



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: DTB A104

Lab Information: All lab sections are held in **DTB B303**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION



About Me: I am an Associate Teaching Professor and the Associate Chair 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, thank you for your patience. 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 19)	15%
Online Quizzes (Dates on Brightspace)	10%
Lab Exam (in-class – December 7)	10%
Final Exam* (during Exam period)	25%

**Final Exam period takes place between Dec 9-23. The schedule is usually released mid-October.*

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

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+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	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.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	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.
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.

There is a two-day (48 hr) grace period to submit all lab assignments completed outside of class time (no marks will be lost during the grace period). However, neither the grading assistant nor the course instructor will answer questions about course assignments after the assignment due date. Extensions beyond the two-day (48 hr) grace period may only be granted for unexpected or unavoidable circumstances – please review the Undergraduate Requests for [Academic Concession webpage](#) for further information. Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for extensions or alternative arrangements. Request for Academic Concession – in class concession forms should be sent to the course instructor, not a grading assistant.

There is no grace period for submission of online quizzes. They are open book and you are given 48-hrs to start the exam from opening which means with planning there should not be any excuse for requesting an extension. If you experience technical difficulties when completing and submitting the online quiz, please be in touch with your course instructor as soon as possible. fargey@uvic.ca

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 or the weight of the missed evaluation component will be added to the final exam. If the weight of the missed exam is added to the final exam you will be provided an opportunity to write the missed exam

(for no marks) to receive feedback on curriculum competency. 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>).

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 may result in an 'N' grade in the course.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Students are expected to complete all evaluation components to obtain credit. As this course is foundational to the program, by not completing an evaluation component you will not be prepared for upper-level courses in the program, therefore failure to complete any lab assignment 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 2 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 2 quizzes 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

Students are required to abide by all academic regulations set as set out in the University calendar, including standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity (e.g. cheating and plagiarism, use of an editor, multiple submission) are considered serious and may result in significant penalties.

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.

GEN AI IS NOT ALLOWED

Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI. 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, Google Gemini, Microsoft Co-pilot 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/). 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 changeImportant 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. 9 – Sept. 11	(R) Introduction to course		No Lab Meetings
2	Sept. 14 – Sept. 18	(M/R) Energy and Climate		No Lab Meetings
3	Sept. 21 – Sept. 25	(M) Climate and Climate Change (R) Global Climates	Quiz 1 (Online) Sept 24	Lab 1 Personal Geographies*
4	Sept. 28 – Oct. 3	(M/R) Atmospheric Circulation and Storms		No Labs
5	Oct. 5 – Oct. 9	(M) Hydrological Systems (R) River Systems and Fluvial Landscapes		Lab 2 – Climatology – Lab 1 due before lab time
6	Oct. 12 – Oct. 16	(M) No class (Thanksgiving) (R) River Systems and Fluvial Landscapes	Quiz 2 (Online) Oct 15	Lab 3 Hydrology – Lab 2 due before lab time
7	Oct. 19 – Oct. 23	(M) Midterm – in class (R) Soil Moisture and Groundwater	Midterm (In class) Oct 19	Work Week – Open Labs (TA present)
8	Oct. 26 – Oct. 30	(M) Coastal Systems (R) The Lithosphere and Landscape Hazards		Lab 4 – Stream Systems – Lab 3 due before lab time
9	Nov. 2 – Nov. 6	(M) The Lithosphere and Landscape Hazards (R) Weathering and Mass wasting	Quiz 3 (Online) Nov 5	Work Week with partner– Open Labs (TA present)
10	Nov. 9 – Nov. 13	(M) No class- Reading Break (Nov 9-11) (R) Glacial Processes		No Labs
11	Nov. 16 – Nov. 20	(M) Glacial Processes (R) Soils and Biogeography		Lab 5a/b – Coastal Systems (a) + Weekend Field trip (b) – Lab 4 due before lab time
12	Nov. 23 – Nov. 27	(M) Island Biogeography (recorded) (R) Biogeography and Biomes	Quiz 4 (Online) Nov 23	Lab 6 Glacial Systems – Lab 5 a/b due before lab time
13	Nov. 30 – Dec. 4	(M/R) Catch up and Review (I will fall behind)		Work Week – Open Labs (TA present) – Lab 6 due Sunday Dec 6 th before 11:59 pm
14	Dec. 7 – Dec. 9	(M) Lab exam (In class)	Lab Exam (in class) Dec 7	