

Syllabus

GEOG 1290

Introduction to Physical Geography

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Acknowledgements

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Welcome

 <p>Sound File: Introduction to Physical Geography Click on the icon to play the sound file.</p>
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Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter in the Lessons in your course website.

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Course description

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as follows:

GEOG 1290 - Introduction to Physical Geography (Formerly 053.129), 3 credit hours. This course studies aspects of our physical environment: climate, landforms, soils and vegetation.

The emphasis of this course is on the basic elements of the 'natural' environment, which include climate, vegetation, soils and landforms. Major focus is on the processes involved in their development, their distribution over the Earth, and their basic interrelationships.

Not to be held with GEOG 1291(053.129), or GEOG 1200 or GEOG 1201(053.120). There are no pre-requisites for taking this course.

This course introduces you to the major themes of physical geography. The major focus of this course is on the atmospheric, lithospheric, hydrospheric and biospheric environments at a variety of spatial scales. Human modification of these natural environments will also be discussed.

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Course objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the relationship between the Earth's four environmental spheres or realms.
2. Describe the movement of the Earth with respect to the Sun.
3. Identify the components of weather and climate systems.
4. Identify the locations and characteristics of climatic zones.
5. Identify the characteristics of soils and soil development.
6. Discuss the connections between climate zones and flora/fauna dispersion.
7. Identify the components of the hydrosphere.
8. Distinguish between the processes that create initial and sequential landforms.
9. Identify surface features on the Earth and the processes that help to shape them.
10. Discuss the human modification of the Earth's realms and the impacts on the processes and landforms with the natural environment.

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Course materials

Required

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#) or through the Wiley Website (<http://ca.he.wiley.com/WileyCDA/>). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done

so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

Textbook

Physical Geography: Science and Systems of the Human Environment 5th Edition, Canadian Edition. A. Strahler and O.W. Archibold. 2011. Wiley and Sons.

This textbook can be viewed on-line through WileyPlus. A subscription cost applies to view this textbook online. You can purchase a code through Wiley website or through the bookstore. This may be slightly cheaper and will reduce printing of the textbook.

Atlas

In addition, an atlas is required to complete the assignments. A specific atlas is not required for this course. You can use a paper atlas or electronic/online atlas, e.g., <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>).

Wiley Resource Kit

There is a Wiley Resource Kit for the textbook that you are highly encouraged to access for this course (enter the code purchased with your textbook). The website is divided into chapters that correspond to those in the textbook. Take Notes, PowerPoints, Flashcards (Includes terms/definitions, quizzes, and glossaries), Animations and Video Clips are resources recommended to assist in understanding the course material, tools for self-assessment and aides in studying for the final exam.

Setting up your computer

To set up your computer do the system check when you log into Angel.

You will require the following items for your computer for this course:

1. Headset or speakers to hear audio files.
2. You will need Real Player or QuickTime installed on your computer to listen to audio files. If you do not have Real Player installed, you can download it from the following website: www.real.com. QuickTime can be downloaded from the following site: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>.
3. You will require PowerPoint to view the presentations included with each assignment. PowerPoint should be already installed if you have Microsoft Office on your computer. If not, a viewer can be downloaded that will allow you to view PowerPoint presentations. This viewer is available at: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/>.

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Distance and Online Education (DE) student resources

Information on how to contact Distance and Online Education staff by email is located online in each course website in the "Contact DE" link in the welcome area on the coln your course website there are links for the following:

- Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- *Distance and Online Student Handbook*

- Distance and Online Education Website

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Course overview



Sound File: Course Overview

Click on the icon to play the sound file.

Topics

This course is divided into 12 short assignments. The assignments are located in the content browser.

Assignment 1: Foundations of Physical Geography – this unit will introduce important concepts related to the discipline of physical geography including defining the Earth's realms and maps as a tool in physical geography.

Assignment 2: Atmosphere, Energy and Temperature – this unit will describe the layers in the atmosphere and what happens to solar radiation or insolation entering the atmosphere. Temperature, the first element of weather, will also be introduced.

Assignment 3: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation – this unit will focus on moisture within the atmosphere and how the second element of weather, precipitation, is formed.

Assignment 4: Pressure, Winds and Atmospheric Circulation – this unit describes the third and fourth elements of weather, namely atmospheric pressure and winds. In addition, a discussion on the global circulation patterns related to the atmospheric pressure will also be presented.

Assignment 5: Global Climate Systems – this unit will describe the distribution of climate types on the surface of the Earth and how these are related to the four elements of weather.

Assignment 6: Hydrosphere – this unit will present an introduction to water cycling throughout the other three Earth realms.

Assignment 7: Biomes and Ecosystems – this unit will describe the major cycles within the biosphere and the relationships between flora and fauna.

Assignment 8: Soils – this unit characterizes soils and soil development.

Assignment 9: Volcanic and Tectonic Processes – this unit will describe internal processes that operate within the lithosphere and landforms that are created by these processes.

Assignment 10: Weathering and Mass Wasting – this unit will introduce the external processes that modify and create landforms on the surface of the Earth.

Assignment 11: Fluvial Processes – this unit focuses on processes operating in a channel (i.e., river) and the associated landforms.

Assignment 12: Glacial Processes – this unit focuses on processes operating in a glacial setting and the associated landforms.

Assignments 2-5 describe aspects of atmospheric processes and how these processes influence the weather and climate of an area. Assignments 6-8 relate to

the hydrosphere and biosphere. Lithospheric processes and landforms are discussed in assignments 9-12. Each assignment is intended to cover approximately a week of study.

Learning activities

- Textbook readings
- Textbook companion website
- Instructional content
- Websites
- Audio files
- Chapter assignments

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Evaluation and grading

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Assignment #1	15 points
Assignment #2	15 points
Assignment #3	15 points
Assignment #4	15 points
Assignment #5	15 points
Assignment #6	15 points
Assignment #7	15 points
Assignment #8	15 points
Assignment #9	15 points
Assignment #10	15 points
Assignment #11	15 points
Assignment #12	15 points
Assignment Total	65%
Final Examination	35%
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	90 – 100	Exceptional
A	80 – 89	Excellent
B+	75 – 79	Very good
B	70 – 74	Good
C+	65 – 69	Satisfactory
	60 – 64	

C	50 – 59	Adequate
D	less than 50	Marginal
F		Failure

Please note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Assignments

Students will be expected to read the Instructional Content section of the assignment, as well as any sections of the textbook specified at the end of each topic. Please note that the Instructional Content is not meant to be read as a substitute for the textbook. After reading this information, students must do an assignment related to those topics.

Each assignment will be submitted online. Each assignment is evaluated out of a total of 15 marks. These assignments will consist of short answer and basic calculation/application questions. Detailed instructions on completing the assignment can be found within the assignment. Each assignment should be written in complete sentences and point form is not allowed unless indicated in the question. A grade of 0 will be given to any questions not answered in complete sentences. There are 12 assignments associated with this class, and each assignment must be completed and submitted before 11:50 pm (Central Time) on the Friday of that week.

Assignment due dates

Consult your course schedule for the assignment due dates.

Late Assignments

If additional time is required and an extension is needed, please consult your instructor PRIOR to the due date. Extensions may be given for compassionate or medical reasons. 10% of the total mark per day (including weekends) will be deducted for any late assignment in which an extension was not granted.

Examination

There will be a 2-hour final examination in this course. The examination will take place during the examination period. The examination format will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer and application questions, similar to the assignments. You can prepare for this exam by using the resources available on the student companion website for the textbook as well as those available through WileyPlus. Each unit is given approximately equal weight in the final exam. You are not required to know sections of the textbook that are not covered in the course material.

The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare an exam location.** The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once

finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

See the Sample Examination in the Assignments folder in your course website.

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