

**GEOGRAPHY 103:**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
Course outline - Spring 2015

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Dr. Shannon Fargey  
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Tel: 250-721-7342

**Office hours:** Monday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Thursday 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
or by appointment

**Lecture Information:**

Time: MR – 8:30-9:50 am  
Location: DTB A102

**Laboratory Information** (*Section, Weekday, Time, Location*)

A01	M	2:30-4:20 pm	DTB B303
A02	T	8:30-10:20 am	DTB B303
A03	T	12:30-2:20 pm	DTB B303
A04	W	8:30-10:20 am	DTB B303
A05	R	12:30-2:20 pm	DTB B303

*TA Information will be posted on CourseSpaces.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Physical Geography is the science concerned with the spatial aspects and interactions of all the physical elements and processes that make up the environment: energy, air, water, weather, climate, landforms, animals, plants, microorganisms and Earth itself.

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. Field and laboratory assignments and supplementary readings complement lecture material.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Midterm Exam (February 19 <sup>th</sup> )	20%
Laboratory Assignments (5 x 7%)	35%
Laboratory Exam	15%
Final Exam	30%

Date of final exam and laboratory exam will be announced in class.

## Final Grade Allocation

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	75-79%	70-74%	65-69%	60-64%	55-59%	50-54%	<49%

**Exam format** will include a combination of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. 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.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

There is no required text for this course, although it is strongly recommend that you use the online e-book entitled, 'Fundamentals of Physical Geography' 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by M. Pidwirny and S. Jones, UBC Okanagan at: <http://www.physicalgeography.net> to supplement lecture materials.

In addition two excellent print textbooks are:

Geosystems (2013), 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Edition, by: R. Christopherson, M-L. Byrne, & P. Giles

Physical Geography: The Global Environment (2010), 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition, by: H. J. de Blij, P.O. Muller, R.S. Williams, C.T. Conrad & P. Long

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements, readings assignments and lecture handouts. 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

## **LECTURE HANDOUTS**

Topic handouts *based* on lecture presentations will be provided. They will be posted on CourseSpaces the evening before the next lecture. Topic 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 instructor.

## **IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES**

- Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit.
- All lab assignments must be submitted to write the final exam.
- Failure to complete an assignment (lab) or exam (midterm or final), without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0

### Missed exams:

- 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 (5) working days.
- Any make-up test or examination may not follow the same format as the in-class one.
- Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred examination.

### Assignments:

- Late assignments will be penalized 25% per day (including weekends and holidays). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.
- Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for an assignment extension.
- Details regarding your labs and their marks are managed by the course TA. Please discuss any issues 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
- Details regarding your labs and their marks are managed by the course TA. Please discuss any issues on labs with your TA first.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions during the lectures and labs.
- *Cell phones and portable music players must be turned off or silenced during lectures. Students are also required to remove earphones.*
- Students are expected to be punctual for classes and labs.
- Students are required to attend all lectures and take notes. Not all material provided in the lecture handouts is covered in assigned readings and learning resources.
- Not all assigned readings and learning resources will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the exams.

## **CLASS CLIMATE**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

The University of Victoria has made a conscientious effort to increase diversity in the student, staff and faculty member populations. 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.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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://web.uvic.ca/calendar2011/FACS/UnIn/UARE/PoAcI.html>)

### **STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY**

If you have any type of disability, there are support systems, resources, and accommodation actions available to you. If you wish to access any of these supports, resources or accommodations, I encourage you to contact the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (<http://www.uvic.ca/services/rcsd/>) to ensure your success in this course. Please note that you are under no obligation to disclose your disability.

### **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in 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 the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, table, 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 LECTURE SCHEDULE\*

*(Week, Topic, Subject)*

Jan. 5-9	<b>Introduction</b>	<i>Introductory concepts of Physical Geography</i>
Jan. 12-16	<b>Global Climate &amp; Climatic Change</b>	<i>Global Climates and Climate Change</i>
Jan. 19-23		<i>Introduction to the atmosphere Composition and structure Circulation and extreme weather</i>
Jan. 26-30	<b>Global Water</b>	<i>Introduction to the Hydrosphere Watersheds and surface water systems Rivers, flooding and fluvial landscapes</i>
Feb. 2-6		<i>Groundwater systems and resources Glacial processes and landscapes</i>
<b>Feb. 9-13</b>		<b>Reading Break – No classes</b>
Feb. 6-20	<b>Natural Hazards</b>	<i>Introduction to the lithosphere Review and Midterm exam</i>
Feb. 3-27		<i>Mass wasting features and hazards Landscape hazards and risks</i>
Mar. 2 -6		<i>Permafrost (periglacial) processes and hazards</i>
	<b>Biogeography</b>	<i>Introduction to the biosphere</i>
Mar. 9-13		<i>Weathering and soils Historical biogeography</i>
Mar. 16-20		<i>Ecological and Island biogeography</i>
Mar. 3-27		<i>Special topics in biogeography</i>
Mar. 30-Apr. 3		<i>Course summary and review</i>

\* *dates and topic schedule may change*

## LAB ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

*Week, Date, Schedule\**

1	January 5-9	No Labs
2	January 12-16	Mt Tolmie Field Trip
3	January 19-23	Lab 1 – Topographic Maps
4	January 26-30	Lab 2 – Hydrology Lab 1 report due at beginning of lab session
5	February 2-6	Lab 3 – Stream Table Lab 2 report due at beginning of lab session
6	February 9-13	Reading Break
7	February 16-20	No Labs
8	February 23-27	Lab 4 – Mass Wasting Lab 3 report due at beginning of lab session
9	March 2 -6	Lab 5 – Campus Invasive Species Lab 4 report due at beginning of lab session
10	March 9-13	No Labs
11	March 16-20	No Labs
12	March 23-27	Lab 5 report due at beginning of lab session. Lab 5 presentations.
13	March 30-April 3	No Labs

*\* Please confirm with the lab instructor regarding dates and due dates of lab assignments*