



COURSE OUTLINE
Introduction to Physical Geography

Contact: fargey@uvic.ca or 250-721-7342
Office Location: DTB B308
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 to 3:30 pm, Fridays 9:30 am to 12:00 pm *or by appointment*
Class Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 11:20 am
Location: David Strong Building B303

Lab Information:

B01	Monday	11:30 am – 1:20 pm	DTB B303
B02	Monday	2:30 – 4:20 pm	DTB B303
B03	Tuesday	12:30 – 2:20 pm	DTB B303
B04	Tuesday	2:30– 4:20 pm	DTB B303
B05	Wednesday	1:30 – 3:20 pm	DTB B303
B06	Wednesday	4:30 – 6:20 pm	DTB B303
B07	Thursday	1:00 – 2:50 pm	DTB B303
B08	Thursday	4:30 – 6:20 pm	DTB B303
B09	Friday	10:30 am – 12:20 pm	DTB B303

TA information posted on CourseSpaces

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

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 TEXT

Geosystems (2016), 4th Canadian Edition, by: R. Christopherson, M-L. Byrne, & P. Giles

The majority of your readings will come from the required textbook. Use of older editions of the textbook is acceptable, however assigned readings (pages and chapters) will reference the 4th edition only. If you use an older edition, you are responsible for matching content between books and making up any material that is found in the new edition. Additional readings and learning resources will be provided throughout the course.

EVALUATION

Laboratory Assignments x 5	35%
Midterm Exam (Oct 24 th in class)	25%
Laboratory Exam (Exam period)	15%
Final Exam (Exam period)	25%

Exam Format: The questions for the midterm exam and final exam will be based on lectures, readings and class discussion. The midterm test will cover only the topics discussed immediately preceding it. The final exam is comprehensive, but will be weighted more heavily on material not previously tested on. Format includes a combination of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. The lab exam questions will be based on lab assignments, background material and lab discussions.

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+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a 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 INFORMATION

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>

Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield geogadvisor@uvic.ca

Department Chair: Dr. Johan Feddema geogchair@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). 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

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are expected to attend all lectures, take notes and be punctual for class.

Cell phones and portable music players must be **turned off or silenced** during lectures.

Topic handouts based on lecture presentations will be provided before the beginning of class meetings on CourseSpaces. These handouts will be removed **7 days** after the posting date. Students are responsible for downloading/saving and completing notes packages. *If you miss any material, make arrangements to get handouts from a fellow student, not from the instructor.*

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

Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Please inform the instructor of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. Any make-up test or examination may not follow the same format as the in-class one.

Lab assignments are due at the beginning of your lab section, thereafter late penalties will be applied.

Late assignments will be penalized **20% per day** (including weekends and holidays). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Written proof must be provided within five working days. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.*

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.

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 in advance to attend another section. This however does not change the due date of your lab assignment.

Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred examination or an assignment extension.

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

PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Victoria. *The responsibility of the institution:* Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects. *The responsibility of the student:* Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.

Infractions will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. Commonly, the penalty for any form of cheating/plagiarism is a grade of F on the tests or laboratory assignments, or a final grade of F in the course. However, depending on the severity of the case other penalties may include a record on the student's transcript or expulsion.

Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website. Please contact me if you have any questions.

<http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/>

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. 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 endeavour 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.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

We 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 via MyPage 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.

Tentative Schedule

Lecture and Course Readings

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 5, 8	Topic 1: Introductory concepts of Physical Geography; Topic 2: Global Climates and Climate Change	Ch 1 pgs 1-17, Ch 2 pgs 45-51, Ch 4 pgs 91-105, Ch 5 pgs 132-138, Ch 11 pgs 306-343,
2	Sept 12, 15	Topic 2: Global Climates, Introduction to the atmosphere	Ch 10 pgs 276-304, Ch 3 pgs 65-85, Ch 11 pgs 306-343, Ch 7 pgs 190-192
3	Sept 19, 23	Topic 2: Atmospheric circulation and extreme weather	Ch 6 pgs 145-158, 160-161, Ch 8 pgs 206-217, 220-235
4	Sept 26, 30	Topic 3: Introduction to the hydrosphere, Watersheds and surface water systems,	Ch 7 pgs 180-187, Ch 9 pgs 241-256, 265-268
5	Oct 3, 6	Topic 3: Rivers, flooding and fluvial landscapes, Groundwater systems and resources	Ch 9 pgs 256 -264, Ch 15 pgs 454-456, 458-475, 478-483
6	Oct 10, 13	<i>Oct 10 No class (Thanksgiving)</i> , Topic 3: Glacial processes and landscapes	Ch 17 pgs 532-549, 556-557
7	Oct 17, 20	Topic 4: Introduction to the lithosphere, Mass wasting features and hazards	Ch 12 pgs 346-374, Ch 13 389-396, 400-411, Ch 14 pgs 440-449
8	Oct 24, 27	<i>Midterm Oct 24 (Topics 1-3)</i> , Topic 4 conti.	
9	Oct 31, Nov 3	Topic 4: Permafrost (periglacial) processes and hazards, Coastal processes, landforms and hazards	Ch 17 pgs 550-555 , Ch 20-640-662
10	Nov 7, 10	Topic 5: Introduction to biogeography, Weathering and soils, <i>Nov 10 No class (Reading Break)</i>	Ch 19 pgs 604-627, Ch 19 pg 635
11	Nov 14, 17	Topic 5: Weathering and soils, Ecological biogeography,	Ch 14 pgs 428-440, Ch 18 pgs 570-586
12	Nov 21, 24	Topic5: Island biogeography and Special Topics in biogeography	TBD
13	Nov 28, Dec 1	Catch up and Review!	

Topic 1: Introductory Concepts

Topic 2: Global Climate & Climatic Change

Topic 3: Global Water

Topic 4: Natural Hazards and the Dynamic Planet

Topic 5: Biogeography

**October 31st – Last day for withdrawing from the first term courses without penalty of failure.*

Lab Schedule

Week	Dates	Description
1	Sep 7-9	No labs
2	Sep 12-16	Mt. Tolmie field trip
3	Sep 19-23	Lab #1: Topographic Maps (Crowsnest)
4	Sep 26-30	No labs – Lab #1 due in drop box
5	Oct 3-7	Lab #2: Hydrology (Fraser River at Hope)
6	Oct 10-14	No labs – Thanksgiving
7	Oct 17-21	Lab #3: Stream Table (paired report) – Lab #2 due
8	Oct 24-28	No labs
9	Oct 31-Nov 4	Lab #4: Mass Wasting
10	Nov 7-11	No labs – Reading Break
11	Nov 14-18	No labs – Labs #3 and #4 due in drop box
12	Nov 21-25	Lab #5: Biogeography
13	Nov 28-Dec 2	No labs – Lab #5 due

LAB WEIGHTS	MARKS
#1 6.0%	60
#2 6.0%	60
#3 10.0%	100
#4 7.0%	70
#5 6.0%	60

35%	