



COURSE OUTLINE

Our Natural Earth – Introduction to Physical Geography



Coastal bluffs in Helliwell Provincial Park, Hornby Island

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən 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. In order to receive a spot in a lab section, you must currently be enrolled in the lecture portion as well.

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:50 am, Elliott Building 168

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 -11 am or by appointment

Office Location: DTB B123a

Contact: ekwoll@uvic.ca

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course (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, 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)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Information provided on Brightspace.

EVALUATION

Laboratory Assignments x 6	40%
Quizzes x 4	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam (covering Lecture and Lab materials)	35%

Mark Breakdown:

Lab #1	5%
Lab #2	6%
Lab #3	8%
Lab #4	7%
Lab #5	7%
Lab #6	7%
Total Lab Mark	40%**

lab topics are covered in final exam

For additional important Lab information like Lab schedule and TA information, see Lab Document on Brightspace in the Course Outline folder.

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 satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
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

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. **Only the**

course instructor can grant exceptions. 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 lab content 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

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

Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI for preparation of your assignments. In order to successfully complete the assignments, 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."

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.

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
Sedgewick C Wing
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
Sedgewick C Wing
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) 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.

Student Experience of Learning (SEL) survey

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 (SEL). 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Important Dates:

Jan 5: First term classes begin for all faculties
Jan 18: Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees for standard first term and full year courses
Jan 21: Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term
Feb 8: Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses
Feb 28: Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure
Apr 2: Last day of classes in first term 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	Wednesday	Quizzes
1	Jan 5-11	Intro	Intro	
2	Jan 12-18	Topic 1	Topic 1	
3	Jan 19-25	Topic 1	Topic 1	Quiz 1*
4	Jan 26- Feb 1	Topic 1	Topic 2	
5	Feb 2-8	Topic 2	Topic 2	
6	Feb 9-15	Topic 2	MIDTERM	Quiz 2*
7	Feb 16-22	Reading break		
8	Feb 23-1	Topic 2	Topic 2	
9	Mar 2-8	Topic 3	Topic 3	
10	Mar 9-15	Topic 3	Topic 3	Quiz 3*
11	Mar 16-22	Topic 3	Topic 4	
12	Mar 23-29	Topic 4	Topic 4	
13	Mar 30- Apr 5	Topic 4	Review	Quiz 4*

***Quizzes are held on Brightspace and are available from Monday 5 pm to Wednesday 2 pm of that week. They cover only the material taught in lecture up until that point and are not cumulative.**

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the

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