

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Geography and Environmental Management**

**GEOGRAPHY 209**  
**HYDROCLIMATOLOGY**

**Instructor**

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**Spring 2018**

Lectures: W 10:30 – 12:20 pm  
PAS 2083  
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30

Labs: Tuesday: 2:00-2:50; 3:00-3:50; 4:00-4:50; & 7:00-7:50  
EV1 240

T.A.'s:  
TBA

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**INTRODUCTION**

This course provides students with a thorough background of the fundamental processes governing the climate and hydrological systems, and the links between them. The course first reviews fundamental atmospheric and hydrologic processes, and traces the flow of energy and water between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere. Then the physical processes controlling the water cycle are examined, including evapotranspiration, precipitation, runoff and water storage in the natural reservoirs (including soil and groundwater, lakes and wetlands). Finally, students will learn about the roles of water in climate in the Earth's main biomes.

Through the use of group activities students will be given the opportunity to gain experience manipulating real hydrological and meteorological data and instrumentation. This course will serve as an introduction to near-surface hydroclimatic processes, their feedbacks and climate change, forming essential background for upper level courses in climate change, hydroclimatology and environmental sciences and studies in general. The fundamental knowledge and skills developed in this course will provide students with the basis to appreciate and understand the natural hydrologic and climate systems. It also provides the required foundation for advanced courses in climatology and hydrology.

The objective of this course is to provide students with the background to further their interests in weather and climate, and provide the theoretical foundations for upper level science and management courses.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the key boundary layer processes that drive the hydroclimate system.
2. To gain experience with the tools and methodologies necessary to analyze hydrological, weather and climate information.
3. Understand the processes controlling the cycling of water between the surface and the atmosphere, and where it is stored in its three phases.
4. To identify and evaluate the characteristics of different land-use types and ecosystems that drive their hydroclimatic regimes.

## LECTURE TOPICS

1. Introduction to Hydroclimatology (**May 02**)
2. Hydrological Cycle, Water Balance Equation (**May 09**)
3. Catchment Hydrology (**May 16**)
4. Soil Water and Infiltration (**May 23**)
5. Precipitation (**May 30**)
6. Evapotranspiration (**June 06**)
7. Boundary Layer Exchange Processes (**June 13**)
8. Climates of Natural Surfaces and Vegetation Effects (**June 20**)
9. Deserts and Snow (**June 27**)
10. Water (**July 04**)
11. Ecology – Hydroclimate Linkages – Water and Carbon Exchange (**July 11**)
12. Landuse Change and Hydroclimatic Effects (**July 18**)
13. Review – recap most important concepts (**July 25**)

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **\*\*Optional\*\* Course Text:**

“Hydroclimatology: Perspectives and Applications”, M.L. Shelton, Cambridge, 2009. [freely available via UW library website. Hard copies available at UW Bookstore, online retailers and used from various sources.]

**\*\*Note** that the course text is not mandatory, especially if you attend weekly lectures and take detailed notes. The text can also be used as a supplementary resource for better understanding certain concepts. **Make note that an electronic version is available on the UW library website.**

## COURSE TIMETABLE

The course will be comprised of 13 lectures (see above) and 12 tutorials/labs that will be led by the course TAs. Tutorial/lab sessions will run every week according to the following schedule. Tutorial rooms and groups will be determined in the first week of lectures.

### Tutorial / Lab Schedule

May 8	Lab #1 – Water Balance & Statistics assignment introduced along with tutorial on spreadsheet use.
May 15	Lab #1 – work on with TA
May 22	No Lab (Monday schedule on this Tuesday)
May 29	Lab #1 – work on with TA
Jun. 5	Lab #2 – Streamflow & Climate assignment introduced & Lab #1 handed in
Jun. 12	Lab #2 – work on with TA
Jun. 19	Lab #2 – work on with TA
Jun. 26	Lab #2 – work on with TA
Jul. 3	Lab #3 – Energy Balance & Evapotranspiration assignment introduced and Lab #2 handed in
Jul. 10	Lab #3 – work on with TA
Jul. 17	Lab #3 – work on with TA
Jul. 24	Lab #3 – work on with TA and hand in Lab #3

**\*\*\*Note that there will be a field component where you will be responsible for collecting data for your laboratory assignments. Failure to attend (without documentation) will result in marks off of your assignment. Field details will be better explained in class and during lab time.**

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To attend lectures and go through assigned readings.
2. Term work: To attend and participate in tutorials/field data collection/lab sessions and complete lab assignments.
3. Final Examination – This will be based on the lectures as well as concepts addressed in the lab assignments. Your final examination will be written during the official exam period at a location determined by the registrar.

## GRADES

Lab Assignments (20% x 3)	60%
Final Exam	40%

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**LATE SUBMISSION:** Failure to submit your work on time will result in a grade of 5% per day beyond the due date for that assignment. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances without official documentation; for example, a University Illness verification form.

**ILLNESS DURING TERM:** Please refer to the University of Waterloo Policies regarding documentation and the management of requests for accommodation due to illness during the term. Illness verification forms are required for any student seeking accommodation for any course requirement missed due to an illness. Please refer to [http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html) for more information.

**MISSED FINAL EXAMINATIONS:** If the final exam is missed due to illness and all of the proper documentation is submitted on time, either a statistical grade adjustment will be made, or a makeup exam or a deferred final examination (i.e., the next time that this course is taught) will be written.

**POLICY ON REGRADING ASSIGNMENTS:** If you notice an error in the assessment of your work please follow these steps:

1. Wait 48 hours after the assignment was returned before requesting a regrade
2. All regrade requests must be submitted in hard-copy to the instructor, describing the errors you believe were made. Verbal or emailed requests will not be accepted. Be as specific as possible and list all relevant details, e.g., “my marks were summed incorrectly for questions 1–5”.
3. If another student’s assignment is used as an example or reason for an error in grading, both assignments must be submitted for a regrade.
4. The entire assignment will be regraded, not the just the errors indicated in the written request. The resulting grade may increase or decrease depending on the result of the regrading.

**POLICY ON EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:** Students are encouraged to attend office hours to discuss any issues relating to the course. On the other hand, students should rarely need to send email to the instructor or TA because most information required is available elsewhere: e.g., in this course outline, on UW LEARN, on the Discussion boards, in the textbook, after class, or at office hours. However, if your question or concern cannot wait until the next lecture then please remember these policies when sending email:

- Always send emails from your University of Waterloo email account.
- All emails should have the following subject line: “GEOG209: <<insert your message here>>”
- If your email includes an attachment, describe the contents of the attachment in the email. Be polite, respectful and professional.
- Proofread your email and use correct grammar and punctuation.
- Always use an appropriate greeting, and sign your full name.

- Allow the instructor or TA at least two business days to respond before sending the request again. Mark all urgent matters “URGENT” in the subject line.
- The instructor or TA reserves the right to reply to you along with the entire class if the question is deemed to be relevant to other students on the course.

## UW Policies

**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/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.]

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**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](http://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.

**Consequences of Academic Offences:** ENV students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the university’s Academic Integrity office (see: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html>).