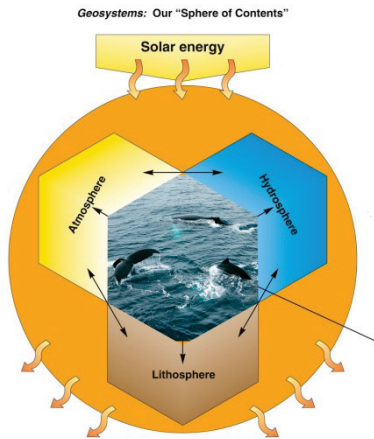


GARP 0102 Introduction to Physical Geography



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 0102-005 (CRN# 30830)	Wilson 319	MWF, 09:20 to 10:10
Labs	GARP 0102-05A (CRN# 30844)	Bates 05	Monday, 10:25 to 12:05
	GARP 0102-05B (CRN# 30846)	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

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 (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 Climatology (Weeks 1 to 9), 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 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 2013 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 six 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 (1 May 2013) 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.**

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.

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

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

➔ *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.

➔ **Contact me anytime help and clarification!**

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.

GARP 0102 Physical Geography Lecture (Schedule Spring 2013)

Week	Class	Date	Theme/Topic	Assignment	Reading
Week 1	Class 1	1/23 (We)	Course Overview		syllabus
	Class 2	1/25 (Fr)	Mapping the Earth I		Ch.1/2
Week 2	Class 3	1/28 (Mo)	Mapping the Earth II	HW1 out	Ch.1/2
	Class 4	1/30 (We)	Climate vs. Weather		p.60-62
Week 3	Class 5	2/1 (Fr)	The Earth in Space I	HW 1 due	Ch.1
	Class 6	2/4 (Mo)	The Earth in Space II		Ch.1
	Class 7	2/6 (We)	Earth's Atmosphere	HW2 out	Ch.3
Week 4		2/8 (Fr)	<i>No class</i>		
	Class 8	2/11 (Mo)	Earth's Radiation Balance I		Ch.4
	Class 9	2/13 (We)	Earth's Radiation Balance II	HW 2 due	Ch.4
	Class 10	2/15 (Fr)	Test #1		
Week 5		2/18 (Mo)	<i>No class (President's Day)</i>		
	Class 11	2/19 (Tu=Mo)	The Greenhouse Effect		Ch.4
Week 6	Class 12	2/20 (We)	Pressure and Wind I	HW3 out	Ch.5
	Class 13	2/22 (Fr)	Pressure and Wind II		Ch.5
	Class 14	2/25 (Mo)	Atmospheric Circulation I		Ch.5
Week 7	Class 15	2/27 (We)	Atmospheric Circulation II	HW3 due	Ch.5
	Class 16	3/1 (Fr)	Moisture and Precipitation I	HW4 out	Ch.6
Week 8	Class 17	3/4 (Mo)	Moisture and Precipitation II		Ch.6
	Class 18	3/6 (We)	Mid-Latitude Climate I		Ch.7
Week 9	Class 19	3/8 (Fr)	Mid-Latitude Climate II	HW 4 due	Ch.7
		3/11 (Mo)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
		3/13 (We)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
Week 10	Class 20	3/15 (Fr)	<i>WSU Spring Break</i>		
	Class 20	3/18 (Mo)	Extreme Weather!		Ch.7
	Class 21	3/20 (We)	<i>No class</i>		
		3/22 (Fr)	Test #2		
Week 11	Class 22	3/25 (Mo)	Rocks and Minerals I		Ch.13
	Class 23	3/27 (We)	Rocks and Minerals II		Ch.13
Week 12	Class 24	3/29 (Fr)	The Rock Cycle		Ch.14
	Class 25	4/1 (Mo)	Earthquakes / Volcanoes	HW5 out	Ch.14
Week 13	Class 26	4/3 (We)	Weathering and Erosion I		Ch.15
	Class 27	4/5 (Fr)	Weathering and Erosion II		Ch.15
	Class 28	4/8 (Mo)	Fluvial Processes I	HW 5 due	Ch.16
	Class 29	4/10 (We)	Fluvial Processes II		Ch.16
	Class 30	4/12 (Fr)	Test #3		
Week 14		4/15 (Mo)	<i>No class (Patriots Day)</i>		
	Class 31	4/17 (We)	Groundwater and Soils		Ch.9/12
Week 15	Class 32	4/19 (Fr)	Coastal Processes I		Ch.9/20
	Class 33	4/22 (Mo)	Coastal Processes II		Ch.9/20
Week 16		4/24 (We)	<i>No class</i>		
	Class 34	4/26 (Fr)	Glacial Processes I	HW 6 out	Ch.19
	Class 35	4/29 (Mo)	Glacial Processes II		Ch.19
Week 17	Class 36	5/1 (We)	<i>All-Day Field Trip</i>		Handout
	Class 37	5/3 (Fr)	New England Geography	HW6 due	Handout
	Class 38	5/6 (Mo)	Glaciers and Climate Change		p.519
	Class 39	5/8 (We)	Test #4 (12:20 to 14:30)		

“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”. 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.