

Introduction to Physical Geography, Winter 2016
GEOG 1290 A03
Course Syllabus
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Lisa Ford

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Office Hours: Th 10:00 - 11:15 or by appointment

Lecture Slot: T/Th: 11:30 – 12:45

Lecture Room: 221 Wallace

Course Dates: Jan 7 – April 7

Final Exam: TBA

**Final Voluntary
Withdrawal Date:** March 19, 2015

Required Course Materials:

Textbook: Physical Geography, A Landscape Appreciation, 11th edition, by Darrel Hess and Dennis Tasa. 2014. Pearson.

AND

McKnight and Hess, Lab Manual (11th edition)

AND

Online Course Code to access Mastering Geography (packaged with textbook and lab manual). You will need this for the homework assignments.

Note: *if you are using a different textbook than Hess & Tasa, the readings designated in the outline portion of this syllabus will not correspond. The instructor offers no guarantee that the content in other textbooks will be the same as the required textbook. 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: This course studies aspects of our physical environment: climate, landforms, soils and vegetation. It focuses on the Earth's environmental systems including the atmosphere, hydrosphere, land surface and the biosphere. The course material will include current and past examples, detailed notes, in class examples and group work, and textbook reading assignments.

Course objectives:

- To familiarize students with physical geographic concepts and perspectives.
- 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.
- To develop an appreciation of the complex inter-relationships inherent in Earth's natural systems.
- To encourage you to listen, read and think critically and effectively.
- To provide you with a strong background in the academic discipline of physical geography and prepare students for upper level study in geography.

Method of Evaluation

The grade received is based on two in class tests worth 25% each, and one Final Examination worth 40% and three online homework assignments worth a total of 10%.

Midterm Test 1

Feb 4 – 50 minutes
Worth 25% of course value
Cumulative

Midterm Test 2

March 8 – 50 minutes
Worth 25% of course value
Cumulative

Final Examination

2 hours
Worth 40% of course value
Cumulative
TBA

Homework assignments

To be found on MasteringGeography online, and to be completed and submitted online by the due dates.

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/>

Note: if you buy the textbook/lab manual package from the bookstore, the access code for the masteringgeography website will be included for free with the package and you do NOT have to purchase it separately.

If you do not purchase the textbook new (used, or buy online, or a friend's copy), you will need to buy the code from the website in order to access the mastering geography website and complete the homework assignments.

NOTE: ALL TESTS/EXAMS ARE CUMULATIVE

Final Grades:

Final grades are subject to departmental review. In accord with departmental policy, the grading scheme is as follows:

A+ 90 and above	B+ 75-79	C+ 65-69	D 50-59
A 80-89	B 70-74	C 60-64	F 0-49

Note: Students are not permitted to submit “bonus” assignments in addition to the regular homework, term tests, final exam to improve their grade. The grading scheme is set and cannot be adjusted for any reason. Students may NOT have their grading scheme re-weighted for any reason.

Test and Final Exam Format:

- Multiple choice, short answer, map questions and/or true and false questions will be based on lectures, assigned readings, videos, class discussions and activities, and the corresponding readings in the course textbook.
- The final exam is ***cumulative*** (approximately 50% of questions from course material covered in each of Midterms 1 and 2, and 50% of questions from material covered after the second midterm).
- Students who miss a test due to a documented medical or personal emergency will be offered a rewrite. *See Policy Regarding Missed Midterms.*

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.
- Attendance will be taken at midterm tests. You are required to have photo identification at each midterm test and the final exam.

Policy Regarding Missed Midterms:

- You must inform the instructor promptly (within 24 hours or as soon as physically possible) by email).
- Documentation must be presented **within 6 days** of the missed test or exam in order to qualify for a make-up test. Please note that “reasonable reasons for missing a test or exam” do ***NOT*** include: vacations (even with relatives), long weekends away, or other course work.
 - If you do not contact the instructor within 6 days to inform her that the exam has been missed, you will not be offered the opportunity to do a re-write, regardless of documentation (i.e. waiting 3 weeks “because you forgot” means that you get a zero on the exam).
- Absence from tests must be justified by a medical or personal emergency – appropriate supporting professional documentation must be provided by the student for university records. 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. A note that you “saw a doctor” is ***NOT*** considered medical documentation.

Test Review:

- Test questions will **NOT** be returned or posted on Jump or *Desire2Learn*.
- 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.
- After the in-class review, students who would like to review their test may either come during office hours or make an email appointment within 1 week of the in-class review.
- The tests will not be available for students to view during the last week of classes or after classes end. If you want to look over your test – come early (within 1 week of the in-class review)!

Grades:

- Test marks will be posted on *Desire2Learn* (D2L) as soon as they can reasonably be graded. Final grades will be posted on the Aurora Student at the University of Manitoba website once they have been approved by the Department of Environment and Geography.
- Students have 1 week after the in-class test review to discuss any grading concerns. Appeals for a re-read of an exam, or an adjustment of the grade, must be made within 1 week of the in-class review. The course instructor reserves the right to adjust the grade upwards, downwards, or not at all. If after the re-read you are not satisfied with the decision you should consult the Head, Department of Environment and Geography.
- After this 1-week period, **NO** changes will be made.

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.
- Students will be notified by the Department of Environment and Geography via email 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.
- Lecture notes will NOT be posted online; however, materials to ‘complement’ the course lectures will be posted on *Desire2Learn* including partial course notes (fill in the blank). It is your responsibility to access *Desire2learn* (D2L) and download these materials:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/>
- For assistance with *Desire2Learn*:
 - Client Services Help and Solutions Centre (204.474.8600)
 - Email: support@cc.umanitoba.ca
 - 123 Fletcher Argue (Mon to Fri: 8:00 AM. - 8:00 PM)
- The pace of the lecture is based on the partial course notes.
- 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.
- Cell phones and portable music players must be turned off during lectures. Students are also required to remove earphones. **NO TEXTING DURING CLASS.**
- If you are a student with special needs it is YOUR responsibility to consult with Student Services and make the necessary arrangements for notetaking, exams, or assignments.

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.
- It is the student's responsibility to check their email for a response to any email questions OR **course announcements** (i.e. class cancellations).

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend Class
 - Not all material covered in the lecture is found in the course textbook.
 - Please be punctual for lecture. If you arrive late or need to leave early, do so with a minimum of disruption.
- Be Courteous
 - Talking during class (unless you are asking the instructor a question, or answering the instructor's question) is disrespectful to students who have come to lecture to learn. As an instructor, it is my job to maintain a suitable learning environment for all students. Talking in class interferes with the learning of the student you are talking to and the students around you.
- Remain available for all classes and the final exam period
 - The **preliminary exam** schedule is subject to change. Do not make travel arrangements etc. based on this schedule. It is the student's responsibility to remain available for the final exam period and students are not permitted to rewrite exams because they have made arrangements to begin work or travel.
- Inform instructor promptly if you miss a test
- Forward your *Desire2Learn* 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.
- If you miss a class:
 - It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed from a **classmate**.

- While the partial PowerPoint slides are available on *D2L*, clarification notes are required in order to make sense of the material. The full notes will NOT be posted.
- Instructor will not reply to emails requesting notes for missed classes (regardless of the reason).

Laptops and cell phones

- Be considerate with laptop use: make sure you keep your screen on relevant material (e.g. class notes) and not websites that will distract students sitting near you (e.g. facebook or games).
- Please turn cell phones off so they don't ring and distract other class members.
- If you **MUST** play games on your laptop, or surf/text on your phone, please sit at the back of the room so you don't distract other people. If your technology becomes disruptive, you will be asked to leave.

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

Course Readings

Introduction to Physical Geography

Reading: Chapter 1

Portraying the Earth

Reading: Chapter 2

Introduction to the Atmosphere

Reading: Chapter 3

Insolation and Temperature

Reading: Chapter 4

Atmospheric Pressure & Wind

Reading: Chapter 5

Atmospheric Moisture

Reading: Chapter 6

Atmospheric Disturbances

Reading: Chapter 7

Introduction to Landform Study

Reading: Chapter 13

Internal Processes

Reading: Chapter 14

Weathering and Mass Wasting

Reading: Chapter 15

Karst and Hydrothermal Processes

Reading: Chapter 17

Glacial Modification of the Terrain

Reading: Chapter 19

The Hydrosphere

Reading: Chapter 9

Fluvial Processes

Reading: Chapter 16

Note: We will not be covering ALL of these topics. You only have to complete the readings for the chapters associated with the in-class notes. So, for example, if we finish the class with Chapter 19, Glacial Modification of Terrain, and do not cover The Hydrosphere and Fluvial Processes, you do not have to read Chapters 9 and 16.

