



COURSE OUTLINE
Introduction to Physical Geography

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 08:30 to 09:50 am			
Classroom:	David Turpin Building A102			
Lab Information:	B01	Monday	2:30 – 4:20 pm	DTB B303
	B02	Tuesday	8:30 – 10:20 am	DTB B303
	B03	Tuesday	12:30 – 2:20 pm	DTB B303
	B04	Thursday	10:00 – 11:50 am	DTB B303
	B05	Thursday	12:30 – 2:20 pm	DTB B303

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Eva Kwoil, Department of Geography, **DTB B124**, ekwoil@uvic.ca or 250-721-6049

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 pm or by appointment.

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)

Attending class regularly throughout the term is integral to successfully completing this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

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 (Feb 22nd in class)	15%
Laboratory Exam (during Exam period)	15%
Final Exam (during Exam period)	35%

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 multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Examples will be provided in class. The lab exam is comprehensive based on lab assignments, background material and lab discussions.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). This is where I will put important resources that I think will help you along including course information, topic handouts, 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

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield geogadvisor@uvic.ca
Department Chair: Dr. Johannes Feddema geogchair@uvic.ca

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.

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

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

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.

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.*

Late assignments will be penalized 20% per day (including weekends and holidays). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Please inform the instructor 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 the instructor of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.*

Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during lectures and labs and ONLY be used during field activities if pertinent to do so.

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 attend another section. In this situation, you may be asked to attend a specific lab section because of space requirements and this may result in you missing content from other classes. 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 labs with your TA first and then come to see me if you would like further clarification.

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, for referencing your sources, or unauthorized use of an editor, please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website. <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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.

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 Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.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.

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

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

Lecture and Course Readings

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Jan 4	Topic 1: Introductory concepts of Physical Geography	Ch 1 pgs 1-17; Ch 2 pgs 45-51; Ch 3 pgs 65-85; Ch 4 pgs 91-105; Ch 5 pgs 122, 130-138; Ch 7 pgs 190-192; Ch 11 pgs 306-343, Ch 10 pgs 276-304
2	Jan 8, 11	Topic 2: Global Climates and Climate Change	Ch 6 pgs 145-158, 160-161, 168
3	Jan 15, 18	Topic 2: Climate cont. Topic 2: The Atmosphere and Circulation	Ch 7 pgs 180-187; Ch 8 pgs 206-216, 220-235 Ch 9 pgs 241-256, 265-268
4	Jan 22, 25	Topic 3: Introduction to the hydrosphere Topic 3: Storms and precipitation	Ch 9 pgs 256 -264 Ch 15 pgs 454-457, 459-475 478-483
5	Jan 29, Feb 1	Topic 3: Rivers systems, flooding and fluvial landscapes	Ch 12 pgs 346-374; Ch 13 389-396, 400-411 Ch 17 pgs 532-549-557
6	Feb 5, 8	Topic 3: Groundwater Topic 3: Glacial and periglacial processes, landscapes and hazards	
7	Feb 12, 15	<i>No class, Reading break</i>	
8	Feb 19, 22	Topic 4: Introduction to the lithosphere <i>Midterm Feb 22 (Topics 1-3)</i>	Ch 13, pgs 383-417
9	Feb 26, Mar 1	Topic 4: Slope Systems and Mass wasting	Ch 14 pgs 422-428,440-449
10	Mar 5, Mar 8	Topic 4: Coastal processes, landforms and hazards	Ch 14 pgs 428-440; Ch 18 pgs 570-596
11	Mar 12, 15	Topic 5: Weathering and soils	Ch 19 pgs 604-627, 635 Ch 20 pgs 640-662
12	Mar 19, 22	Topic 5: Introduction to Biogeography	
13	Mar 26, 29	Topic 5: Island biogeography and Special Topics in biogeography	
14	Apr 2, 5	Course summary and Review	

LAB SCHEDULE

The laboratory component of this course is supported by a number of Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Phil Wakefield (Senior Laboratory Instructor - Physical Geography). You can find all lab assignment and supporting material along with their contact information and office hours on CourseSpaces.

Week	Dates	Description
1	Jan 1-5	No labs
2	Jan 8-12	Orientation and Mt. Tolmie field trip
3	Jan 15-19	Lab #1: Climatology Lab
4	Jan 22-26	Lab #2: Hydrology Lab
5	Jan 29-Feb 2	Non-Instructional; * Lab instructor present – Lab #1 due
6	Feb 5-9	Lab #3: Stream Table (paired report) – Lab #2 due
7	Feb 12-16	No labs – Reading Break
8	Feb 19-23	Non-Instructional; * Lab instructor present
9	Feb 26-Mar 3	Lab #4: Mass Wasting Lab – Lab #3 due
10	Mar 5-9	Lab #5: Campus Invasive Plant Species (team report)
11	Mar 12-16	Non-Instructional; * Lab instructor present – Lab #4 due
12	Mar 19-23	Non-Instructional; * Lab instructor present
13	Mar 26-30	Lab #5 due including a presentation of findings
14	Apr 2-6	No Labs

* Lab instructor will be present for the **first 30 minutes only** to receive assignments that are due and to assist with ongoing assignments. You **must check in** with your lab instructor during these weeks.

LAB WEIGHTS	MARKS
#1	6.5% 75
#2	5.0% 56
#3	8.5% 100
#4	6.5% 75
#5	8.5% 100

35%	

DISCLAIMER

The presented schedules, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

University of Victoria Important Dates

Sept 22 – Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term.

Oct 31 - Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure

Additional important dates can be accessed through the link below.

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/general/dates.html>