

## GEOG 1300B – Introduction to the Physical Environment Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2022

This course is taught in-person when conditions permit

### 1. Course Information



	<b>Delivery Mode</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Lecture</b>	In-person (online until end of Jan 2022 or as set by UWO)	<b>Mon, Wed 12:30-1:20</b>	<b>UCC-56 / On-line</b>
<b>Lab</b>	Same as lectures	<b>Tue 4:30-6:30 Wed 10:30-12:30 Wed 2:30-4:30 Wed 7:00-9:00 (Mon 7:00-9:00)</b>	<b>SSC 1004 / On-line</b>

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 5

<b>Classes Start</b>	<b>Spring Reading Week</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>Study day</b>	<b>Exam Period</b>
January 10	February 21-25	April 8	April 9	April 10-30

January 18, 2022: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 14, 2022: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>
<b>James Voogt</b>	<a href="mailto:javoogt@uwo.ca">javoogt@uwo.ca</a>	Tues 2-3 pm or by appointment Office hours Zoom only (for January) and then in-person or Zoom

<b>Teaching Assistant(s)</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>
<b>Robin Kwik</b> <b>Nils Mann</b>	<a href="mailto:rkwik@uwo.ca">rkwik@uwo.ca</a> <a href="mailto:nmann25@uwo.ca">nmann25@uwo.ca</a>	TBD

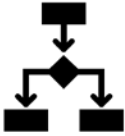


Professor Voogt's office hours will be held remotely using Zoom until resumption of in-person teaching. If in-person teaching resumes office hours can occur in person (drop-in) or via Zoom. Office hours at other times can be scheduled in advance by appointment (email the course instructor)

Teaching Assistant office hours will be held remotely using Zoom until resumption of in-person teaching.

## 2. Calendar Description

Introduction to the phenomena and processes of the Earth-atmosphere system that underlie human environment interactions and environmental change: the physical geography of Earth. Topics include: the atmosphere and fundamentals of weather and climate, water in the environment, Earth surface processes, biogeography, and human appropriation and modification of earth-atmosphere systems



2 lecture hours, 2 lab hours; 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Geography 1100, Geography 2131A/B.

Prerequisite(s): None

## 3. Textbook

*Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*, Updated Fourth Canadian Edition, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition; Author: Christopherson et al. ISBN: 9780134854069.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO1300B)

[search?campus=UWO&term=W2021B&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/GEO1300B](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO1300B)



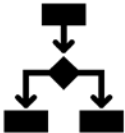
Students also get access to the “Mastering” resource for the text that provides additional resources: <https://mlm.pearson.com/enrollment/voogt61615> and select GEO 1300B (W22) from My Courses. See also the information sheet on OWL. If you need help give Pearson Support the Course ID: voog61615

Lab materials are provided via OWL; it is the student’s responsibility to print (as required) and bring to their lab section  Course lecture slides and additional supporting materials are available via the course OWL site.

## 4. Course Objectives and Format

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

- describe the scope, core themes and concepts in physical geography
- explain the physical principles of important atmospheric, lithospheric (endo- and exogenic), hydrologic and biogeographic processes and their mutual interaction
- describe and explain spatial and temporal variations in the characteristics of the global physical environment
- discuss examples of the direct and indirect effects of human activity on the physical environment
- apply simple techniques to the description and analysis of the physical environment



Attendance is encouraged through the Participation course component, which is assessed via participation (not correctness) of questions posed via the iClicker system.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes, temporal changes and landscapes especially in relation to biophysical systems, and awareness of integration with social systems
- Demonstrate awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time
- Describe and explain the scope and nature of Geography as a discipline
- Synthesize and evaluate geographical information from diverse sources, including geo-spatial data
- Relate specialized understanding of the geography of bio-physical systems to knowledge and practices in environmental and natural sciences
- Collect, analyze and interpret geographical and geo-spatial data especially in relation to biophysical systems
- Describe and explain, analyze and interpret geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engagement with people, places and/or environments
- Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically



## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Labs are due 1 week following their introduction in the lab unless otherwise noted.

Date	Week	Lecture Topic	Laboratory
Jan. 10	1	Introductions & What is Physical Geography?	
Jan. 12	1	Earth System Basics & the Tools of Geographers	
Jan. 17	2	Solar Radiation and Earth-Sun Relations	
Jan. 19	2	Global Radiation Budgets and Energy Balances	
Jan. 24	3	Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulations	Lab 1: Maps
Jan. 26	3	Atmospheric Moisture and Clouds	
Jan. 31	4	Stability & Vertical Motion	Lab 2: Atmospheric Processes
Feb. 2	4	Mid-latitude Weather Systems	
Feb. 7	5	Severe Weather	Lab 3: Weather Systems Due 4 pm Fri Feb 18
Feb. 9	5	Global Hydrology	
Feb. 14	6	Soil Water Balance	
Feb. 16	6	Climates and Climate Change	

<i>Feb. 21&amp;23</i>	7	<i>Reading Week!</i>	<i>No labs.</i>
Feb. 28	8	The Lithosphere	
<b>Mar. 2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Midterm – covers material up to the end of Feb 16 and Labs 1-4</b>	
Mar. 7	9	Endogenic Landforms	Lab 4: Soil water balance
Mar. 9	9	Weathering	
Mar. 14	10	Mass Wasting and Hillslopes	Lab 5: Mass Movements
Mar. 16	10	Stream Systems & Drainage Patterns	
Mar. 21	11	Stream Channels, Floodplains and Floods	Lab 6: Rivers & Their Landforms
Mar. 23	11	Glaciers and Glacial Processes	
Mar. 28	12	Glacial Landforms	Lab 7: Soils
Mar. 30	12	Soil Processes & Geography	Photo Portfolio due 4 pm Apr 1
Apr. 4	13	The Biosphere: Ecosystem Processes	
Apr. 6	13	Geography & the Anthropocene	

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## **Text Readings**

Chapters are for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Geosystems (Canadian Edition).

Date	Lecture Topic	Text Chapters
Jan. 10	Introductions & What is Physical Geography?	1
Jan. 12	Earth System Basics & the Tools of Geographers	1
Jan. 17	Solar Radiation and Earth-Sun Relations	2,3
Jan. 19	Global Radiation Budgets and Energy Balances	4,5
Jan. 24	Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulations	6
Jan. 26	Atmospheric Moisture and Clouds	7
Jan. 31	Stability & Vertical Motion	7
Feb. 2	Mid-latitude Weather Systems	8
Feb. 7	Severe Weather	8
Feb. 9	Global Hydrology	9
Feb. 14	Soil Water Balance	9
Feb. 16	Climates and Climate Change	5,10,11
Feb. 21 & 23	<b>Reading Week! No classes</b>	
Feb. 28	The Lithosphere	12
<b>Mar. 2</b>	<b>Midterm: covers material up to end of Feb 13 &amp; Labs 1-4</b>	
Mar. 7	Endogenic Landforms	13
Mar. 9	Weathering	14
Mar. 14	Mass Wasting and Hillslopes	14
Mar. 16	Stream Systems & Drainage Patterns	15
Mar. 21	Stream Channels, Floodplains and Floods	15
Mar. 23	Glaciers and Glacial Processes	17
Mar. 28	Glacial Landforms	17
Mar. 30	Soil Processes & Geography	18
Apr. 4	The Biosphere: Ecosystem Processes	19
Apr. 6	Geography & the Anthropocene	See OWL



\* Supplementary readings from other sources such as websites, other texts or journal articles are indicated on the lecture slides and are intended to provide more details on specific lecture topics in addition to the text. In some cases lectures may be primarily based on these sources where coverage by the text is limited.

Text readings are designed to complement the lectures. **Exam material is primarily based on lecture and lab materials.**

Ensure you take adequate class notes to understand the lecture material – do not rely on the templates, they are not lecture notes!

## 7. Communication



- Important course updates will be provided via the OWL announcement tool.
- The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions related to the lab component
- Students should post all course lab-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Laboratory Assignments		35%*	At the start of the next lab session (see table)
Midterm	Mixed	10%	
Photo Portfolio		15%	Apr 1, 2022
Participation	Assessed using iClickers in lectures	5%	
Final Exam	Mixed	35%	Set by Registrar

**\*Students must complete the majority of the laboratory assignments to pass the course. The lab weighting combines all marks from labs (some labs are worth more marks than others).**



Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

- All laboratory assignments are due at the beginning of the next lab period (so students have one week to complete the lab).
- Virtual proctoring will be used if exams cannot be held in-person (Proctor-Track)
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Participation is an important part of the success of the course and ensuring students learn the course material, so part of the final grade will be based on participation. To facilitate participation, the course will use iClicker technology, with participation assessed through completion of in-class questions. **Assessment is based on the completion (not correctness) of the questions. To get full marks for participation, a minimum of 75% of the questions must be answered.** This recognizes that illness or other factors that affect attendance can be accommodated. Participation marks are not adjusted for absences with the exceptions for official accommodation from your Faculty Academic Counselling Office. Participation marks cannot exceed 100%.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which 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

#### Information about late or missed evaluations:

Academic accommodation for marked components worth <10% of the total grade (lab assignments, photo portfolio, participation) is provided by the lab instructor (for lab assignments) or the course instructor (photo portfolio, participation). Where more than 2 lab assignments are affected, students must obtain documentation from the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.



- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day (including weekend days)
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight (in the case of laboratory assessments) will be transferred to the other lab assignments or for other marked course components (midterm or photo portfolio) will be transferred to the final exam.
- A make-up midterm will be offered Dates and locations will be posted by the Department.

**Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more** of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

## 9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## **10. Make-up Examinations**

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.



## 11. Use of Electronic Devices

The midterm and final exam will specify whether calculators can be used and students will be informed in advance.

Geog 1300b will use iClickers, an audience response device. iClicker is Western's officially-supported audience response system. It supports both virtual and physical clickers.

To use iClicker, you need to create an account. If you have previously used iClicker at Western you will use the existing account, but need to sign-in to iClicker Reef once per course, using the OWL portal.

To create an account please follow the instructions at

[http://www.uwo.ca/its/presswestern/students\\_and\\_audience/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/its/presswestern/students_and_audience/index.html)

Once your account is created, you can participate using iClicker using a 'virtual clicker' by way of a mobile app (Android or iOS mobile device) or web browser. These are free. Or you can purchase a physical clicker from The Book Store.

The join code for the course is <https://join.iclicker.com/PBSNY>

We will use the iClicker system to encourage participation and active learning. Questions posed using the system will provide you examples of the types of questions to be used on the exams. The participation mark will be based on responses to questions using the iClicker system (the participation mark is based on a response, rather than a correct vs incorrect answer). See the section on Participation for how this component is evaluated.

iClickers can only be used by the account owner, clicker misuse (including use by a student other than the owner) is considered a form of Scholastic Offence

iClicker uses an external account. Student responses are anonymized when displayed.

Responses associated with the participation mark are treated in a similar manner to all other marked components of the course and are only available to the student, instructor and TAs.

### **Guidelines for Students on the use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

## 12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
2. The course focuses on the lecture and laboratory material – use the text to help understand this material and to broaden the context for what we examine in lecture and lab.
3. Check out the additional resources provided on OWL to supplement lectures and labs.
4. Use the Mastering Geography website to access other materials supporting the course and for checking your knowledge (self-test) – but remember the course focuses on the lecture and lab material covered – rather than a test of the textbook.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards, read the text and/or supplementary materials. For help with labs, use office hours held by your teaching assistant and for help with lecture material use office hours held by the course instructor.
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



## 13. Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**When deemed necessary**, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

## 14. Information on COVID-19

### Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

#### **Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire**

Missed assessments due to failing the daily COVID screening questionnaire:

**Labs:** In the first instance, students should attend another lab section if possible.

**Midterm:** requires formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling).

**Photo Portfolio:** requires use of a self-reported absence.

**Participation:** the participation assessment is set up to accommodate some absences and is not otherwise modified except via formal academic consideration received from academic counselling.

Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

### **15. Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

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.

### **16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

### **17. Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

## **18. Support Services**

Western's Support Services  
Student Development Centre

## **19. Important Dates**

January 10: Classes resume

January 18: Last day to add a second term half course

February 21: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 21-25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 14: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 8: Classes end

April 9: Study day

April 10-31: Examination Period (excluding Fri Apr 15 thru Sun Apr 17)