GEOGRAPHY 2131a 650 (online)
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Goals : This course will introduce you to the interesting world of physical geography. I hope after completing this material you will appreciate the many different environments on the Earth and the processes that create them. We will be studying many different aspects of the physical environments at a variety of scales. Unfortunately, one half credit in physical geography cannot expose you to the subject in detail, but hopefully you will emerge from this experience with a quest for more.
 The course learning outcomes can be found in the OWL course web site and are keyed to the individual online classes.

The Western's Academic Calendar states Geography (123a/b old course number) 2131a/b: The Natural Environment. An examination of the characteristics, origins and history of selected natural environments with particular reference to North America. Prerequisite: none; Antirequisite(s) Geography 1300a/b

Contact information:
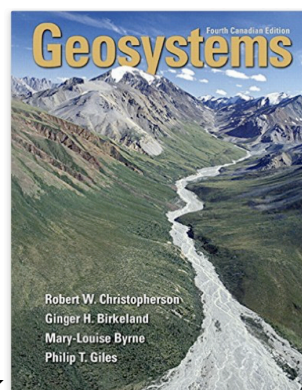Instructor: Kim Holland
Email KHOLLAND@UWO.CA

You will need to purchase the textbook and we will use the course OWL site.
Textbook: Required readings from: Christopherson, R.W., Byrne, M.L., and Giles, P., GEOSYSTEMS, Third Canadian Edition, Pearson, Toronto 2013.
or the newer Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland,G. , Byrne, M.L., and Giles, P., GEOSYSTEMS, Fourth Canadian Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, Toronto 2016.
. You can select either edition (please select the one that is less expensive for you).

either textbook

Requirements for completion of course (Grade weighting):
Final Examination 45% of total grade,
Lab. assignments 45% of final grade,
Participate in discussion questions 10% of final grade.

LAB ASSIGNMENTS These lab assignments represent 45% of the final grade.
Each Lab is worth 15% of the final grade. The Lab assignments are keyed to the
class sequence of thirteen classes (see the CD-ROM).
>   Lab #1 *The Processes of the Atmosphere* To be completed after Week 4,
>   due date June 6th.
>   Lab #2 *The Dynamic Planet (Field Trip)* To be completed after Week 8, due
>   date July 4th.
>   Lab #3 *Discovery Island* To be completed after Week 11, due date July 25th.

General instructions: Labs are to be submitted on, or by, the above dates. They
can be submitted through OWL assignment drop box (this is the preferred
method), or can be sent by Canada Post to Distance Studies Office, Room 2140
Western Student Services Building, UWO. If you send the labs via Canada Post
please ask for mailing envelopes to be sent to you so you can use them to send
in your labs. These envelopes can be requested from Gary Kim, Distance
Studies office (distexam@uwo.ca). Late labs will have marks deducted based
on the number of days the assignment is late. You may use any source that is
available to you, and remember to reference all materials used. You may use
internet sources. Some of the Labs will involve fieldwork where you will be
collecting primary data.
ALL LABS MUST BE TYPED

Additional information can be found on the OWL site for this course. In particular
read the other posted files on the home page and watch for announcements.

Geography 2131's, participation grade will be based on your responses to a
series of discussion questions posted on OWL. In addition, your postings will
create a 'classroom' environment even though you are physically separated from
each other. The number and quality of your responses, and your engagement
with the topics will determine your participation grade. Each topic question will be
posted and live for **about** two weeks (dates when the topics are live will be
posted with each topic). The question will then disappear and your ability to post
to that topic will end. As a general rule of posting, you should respond to the topic
initially during the first few days and then respond to other students' postings
during the second week. Discussion forums are a very important element of
online classes, and these topics are meant for you to explore the topics in more
detail.

Discussion Question Grading
Grades will be assigned out of three (0, 1, 2, 3).
To give you an idea of what I expect here is an example of the grading rubric.
 (there are more details posted in OWL)

No response 0 points
If you do not answer/post to the question -no grade

For 3 points (this is what you should be aiming for)
The statements are factually correct with evidence supporting your position with reference to other students' comments. Your response will also show that you have researched other "expert" opinion and correctly cited them. The grammar and spelling are correct. You have shown that you have thoughtfully considered the question before writing your response(s). Although your answer will be longer then few sentences, it will not be an essay on the topic. I **do** want you to read **all** of the students' responses and consider what they have said. Your grade in the discussion will be related to, the completeness of your responses, and the number of times you respond to a topic, and your general level of student engagement. You will need to respond more then once per question (several times). It will be important that you read other students' postings, as this is one measure of student engagement.
When responding to discussion questions please conform to a socially acceptable standard of communications. The belittling or harassing of others will not be tolerated.

Note the reading list below relates to the 3th edition of Geosystems, the 4th edition readings are similar and will be provided in OWL.

Class Number	Title	Dates	Discussion Question	Readings
Week 1	Introduction	May 8-14	Question 1	Chap. 1
Week 2	Energy Atmosphere Temp. Atmo.Ocean	May 15-21	Question 2	Chap.2, 3, 4
Week 3	Circulation	May 22-28	Question 2	Chap.5, 6
Week 4	Moisture; Weather	May 29-Jun 4	Question 3	Chap.7, 8
Note	**Lab #1 Due June 6th**			
Week 5	Water; Climate	June 5-11	Question 3	Chap. 9, 10
Week 6	Endogenic	June 12-18	Question 4	Chap. 11, 12
Week 7	Exogenic	June 19-25	Question 4	Chap. 13, 14, 15
Week 8	Coastal	June 26- Jul 2	Question 5	Chap. 16
Note	**Lab #2 Due July 4th**			
Week 9	Glacial	July 3- 9	Question 5	Chap. 17
Week 10	Soils	July 10-16	Question 6	Chap. 18
Week 11	Biosystems	July 17- 23	Question 6	Chap. 19, 20
Note	**Lab #3 Due July 25th**			
Week 12	Future	July 24-30		Chap.21

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The Geography Department follows Western University grading guidelines, which are as follows (see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf):

Grade		Expectation	
A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level	
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average	
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory	
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements	
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable	
F	below 50	Fail	

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices
No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Questions
Asking questions, during this online course, are an extremely important part of learning. My goal for you is to be a successful learner. Research strongly suggests that your reflections about the topics been discussed greatly improves your success. Please feel free to ask a question whenever you require clarification on an issue, or have an observation or experience that you would like to share. The discussion forums are an excellent place to post your questions.

You are advised to read the academic calendar to familiarize yourself with the University's regulations and procedures concerning grades, regulations, penalties and appeals. Plagiarism or copying is unacceptable and those who tempt fate will be persecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the University's regulations. Please avoid this experience and do your own work. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism Checking: Western University uses software for plagiarism checking. The lab work must be your own work and unique to you.
 "All required papers (Labs) may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking

will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)."

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Non-medical Absences
Non-medical absence from the discussion postings requires prior approval of the instructor or approval by the Dean's office (appropriate documentation will be required by the Faculty Dean's Office for approval).

Medical Absences
Students are referred to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. When medical illness affects work worth less than 10% of the total course grade (i.e. discussion postings), medical documentation will be required for illnesses that affect completion of more than one discussion post during the term. Appropriate documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean`s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean`s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. For a *downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca and look under the Medical Documentation heading.*

If you are having difficulty with completing lab assignments please talk to the instructor. I'm here to assist you with the course materials. **I really do enjoy helping you to be successful.**