

Course Syllabus
Introduction to Physical Geography - GEOG 1290 A01
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Dr. Janna Wilson

Contact: 216 Sinnott Building
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- Emails must be sent from a U of M account

Office Hours: **TBA**
Or by appointment (Please email)

Lecture Room: 218 Wallace Building

Lecture Slot: T/Th: 10:00 AM- 11:15 AM

Course Dates: January 6 - April 8, 2016

Final Exam: TBA
Final Examination Period (April 11-25, 2016)

**Final Voluntary
Withdrawal Date:** **March 18, 2016**

Required Course Materials:

- Textbook:
1. **Hess, D. (2014).** McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation. Pearson Education Inc., 597 pages.
 2. **Mastering Geography Access** (Pearson)

Package ISBN: 978-0-321-818942-2

Textbook available at Elizabeth Dafoe Library Reserves (GEOG 1290 004)

Access to Mastering Geography can be purchased separately through the website:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/students/get-registered/index.html>

Note: *If you are using a different textbook other than the 11th edition of Hess, the assigned readings may not correspond. The instructor offers no guarantee that the content in other textbooks/or editions will be the same as the 11th edition of Hess. Consequently, you may or may not be able to answer "textbook" exam questions. You may use any book you want, but it is at your own risk.*

Course Description:

Studies in *Physical Geography* are focused upon the thin surface layer of the Earth where land, air and water meet. The topics included in this introductory course appear as parts of many disciplines such as: Geology, Meteorology, Climatology, Biology, and Oceanography; but the basic concern of those who study *Physical Geography* is to investigate the ways in which phenomena associated with these various disciplines interact with one another. Humans are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of changes that occur in the physical environment. We are at last beginning to realize that we too have an impact upon the environment, and that the consequences of our actions may have a positive or a negative effect.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the methods used to examine the Earth, their development and that of the geographic discipline.
2. To introduce the various geographic disciplines.
3. To describe and explain the Earth's atmosphere, oceans, land surface and biosphere, and relate them to the dominant natural processes and to changes over time.
4. To develop an appreciation of the complex inter-relationships inherent in Earth's natural systems.

Method of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated via two (2) in-class midterm tests worth 50% in total (2 x 25%), four (4) online assignments using the Mastering geography website worth 10% in total, and one (1) final exam worth 40%.

Midterm Test I (Part A): February 4; 50 minutes (25% of course value)

Midterm Test II (Part B - cumulative): March 3; 50 minutes (25% of course value)

Mastering Geography Online Assignments: 4 Assignments - various dates (10% of course value)

Final Exam (Part C - cumulative): **TBA; 2 hours** (40% of course value)

The Grade distribution for this course is as follows:

A+: 90% or above (Exceptional)

A: 80 - 89% (Excellent)

B+: 75 - 79% (Very Good)

B: 70 - 74% (Good)

C+: 65 - 69% (Satisfactory)

C: 60 - 64% (Adequate)

D: 50 - 59% (Marginal)

F: ≤ 49% (Failure)

Note: Students are not permitted to submit “bonus” assignments in addition to the regular term tests and final exam to improve their grade. The grading scheme is set and cannot be adjusted (i.e. reweighted) for any reason.

Test and Final Exam Format:

- Multiple choice questions will be based on lectures, assigned readings, videos, class discussions and activities, *Mastering Geography* online assignments and readings, and the corresponding readings in the course textbook.
- The final exam is **cumulative** (approximately 50% of questions from course material covered in Parts A & B, and 50% of questions from material covered in Part C).
- Students who miss a test due to a documented medical or personal emergency will be offered a rewrite. **See Policy Regarding Missed Tests.**

Test and Final Exam Regulations:

- In all tests and exams, **NO** dictionaries, digital dictionaries, notes, books, textbooks, cellphones, PDAs (such as Palm Pilots) or text messaging devices are allowed.
- Students are responsible for appropriately concealing their test and exam answers in order to prevent copying by other students. Allowing another student to copy off of your test/exam is considered cheating, and therefore academic misconduct.

Policy Regarding Missed Tests:

- You must inform the instructor promptly (within 24 hours by email).
- Absence from tests must be justified by a medical or personal emergency – appropriate supporting professional documentation must be provided within **48 hours**. Your medical documentation **MUST** be legible and state that you were **UNABLE** to attend class and write the test or exam due to a medical circumstance on the day of the test or exam. A note that you “saw a doctor” is **NOT** considered medical documentation.
- Documentation must be presented within **48 hours** of the missed test or exam in order to qualify for a make-up test. Failure to provide this documentation will result in a grade of zero (0) being assigned for the missed test /exam.
- Please note that “reasonable reasons for missing a test or exam” do **NOT** include: vacations (even with relatives), long weekends away, other course work, etc.
- It is the student's responsibility to confirm via email the date, time and location of the makeup test.

Assignments

- Assignments are to be completed through the “Mastering Geography” website. An access code is provided with either the purchase of the textbook package (listed above), or by purchasing it separately online.
- Website:
 - <http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/students/get-registered/index.html>
 - Course ID: MGEOGWILSON75189
 - Use U of M Student ID number for registration (7-digits)
- NOTE: Not all assignments are weighted equally towards the 10% grade allocation. I.e.; Assignment 1 is worth 0% of the 10% grade allocation; Assignment 2 is worth 20%, Assignment 3 is worth 40% and Assignment 4 is worth 40%.
- Students will be given a minimum of one (1) week after the assignment is assigned in class to complete the assignments.

Grades:

- Students have five (5) days after the in-class quiz/test review/assignment due date to discuss any grading concerns.
- Students must ensure that their grade has been recorded in *UM Learn*.
- After this five (5) day period, **NO** changes will be made.

Test Review:

- Test questions will **NOT** be returned or posted on *UM Learn*.
- Tests will be reviewed during lecture, approximately one week after the original in-class test date. While reviewing tests, students are permitted to make **handwritten notes only**. Laptops or any device capable of capturing images are not permitted.
- Only students who attended the in-class review period (as determined by an attendance sheet) will be permitted to review the test by making an appointment (**by email only**) within five (5) days of the in-class review. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet during the review class – **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Policy Regarding Missed Final Exam

- The preliminary exam schedule is subject to change.
- If you cannot take the final examination due to illness or compassionate distress (documented), you must fill in a request for a deferred examination with your **own faculty** office. A courtesy email to the instructor is also appreciated.
- The Department of Environment and Geography schedules deferred exams for this course once the required paper work has been received from the student's home faculty.
- Students will be notified by the Department of Environment and Geography via email (U of M accounts only) when the deferred exam is scheduled.
- Students must bring student ID or photo identification to the deferred exam.

GEOG 1290 COURSE APPROACH AND POLICIES

Course Delivery:

- Course material will be delivered primarily through lectures, videos, in class discussion and corresponding textbook readings.
- As a courtesy, I will be posting partial course notes (fill in the blank) in PowerPoint format on *UM Learn*. It is your responsibility to access *UM Learn* and download these materials:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/home>
 - **Please note that I am under no obligation to post my PowerPoint notes; they are posted as a courtesy and intended to assist you and not replace your personal notes.**
- The pace of the lecture is based on the partial course notes.
- For assistance with *UM Learn*:
 - Client Services Help and Solutions Centre (204.474.8600)
 - Email: servicedesk@umanitoba.ca
- These online materials are not a substitute for coming to class, and you cannot use these notes exclusively as they will need to be supplemented by notes from lecture and the textbook. ***If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missing notes from a classmate. The instructor will not provide notes for any reason.***
- Students are **NOT** permitted to partially or entirely photograph, audio, or video record lectures.
 - Please use cell phones respectfully.

Communicating with your Instructor:

- **Effective September 1, 2013**, the U of M will only use your university email account for official communications, including messages from your instructors, department or faculty, academic advisors, and other administrative offices. http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/email_policy/
- All communications must be professional and courteous.
- **E-mails** must include:
 - The subject heading (**GEOG 1290**, a salutation (i.e. Dear, Hello, Good Morning . . .), and your full name.
 - Come from a University of Manitoba Account (. . . @myumanitoba.ca).
 - Emails that do not conform to the above will not be returned.
- Allow at least **48 hours** for response (weekdays only).
- Emails requesting notes, information discussed in class or information found in the course syllabus will not be returned.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend Class
- Be Courteous
- Remain available for all classes and the final exam period
- Inform instructor promptly if you miss a quiz, test, or final exam
- Forward your *UM Learn* email account to an email account that you consult regularly.
- Read the textbook. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the test or exam.
- Not all material covered in the lecture is found in the course textbook.
- A textbook outline of the sections to be covered is available on *UM Learn*
- Disruptive behavior, which includes disrespectful cell phone use, will not be tolerated.

Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE)

RWLE Policy, Section 2.4: The University of Manitoba does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity, self-esteem or productivity of any of its members and prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment whether it occurs on University property or in conjunction with University-related activities. Therefore, the University of Manitoba is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from:

- a. discrimination or harassment as prohibited in the Manitoba Human Rights Code;
- b. sexual harassment; and
- c. personal harassment

RWLE Policy, Section 2.1.4.2: The University does acknowledge the legitimate right and responsibility of academic staff members to correct inappropriate student behaviour, insist on order in the classroom and evict, as necessary, those who disrupt order in the classroom. [See Bylaw: Student Discipline.]

Academic Dishonesty

Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba's policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2013-2014, General Academic Regulations (Section 8: Academic Integrity).

The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension. **For more information on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud:** http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html

Important Dates

January 6: Lectures Begin

February 15: Louis Riel Day – University Closed

February 15-19: Reading Week – No Lectures

March 18: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal

March 25: Good Friday – University Closed – No Lectures

April 8: Last day of Lectures

April 11-25 Final Exam Period

Lecture Outline

(Subject to Change)

Chapter 1: Introduction Earth

Chapter 2: Portraying Earth

Chapter 3: Introduction to the Atmosphere

Chapter 4: Insolation and Temperature

Chapter 5 & 9: Atmospheric Pressure and Wind/Ocean Currents

Chapter 6 & 9: Atmospheric Moisture

Chapter 7: Atmospheric Disturbances

Chapter 13: Introduction to Landform Study

Chapter 14: The Internal Processes

Chapter 15: Preliminaries to Erosion: Weathering and Mass Wasting

Chapter 16: Fluvial Processes

Chapter 19: Glacial Modification of Terrain