

GEOG 102 – Geography and Our Planetary Environment

Winter 2016

Lecture room: DC 1351

Class time: M,W, F. 10:30-11:20 am

Instructor: Dr. Christine Dow

Office: EV1, 109

Email: christine.dow@uwaterloo.ca

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory course in the study of the landscape of the earth. We introduce the basic principles of physical geography, identify some of the major geographical questions of current research, and provide a framework for future study. We go beyond the idea that physical geography is knowledge of the names of landforms, and try to understand the formative processes, and how they have significance for human habitation of the planet. The names are the vocabulary. In this course we try to construct the syntax of physical geography. In the first lecture, an overview of the course is presented and these geographical concepts are introduced.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The major objective of this course is to understand the linkage between all of the physical components of the planet system, how humans are affected by geographical processes, and how humans can modify geographic processes, either intentionally or unintentionally. This will be accomplished by a series of lectures, photo-blog assignments and quizzes.

COURSE TEXTBOOK: Christopherson, Robert W., Ginger H. Birkeland, Mary-Louise Byrne, Philip T. Giles, 2015, *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*, 4th Canadian Edition, Pearson Education, Canada.

Note: A special edition with only the chapters required is available for a reduced price. Previous editions are also acceptable except that the page numbers in the course schedule will not be correct.

Web companion information is given in the text with an authorization code. This may not be available for resale texts.

COURSE EVALUATION:

I-clicker Participation marks	5 %
I-clicker In-class quizzes	20 %
Photo-blog Submissions	15 %
Midterm Exam One	15 %
Midterm Exam Two	15 %
Final Exam	30 %

PLEASE NOTE:

Missing Assignment and Examinations: If you miss an exam due to a valid medical reason, personal or family emergency, etc., contact me immediately, and promptly obtain a University of Waterloo medical or counselor's note explaining the reason for your absence, degree of incapacitation, dates covered by the note, etc. Please provide the original of the note to me in person.

Typically, the missed examination or test is made up by an essay with a topic that I determine which covers material covered in class lectures and the textbook readings. It is to be completed within 5 days. The note does **NOT** guarantee such an alternative arrangement! The arrangement is only accepted based upon my judgment of the situation.

Note the following for essay substitutions: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin or similar) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials 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 arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course. For further information on UW's Turnitin guidelines, see: <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo>

Also note, only ONE missed examination or test, even with a valid medical or counselor's note, will be accommodated with such an alternative arrangement. The second or successive examination or test missed will result in a zero for the examination. This applies to the mid-terms and final examination.

No alternative arrangements are made for missed I-clicker tests or other assignments.

Examinations: It is the student's responsibility to be available to write exams in the scheduled times. The two midterm exams will be held in class during the lecture period. The final exam will be held during the university's scheduled examination period. The exams are mandatory, and no alternative exam dates are possible.

In class quizzes (20%): Note that there will be interactive quizzes in class using the 'I-clicker' to be purchased from the bookstore. Individual 'I-clickers' are registered to each student. *Use of an I-clicker registered to another student is cause for disciplinary action under policy 71 (see note below).* Individual I-clickers must be registered for the course on the Learn website for Geography 102. Instructions will be provided. If registered for another course, it will **NOT** be transferred to this course automatically. Note that purchase of an I-clicker is a course requirement and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that it works correctly. There will be one trial I-clicker quiz that is not worth any marks to test your I-clicker.

The quizzes will be a series of five tests graded out of a total of 20 marks using the I-clicker system. These will be multiple-choice of eight questions, each worth ½ mark. **The Dates for the Quizzes are on the Lecture Schedule.** Each quiz with more than 6 of the 8 questions answered will get 1 participation mark in addition to the grade out of 5. This means that if you are late you may miss questions and may not get the participation mark.

Materials and announcements for the class will be found on the Universities 'Desire to Learn' web site at: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/> (use your WatIAM/Quest username and password)

Documentation on this site is available at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/information-systems-technology/services/clickers/common-i-clickerquestions>. I will post the slides for the lectures that I give

on this site in advance. I reserve the right to change the slides during the topic, but I will tell you in class if they have been rearranged or updated. Students often complain about the wireless capability in the class rooms so be certain to download current content before the lectures.

The photo-blog submissions will be explained in class with instructions on the Learn site.

Lecture schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to change the class schedule and lecture order as appropriate.

Week #	Date	Topic	Readings (pages in Text, 4 th ed.)	Assignments
1	Jan 4 th	Introduction to the course	5-30	
	Jan 6 th	Introduction to the course		
2	Jan 9 th	Earth Systems Concepts	43-63	Trial I-clicker test
	Jan 11 th	Earth Systems Concepts		
	Jan 13 th	Climate Energy and the Seasons		
3	Jan 16 th	Climate Energy and the Seasons	91-113	I-clicker test 1
	Jan 18 th	Climate Energy and the Seasons		
	Jan 20 th	Climate Energy and the Seasons		
4	Jan 23 rd	Atmosphere and Temperature	117-141	Photo-blog #1
	Jan 25 th	Atmosphere and Temperature		
	Jan 27 th	<i>Video: THIN ICE</i>		
5	Jan 30 th	In Class Mid-Term TEST ONE	143-171	
	Feb 1 st	Atmosphere and Ocean		
	Feb 3 rd	Atmosphere and Ocean		
6	Feb 6 th	Moisture and Precipitation	181-205	I-clicker test 2
	Feb 8 th	Moisture and Precipitation		
	Feb 10 th	Weather Patterns		
7	Feb 13 th	Weather Patterns	209-235	
	Feb 15 th	Weather Patterns		
	Feb 17 th	<i>Video: Amazing Planet</i>		
	Feb 20 th	READING WEEK		
8	Feb 27 th	Earth's Composition	347-381	Photo-blog #2
	Mar 1 st	Plate Tectonics		
	Mar 3 rd	Plate Tectonics		
9	Mar 6 th	Earthquakes and Volcanoes	394-421	I-clicker test 3
	Mar 8 th	Earthquakes and Volcanoes		
	Mar 10 th	<i>Video: An Ocean of Volcanoes</i>		
10	Mar 13 th	In Class Mid-Term TEST TWO	423-447	
	Mar 15 th	Weathering and Mass Movement		
	Mar 17 th	Weathering and Mass Movement		
11	Mar 20 th	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	453-489	I-clicker test 4
	Mar 22 nd	Fluvial Processes and Landforms		
	Mar 24 th	Fluvial Processes and Landforms		
12	Mar 27 th	Glacial Environments	553-567	Photo-blog #3
	Mar 29 th	Glacial Environments		
	Mar 31 st	Glacial Environments		
13	Apr 3 rd	Glacial Environments		I-clicker test 5

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. The University's guiding principles on academic integrity can be found here: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

ENV students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the university's Academic Integrity office specifically for students: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html>

Students are also expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their actions. Students who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who need help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students may also complete the following tutorial: <https://uwaterloo.ca/library/get-assignment-and-research-help/academic-integrity/academic-integrity-tutorial>

When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services> is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Religious Observances: Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

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. See Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Appeals: 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

Unclaimed assignments: Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infostor/Confidential%20Shredding%20procedures%202008.htm>

Communications with Instructor and Teaching Assistants: All communication with students must be through either the student's University of Waterloo email account or via Learn. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

Recording lectures:

- Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course.
- If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates.
- Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: Facebook, Twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

Co-op interviews and class attendance: Co-op students are encouraged to try and choose interview time slots that result in the least amount of disruption to class schedules. When this is challenging, or not possible, a student may miss a portion of a class meeting for an interview. Instructors are asked for leniency in these situations; but, a co-op interview does not relieve the student of any requirements associated with that class meeting.

When a co-op interview conflicts with an in-class evaluation mechanism (e.g., test, quiz, presentation, critique), class attendance takes precedence and the onus is on the student to reschedule the interview. CECA provides an interview conflict procedure to manage these situations. Students will be required to provide copies of their interview schedules (they may be printed from JobMine) should there be a need to verify class absence due to co-op interviews.