

COURSE OUTLINE TEMPLATE AND SAMPLE

University of Waterloo

Term and Year of Offering: Fall 2009

Course Number and Title: GEOG 102, Geography and Our Planetary Environment

Lecture Times, Building and Room Number: M, W, F 8:30 to 9:50; AL 124

Instructor's Name, Office Location, Office Hours, Contact: Geoff McBoyle, NH 3006C, 7:00 to 9:00 Tues and Thurs, gmcboyle@uwaterloo.ca; ext 33899

TA's Name, Office, Office Hours, Contact; Jane Doe, ENV 1001, 3:00 to 4:00 M and W, jdoe@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description:

"Emphasis on the natural environment as an integrated system. Selected aspects of weather-climate, water, soils, biota, landforms along with flows of energy, water and matter and their effects on the subsystems of the natural environment."

Course Objectives: At the end of the course you should be able to:

- Explain the physical principles of the natural environment, namely the atmospheric, geomorphic, hydrologic and biogeographic processes ;
- Describe and explain spatial and temporal variations in the characteristics of the physical environment of the globe;
- Discuss the impacts of the above processes on human activities;
- Apply basic techniques to the analysis of the physical environment.

Required Text: Christopherson R and M L Byrne 2009 Canadian Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 2nd Canadian Edition, Toronto, Pearson Education Canada

Topics to be Covered in Lectures:

Date	Lecture Topic	Textbook Chapter
Sept 8	Introduction	Chapter 1

Sept 10	Solar Radiation and Earth-Sun Relations	Chapter 2
Sept 12	Atmospheric Processes - Energy Balance	Chapters 4 and 5
Sept 15	Atmospheric Moisture – Lapse Rates; Stability	Chapter 7
Sept 17	Atmospheric Moisture – Instability; Clouds	Chapter 7
Sept 19	Weather Systems – Depressions; Anticyclones	Chapter 8
Sept 22	Weather Systems – Hurricanes; Tornadoes	Chapter 8
Sept 24	Climate Classifications	Chapter 10
Sept 26	Science of Climate Change I	
Sept 29	Science of Climate Change II	
Oct 1	Climate Change in Canada	
Oct 3	Hydrological Cycle	Chapter 9
Oct 6	Water Balance I	Chapter 9
Oct 8	Water Balance II	Chapter 9
Oct 10	Water Balance in SW –USA	
Oct 13	Thanksgiving – No Lecture	
Oct 15	Mid-term Examination in Class Time	
Oct 17	Tectonics I	Chapter 11
Oct 20	Tectonics II	Chapter 11
Oct 22	Weathering	Chapter 13
Oct 24	Mass Wasting and Slope Analysis	Chapter 13
Oct 27	Fluvial Geomorphology I	Chapters 9 and 14
Oct 29	Fluvial Geomorphology I	Chapters 9 and 14
Oct 31	Aeolian Processes	Chapter 15
Nov 3	Marine Processes	Chapter 16

Nov 5	Glacial Processes - Erosion	Chapter 17
Nov 7	Glacial Processes – Deposition I	Chapter 17
Nov 10	Glacial Processes – Deposition I	Chapter 17
Nov 12	Impact of Glacial Processes in S Ontario	
Nov 14	Soils I	Chapter 18
Nov 17	Soils II	Chapter 18
Nov 19	Soil Classification	Chapter 18
Nov 21	Ecosystems	Chapter 19
Nov 24	Biomes	Chapter 20
Nov 26	Impact of Human Activities on Ecosystems in S America	
Nov 28	Integration of the Above Systems I	Chapter 21
Dec 1	Integration of the Above Systems II	Chapter 21

Evaluation: The course grade will be based on a mid-term examination, 5 lab assignments, and a final examination which will be held during the Official Examination Schedule. The breakdown is as follows:

Lab Assignments 40%

Mid-term Examination 20%

Final Examination 40%

Lab Assignments: There will be 5 lab assignments each worth 10%. Your best 4 will be used to calculate your lab mark out of 40%.

Rules for Group Work in Lab Assignments: Students can work in groups , but each student needs to submit his/her own version of the working and results.

Lab 1: Lapse Rates and Cloud Formation. Assignment will be handed out at your lab section the week of Sept 15.

Lab 1 will be submitted for grading at the end of your lab during the week of Sept 23.

Lab 2: Weather Forecasts. Assignment will be handed out at your lab section the week of Sept 29.

Lab 2 will be submitted for grading at the end of your lab during the week of Oct 6.

Lab 3: Water Budget Analysis. Assignment will be handed out at your lab section the week of Oct 13.

Lab3 will be submitted for grading at the end of your lab during the week of Oct 20.

Lab 4: Drainage Basin Analysis. Assignment will be handed out at your lab section the week of Oct 27.

Lab 4 will be submitted for grading at the end of your lab during the week of Nov 3.

Lab 5: Mapping of Glacial Features. Assignment will be handed out at your lab section the week of Nov 10.

Lab 5 will be submitted for grading at the end of your lab during the week of Nov 13.

Lab Deadline: Labs have to be handed in to the TA by the end of your lab section.

Late Submissions: Late labs can be handed into the Department Office during the hours of 8:30 to noon and from 1:00 to 4:30. Make sure that the Secretary signs for the lab and gives it a time and a date. Late labs will have 25% of the lab mark (10%) deducted for each day or part of a day that the lab is late.

Missed Labs: Since the lab mark for the course is based on the best 4 out of 5 labs, students can miss or not hand in one lab for marking.

Pick up Marked Labs: Marked lab assignments will be available from your TA during your lab section. Labs that are not picked up from the TA will be available from the Department Office during the hours of 8:30 to noon and from 1:00 to 4:30, Monday to Friday.

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities: see www.uwaterloo.ca/accountability/documents/courseoutlinestmts.pdf The text for this web site is listed below:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Note for Students with Disabilities: The Office for persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com and alternatives: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Turnitin/index.html> for more information.

Geoff McBoyle

June 15, 2009 (updated December 2010)