



COURSE OUTLINE: Our Natural Earth



As a settler and uninvited guest to these territories, I express my gratitude and respect to the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the science of Physical Geography using an earth-systems approach. Course themes include global climates and climate change, hydrology and water resources, geomorphology and natural hazards, and biogeography; with focus on how geographic sciences are applied to address real world issues.

Class Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 11:20 am
Classroom: BWC

Lab Information: ALL LAB SECTIONS ARE HELD IN **DTB B303**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION



About Me: I am an Associate Teaching Professor in the Geography Department. My role in the Department is primarily on program delivery, supporting student learning and discovery in Physical Geography, and Geomatics. I am passionate about hydrometeorological topics and field-based learning.

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 pm or by appointment. On occasion I will need reschedule. If this happens, I will send a message out on Brightspace. I have an open-door policy, stop by if you see it open 😊 **Location:** DTB B308

Contact: fargey@uvic.ca When emailing me please include 'GEOG 103: your name: brief subject' in the subject line, this helps me sort through emails and makes it easier to respond to your message. *It may*

take up to 48-hrs for a response. Please be patient. I rarely respond to emails in the evening to maintain a work-life balance and if you email on a Friday, do not expect a response until Monday.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

We will use a series of Open Educational Resources for this course. They can be found on Brightspace. If you would like a textbook, the recommended text below is excellent. Older versions are available in the library as a reference, or you may be able to find something used online.

RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)

Geosystems (4th Edition) - Canadian Edition – Christopherson, Birkeland, Byrne, & Giles

EVALUATION

Laboratory Assignments x 6	40%
Midterm Exam (in class – October 20)	15%
Topic Quizzes (Dates on Brightspace)	10%
Final Exam* (during Exam period)	35%

Additional information about the evaluation components can be found on Brightspace.

*Final Exam period takes place between Dec 6-20. The schedule is usually released mid-October.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand Physical Geography elements using an earth-system approach
2. Build a strong knowledge foundation in Physical Geography elements on which you can rely for success in upper level and advanced topics in Geography or other disciplines
3. Better understand the intersection between geographic sciences and human activities while also learning how geographic sciences are applied to address real world issues
4. Acquire a strong academic skills foundation, specifically research (to find the resources you need, to collect, analyze and interpret data and to present it effectively) and communication (in writing for different audiences, presenting and working collaboratively in teams)

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a

C	2	60-64%	satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

BRIGHTSPACE

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (<https://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/learningteaching/brightspace/index.php>). Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: helpdesk@uvic.ca, Tel: 250-721-7687

You will find more details about the course and lab schedule on Brightspace.

POLICY ON LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS

Assignments are due before the start of your scheduled lab time. Late assignments and/or project work will be penalized **20% per day**. Exceptions will only be granted for medical or compassionate reasons. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions*. When contacting me please let me know what lab section you are in. I will need to notify your TA if an exception is granted.

Exams can only be missed for medical or compassionate reasons. *Only the course instructor can grant exception*. If an exception is granted, the student may be provided at alternate date/time to write the exam. If this date/time is not agreeable for whatever reason the weight of the missed evaluation component will be added to the final exam. If you miss a final exam (regardless of the reason and want the chance to write) you must apply for a Request for Academic Concession through the registrar's office (<https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/index.php>).

Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred assignment or project extension or miss an exam.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected for lectures and lab assignment work periods. Recordings of lecture material or laboratory introductions are not provided. Some lab assignments are due in the work period block and not attending would result in an incomplete and 'N' grade in the course.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit. Failure to complete any lab or midterm/final exam evaluation components without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0. In this course the ONLY expectation are the quizzes. You can miss 1 out of 4 quizzes without question, however you will be graded a 0 for that evaluation component, which in most cases results in a drop of a letter grade. Missing more than 1 quiz without permission/consultation with the instructor may result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

As an Instructor, I can refuse a student admission to a lecture, laboratory, learning activity or exam because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work may be assigned a final grade of 'N' (which equals a Grade Point Value of 0) or debarred from final examinations. Please refer to the UVic academic calendar in the section on *student academic conduct* for further information.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments and quizzes *independently*.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat**.

Policy on Academic Integrity: web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible (uvic.ca/services/cal/). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavor to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work. If you have any concerns about the

climate of the class, please contact me.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

Web: uvic.ca/svp

RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor (geogadvising@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, cindyann@uvic.ca), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed online and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester

by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* uvic.ca/services/cal/. *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.* uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php

WEEKLY SCHEDULE – Tentative and subject to change

Important Dates (UVic Calendar) - <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>

Last day for withdrawing from the first term courses without penalty of failure: Oct 31

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Tentative Lecture Schedule</i>	<i>Tests</i>	<i>Lab</i>
1	Sept. 1 – Sept. 5	No classes		No Lab Meetings
2	Sept. 8 – Sept. 12	(M) Introduction to course (R) Energy and Climate		No Lab Meetings
3	Sept. 15 – Sept. 19	(M/R) Energy and Climate		Lab 1 Personal Geographies*
4	Sept. 22 – Sept. 26	(M) Atmospheric Circulation (R) Hydrological Systems	Quiz 1 (Online) Sept 25	Lab 2 Dendrochronology – Lab 1 due before lab time
5	Sept 29 – Oct. 3	(M) Precipitation and Storms (R) River Systems and Fluvial Landscapes		No Labs
6	Oct. 6 – Oct. 10	(M) River Systems and Fluvial Landscapes (R) Soil Moisture and Groundwater	Quiz 2 (Online) Oct 9	Lab 3 Hydrology – Lab 2 due before lab time
7	Oct. 13 – Oct. 17	(M) No class (Thanksgiving) (R) Coastal Systems		Lab 4 – Stream Systems
8	Oct. 20 – Oct. 24	(M) Midterm – in class (R) no in class meeting - watch posted video 'Killer Landslides'	Midterm (In class) Oct 20	Work Week – Open Labs (TA present)
9	Oct. 27 – Oct. 31	(M) The Lithosphere Landscape Hazards (R) Weathering, Mass wasting, and Soils		Lab 5a – Coastal Systems – Lab 3 due before lab time
10	Nov. 3 – Nov. 7	(M) Weathering, Mass wasting, and Soils (R) Glacial Processes	Quiz 3 (Online) Nov 6	Lab 5b – Field trip Coastal Systems* – Lab 4 due before lab time
11	Nov. 10 – Nov. 14	(M) No class- Reading Break (R) Biogeography		No Labs
12	Nov. 17 – Nov. 21	(M) Island Biogeography (R) Biogeography continued		Lab 6 Glacial Systems – Lab 5 a/b due before lab time
13	Nov. 24 – Nov 28	(M) Catch up (I will fall behind) (R) Review	Quiz 4 (Online) Nov 27	Work Week – Open Labs (TA Present)
14	Dec. 1 – Dec. 5	(M) no class		No Labs – Lab 6 due Wed Dec 3 rd before midnight