
Week 14		4/21 (Mo)	<i>No class (Patriot's Day)</i>		
	Class 35	4/23 (We)	Glacial Processes I	HW7 due	Ch.19
	Class 36	4/25 (Fr)	Glacial Processes II	HW 8 out	Ch.19
Week 15	Class 37	4/28 (Mo)	Glaciers and Climate Change		Ch.19
	Class 38	4/30 (We)	<i>All-Day Field Trip</i>		Handout
	Class 39	5/2 (Fr)	New England Geography	HW8 due	Handout
Week 16	Class 40	5/5 (Mo)	Semester Review		
	Class 41	5/7 (We)	<b>Test #4 (08:00 to 10:00)</b>		