

GEOG 1000
Introduction to Physical Geography

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Best way to reach me: through CANVAS email. I'll reply to your emails within 48 hours except weekends and holidays.

Textbook*: Elemental Geosystems, 8th edition, by Christopherson
ISBN-10: 032198501X

*textbook is highly recommended, but not required.

Material needed: You have to bring the following material to every class:

- Scientific calculator
- Ruler (with both English and metric system)
- No. 2 Pencil
- Eraser

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview:

Through this course you will learn the fundamentals of the Earth's dynamic physical systems. We will also focus on how humans interact with these fundamental physical systems and how we can use these understandings in our everyday lives. This course explores the world through each of the major components of physical geography: climatology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography, focusing on how they are interrelated. This course also emphasizes the dynamic interactions among climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe and explain the major components of Physical Geography, including climatology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography;
- Describe and explain the major spatial patterns and interrelationships among the physical elements at the Earth's surface;
- Utilize basic skills and tools used in Physical Geography research;
- Analyze the Earth's surface in regards to scale, pattern and processes;
- Show recognition of human-environment interactions;
- Appreciate the surrounding environment and the interrelated processes that form those landscapes;
- Appreciate the impacts of human-environment interactions.

Grading:

- In-class activities 35%*
- Online Pre-reading Quizzes* 15%
- Homework Assignments* 15%
- Midterm Exams* 20%
- Cumulative Final Exam* 15%

We will have a lot of in-class activities during the semester, but not all in-class activities will be collected and graded. **The two lowest in-class activity grades will be dropped.*

All online pre-reading quizzes except the first one **are due before class on the designated dates listed on the tentative schedule at the end of the syllabus. All online pre-reading quizzes are on new material that we are going to discuss in the upcoming classes. Therefore, you have to read the related chapters before taking online quizzes. **There is no time limit on the online quizzes as long as you complete it before the due date. Two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.***

Homework assignments will consist of map questions, essay questions, calculation questions, excel spreadsheet, etc. There will be **THREE homework assignments in this class. They **are due at midnight** on the designated dates. **NO homework assignments will be dropped.***

There will be three midterms in this class. Midterm exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and will be closed-book and closed-notes. **The lowest midterm grade will be dropped.*

**The cumulative final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions and will be closed-book and closed-notes.*

Course averages are normalized to a 100-point scale. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

• 93.5-100%	A	mastery of the learning objectives
• 90-93.5%	A-	
• 87-90%	B+	
• 83.5-87%	B	functional understanding of the learning objectives
• 80-83.5%	B-	
• 77-80%	C+	
• 73.5-77%	C	basic achievement of learning objectives
• 70-73.5%	C-	
• 67-70%	D+	
• 63.5-67%	D	met some learning objectives, but significant deficits
• 60-63.5%	D-	
• 0-60%	E	Did not demonstrate understanding of most learning objectives

Missed/Late Tests and Assignments:

- Test make-ups will only be allowed if a doctor's note or other official documents are provided. Make-up tests may differ from regular, in-class tests. If you cannot take an exam, you need to let me know **before the exam** and **you need to make it up within one week.**
- Quizzes **cannot** be made up (but I drop the two lowest quiz grades...).
- In-class activities **cannot** be made up (but I drop the two lowest grades...).
- Homework assignments will be penalized **5 points** for every day that they are late. (Please note: **NO homework assignment will be dropped.**)
- It is your responsibility to know when assignments are due and when tests are given.

Attendance:

- **Attendance is mandatory.** Excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade. If you do miss a class, you will be responsible for the day's assignments and notes.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

- Optional Field Trips (details will be announced in class) 1.5%
- Attending up to **THREE** Earth Science Department Seminars and write 1 page single space summary on each of them (Seminar details will be announced at the beginning of each week) 0.5%/per seminar

Canvas:

All your grades, online quizzes, homework assignments, lecture slides, reading material and announcements will be posted on Canvas. Assignments will be posted at least one week before they are due. Therefore, be sure to check Canvas frequently during the week.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic dishonesty will be not tolerated in this class. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to plagiarism, unauthorized notes brought into an exam; copying answers from another student or letting another student copy your answers on tests or assignments. The penalty for the first offense will be a zero on the exam or assignment. Penalty for the second offense will be an E in the course.

Disability:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the UVU Accessibility Services Department (ASD), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the ASD office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu or text 385-208-2677. Please notify one of the instructors as early in the semester as possible so that arrangements can be made to meet those needs.

Success:

Below are my suggestions to help you to succeed in this class:

- **Come to class on time.** If you miss a class, you have to do much more work at home. In addition, you may lose the points of the in-class activities and/or quizzes, so excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade
- **Pay attention.** I try hard not to lecture too much and to use active learning techniques to make the class more interactive and to facilitate your learning
- **Take notes.** Print the slides before coming to class. Lecture slides are posted on CANVAS before class. I suggest you print them so that you can take notes on them during the lecture. You also need the information in the slides to do the in-class activities. Taking good notes is a skill that is required in most jobs. It is good to learn it now
- **Be organized.** Keep syllabus, slides printout with notes, in-class activities, quizzes, and exams in a folder and bring it to class
- **Be prepared.** Read the chapter of the textbook before coming to class so you already know what we will cover
- **Be active and collaborative.** Do and put effort in the in-class activities. Many of the questions in the in-class activities will show up on quizzes and exams. In addition, working well in a team is an important skill to learn and you will benefit from it in your life
- **Start early.** Do your homework assignments and online quizzes early, and turn it in on time. Homework assignments and online quizzes will be useful to enhance your understanding of the material we cover during the semester. Do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments, start a few days before it is due
- **Work hard.** Study hard for quizzes and exams. As a rule of thumb, you are expected to study on average 3 hours per week for each credit hour you are taking. So you are expected to study 9 hours a week for this class. Do not wait until the last minute to study for the exam
- **Get help.** Come to see me during my office hours; do not wait until the end of the semester. I am always happy to help you with class material. And forming/joining a study group is also an effective way to learn better.

Tentative Schedule*: *the topics and corresponding schedule listed above are tentative and may be subject to change during the semester.

Topic	Week	Textbook focus	Information	Important dates (note: there are in-class activities every week)
Essentials of Geography	Week 1	Chapter 1	Syllabus and Course Information, Introduction to Physical Geography	- Online quiz 1 on Syllabus due
Part 1: The Energy-Atmosphere System	Week 2	Chapter 2	Seasonality, Atmospheric Variability	- Online quiz 2 due
	Week 3	Chapter 3	Temperature and Energy on Earth	- Online quiz 3 due
	Week 4	Chapter 4	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	- Online quiz 4 due -HW1 -EXAM1
Part 2: The Water, Weather, and Climate Systems	Week 5	Chapter 5	Atmospheric Water and Weather	- Online quiz 5 due
	Week 6	Chapter 6	Water Resources	- Online quiz 6 due
	Week 7	Chapter 7	Climatic Regions	- Online quiz 7 due
Part 3: The Earth-Atmosphere Interface	Week 8	Chapter 9	The Dynamic Planet	- Online quiz 8 due -HW2 -EXAM 2
	Week 9	Chapter 10	Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Plate Tectonics	- Online quiz 9 due
	Week 10	Chapter 11	Weathering and Mass Movement	- Online quiz 10 due
	Week 11		Fall or Spring Break, NO CLASS	
	Week 12	Chapter 12	River Systems	- Online quiz 11 due -HW3 -EXAM 3
Part 4: Soils, Ecosystems, and Biomes	Week 13	Chapter 13	Oceans, Coastal Systems and Wind Processes	- Online quiz 12 due
	Week 14	Chapter 15	The Geography of Soils	- Online quiz 13 due
	Week 15	Chapter 16, 17	Ecosystems and Biomes on Earth	- Online quiz 14 due
	Week 16	Chapter 8	Climate Change and Human-Environment Interactions	- Online quiz 15 due -Final Exam Review
Final Week	Week 17		<u>Cumulative Final Exam</u>	<u>Apr 27, 11:00 – 12:50</u>