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## COURSE OUTLINE

### Our Natural Earth – Introduction to Physical Geography



Coastal bluffs in Helliwell Provincial Park, Hornby Island

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We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the processes and patterns in our physical environment using an earth-systems approach. Course themes include global climates and climate change, hydrology and water resources, geomorphology and natural hazards, and biogeography.

Much of the course material I present has been prepared by Dr. Shannon Fargey

**This outline lists information for both the lecture (A01) and lab (B01-B05) portions. The lab schedule and TA information can be found on pages 7-8.** In order to receive a spot in a lab section, you must currently be enrolled in the lecture portion as well.

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## COURSE COMMUNICATION

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course ([bright.uvic.ca](https://bright.uvic.ca)). This is where all important resources are uploaded, including course information,

topic slides, important dates, announcements, lab materials, and TA information (email addresses and office hours). Please go here first and visit often. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), Tel: 250-721-7687

## 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)

## EVALUATION

Laboratory Assignments x 6	40%
Quizzes x 4	10%
Midterm Exam (Feb 24, during class time)	15%
Final Exam (during Exam period)	35%

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)
- Geography Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

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## COURSE POLICIES

Students are expected to attend all lectures and labs. A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected, particularly in the labs.

**Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit.** Failure to complete any evaluation component without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

Late assignments will be penalized 20% per day (weekends count as one day). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Please inform me (Eva) of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. **Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.**

Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Any make-up test or examination may not follow the same format as the in-class one. Please inform me (Eva) of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred exam or assignment extension.

**Please attend only the laboratory section for which you are registered.** If you must miss a lab for exceptional circumstances, please make arrangements with your TA and Instructor in advance to join another section. This however does not change the due date of your lab assignment.

Details regarding your labs and their marks are managed by the course TAs. Please discuss any issues or questions on labs with your TA first and then direct questions at the instructor if you would like further clarification.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments 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](http://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](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

*Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI. In order to successfully complete course activities, generative AI is not required nor welcomed. Students should not make any use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, among others that use AI for content generation and editing. As the University of Victoria states on its Academic Integrity Policy "Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility." Therefore, I expect you to comply with the course syllabus and I encourage you to enhance your academic experience in this course by refraining from use generative AI.*

## **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/](http://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.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE RESOURCE OFFICE (SVRO)**

If you have been directly or indirectly impacted by sexualized violence, reach out to the SVRO for information, advice, resolution options (restorative and disciplinary) as well as support options and referrals. The SVRO is both survivor-centred and trauma-informed in their approach.

[eqhr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eqhr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

[www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp)

## **EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)**

UVic Equity and Human Rights is a resource for students, staff and faculty who have experienced discrimination and harassment and are looking for informal and formal resolution options as well as advice, coaching and/or education. We are available for confidential consultations so that you can ask questions and learn your options.

[eqhr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eqhr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

[www.uvic.ca/equity](http://www.uvic.ca/equity)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>excellent</b> 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.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good</b> and <b>solid</b> 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>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Important Dates:

Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>: Second term classes begin for all faculties

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>: Last day for 100% reduction of second term fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term (except for Faculty of Law)

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>: Last day for paying second term fees without penalty

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses. 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.

Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: Last day for withdrawing from full year and second term courses without penalty of failure

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Last day of classes for all faculties

Topic 1: Global Climate & Climatic Change

Topic 2: Global Water

Topic 3: The Lithosphere and Surface Processes

Topic 4: Biogeography

WEEK	DATE	Monday	Thursday	Quizzes
1	Jan 6-12	Intro	Topic 1	
2	Jan 13-19	Topic 1	Topic 1	
3	Jan 20-26	Topic 1	Topic 1	
4	Jan 27-Feb 2	Topic 2	Topic 2	Quiz 1*
5	Feb 3-9	Topic 2	Topic 2	
6	Feb 10-16	Topic 2	Topic 2	
7	Feb 17-23	Reading Break		Quiz 2*
8	Feb 24–Mar 2	Midterm	Topic 3	
9	Mar 3 - 9	Topic 3	Topic 3	
10	Mar 10-16	Topic 3	Topic 3	
11	Mar 17-23	Topic 4	Topic 4	Quiz 3*
12	Mar 24-30	Topic 4	Topic 4	
13	Mar 31-Apr 4	Review	Review	Quiz 4*

**\*Quizzes are available on Brightspace from Thursday 11 am to Monday 5 pm at the end of each Topic block.**

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

### GEOG 103 Lab Schedule Spring 2025

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00:00 AM					
<b>8:30:00 AM</b>	GEOG 103 Lecture 8:30-9:50	<b>B02</b> 08:30-10:20 AM		GEOG 103 Lecture 8:30-9:50	
9:00:00 AM					
<b>9:30:00 AM</b>					
10:00:00 AM				<b>B04</b> 10:00 AM-11:50 AM	
<b>10:30:00 AM</b>					
11:00:00 AM					
<b>11:30:00 AM</b>					
12:00:00 PM					
<b>12:30:00 AM</b>		<b>B03</b> 12:30-2:20 PM			<b>B05</b> 12:30-2:20 PM
1:00:00 PM					
<b>1:30:00 PM</b>					
2:00:00 PM					
<b>2:30:00 PM</b>	<b>B01</b> 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM				
3:00:00 PM					
<b>3:30:00 PM</b>					
4:00:00 PM					
<b>4:30:00 PM</b>					
5:00:00 PM					
<b>5:30:00 PM</b>					
6:00:00 PM					
<b>6:30:00 PM</b>					
7:00:00 PM					

### Lab Format:

1. Attend your lab section for an introduction to our lab topic in person.
  - a. Please arrange ahead of time with your TA if you need to miss a lab section to:
    - i) either attend a different lab section, or ii) meet your TA during their office hours.
2. Review your lab document and any posted lab video/notes on Brightspace (bright.uvic.ca).
3. Complete lab activities.
4. Attend your lab's work sessions and your TA's office hours with questions.
5. Submit your assignment via virtual dropbox on Brightspace before the posted due date/time.

### Lab Schedule – Fall 2024 - The below schedule is subject to change with advance notice.

Week	Dates	Description
1	Jan 6-10	<i>No Lab Meetings</i>
2	Jan 13-17	Lab #1 – Personal Geographies*
3	Jan 20-24	Lab #2 – Climatology (bring laptops, in-class activity)
4	Jan 27-31	Lab #3 – Hydrology (bring laptop) - <b>Lab #1 + 2 due</b> before your lab time
5	Feb 3-7	<i>No Lab Meetings – contact your TA or attend office hours with questions</i>
6	Feb 10-14	Lab #4 - Stream systems - <b>Lab #3 due</b> before your lab time
7	Feb 17-21	Reading Break (No Labs)
8	Feb 24-28	Work Week - Open Labs (TA present)
9	Mar 3-7	Lab #5a - Coastal systems - <b>Lab #4 due</b> before your lab time
10	Mar 10-14	Lab #5b - <i>FIELD TRIP</i> Coastal systems*
11	Mar 17-21	Lab #6 – Glacial systems – <b>Lab #5a/b due</b> before lab time
12	Mar 24-28	Work Week - Open Labs (TA present)
13	Mar 31- Apr 4	<i>No Labs</i> – <b>Lab #6 due</b> April 2 before 11:59pm

\*Denotes outdoor lab – dress for the weather

Late penalty: 20% per day late. All extensions (i.e. sick excuses, etc.) must be approved by your professor (cc your TA).

### Mark Breakdown:

Lab #1	5%
Lab #2	5%
Lab #3	8%
Lab #4	8%
Lab #5	6%
Lab #6	8%
<b>Total Lab Mark</b>	<b>40%**</b>

\*\*lab topics are covered in final exam\*\*

### 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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)