

GEOG 1300B – Introduction to the Physical Environment Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2023

This course is taught in-person when conditions permit.

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1. Course Information

	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-person	Mon & Wed 12:30-1:20	3M-3250
Lab	In-person	Tues 8:30-10:20 or 10:30-12:20 Wed 10:30-12:20 Thurs 4:30-6:20 pm	SSC-1004

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11 & 12	April 13-30

Important UWO Dates:

- January 17, 2023: **Last day** to add a second-term half course
- February 20, 2023: Family Day
- March 7, 2023: **Last day** to drop a second term half course without penalty

Important GEOG 1300B Dates:

- [Feb 27, 2023: Midterm](#)
- [April 7, 2023: Photo Portfolio due](#)

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Adrienne Larocque, aka Dr. Addie	alaroc2@uwo.ca	Thursday 10-11:30 am

Office hours for Dr. Larocque will be held remotely using Zoom unless meeting in person is essential. Send an email to request an appointment.

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; human appropriation and modification of Earth-atmosphere systems.

2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours; 0.5 course

Antirequisites: Geography 1100, Geography 2131A/B

Prerequisites: None

3. Textbook

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

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.

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 at lectures is **highly** recommended. However, we are still in a global pandemic. If you are unwell, please **do not** come to class (even though wearing a mask is required). Please see Section 8 for information about missed laboratories and other assessments. Participation will be assessed using the online Forum.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL (and ProctorTrack, should we need to pivot to online learning); update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). If you need assistance, you can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, you can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. WTS 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. Chapters are for the 4th edition of Geosystems (Canadian Edition).

Wk	Date	Lecture Topic	Laboratory	Chapters to Read in Text
1	Jan 9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions & What is Physical Geography? • Earth System Basics & the Tools of Geographers 		1
2	Jan 16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Radiation and Earth-Sun Relations • Global Radiation Budgets and Energy Balances 		2,3 4,5
3	Jan 23-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulations • Atmospheric Moisture and Clouds 	#1: Maps	6 7
4	Jan 30 – Feb 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stability & Vertical Motion • Mid-latitude Weather Systems 	#2: Atmospheric Processes	7 8
5	Feb 6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe Weather • Global Hydrology 	#3: Weather Systems	8 9
6	Feb 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Water Balance • Climates and Climate Change 		9 5, 10, 11
	Feb 20-24	Reading Week		
7	Feb 27- Mar 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm – covers material up to the end of Feb 17 and Labs 1-3 • The Lithosphere 		12
8	Mar 6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endogenic Landforms • Weathering 	#4: Soil water balance	13 14
9	Mar 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass wasting and Hillslopes • Stream Systems and Drainage Patterns 	#5: Mass Movements	14 15
10	Mar 20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream Channels, Floodplains, Floods • Glaciers and Glacial Processes 	#6: Rivers & Their Landforms	15 17
11	Mar 27-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacial Landforms • Soil Processes & Geography 	#7: Soils	17 18
12	Apr 3-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biosphere: Ecosystem Processes • Geography & the Anthropocene 	Photo Portfolio due Apr 7 at 4 pm	19 See OWL
13	Apr 10			

* 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

- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours.
- Important updates will be provided on the OWL announcements.
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions. **Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions.** The forums will be monitored daily by instructors and/or teaching assistants. For communication about personal or private issues (e.g., accommodations), email your instructor directly.
- 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.

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 unless otherwise specified
Midterm	Mixed	10%	
Photo Portfolio		15%	Final submission: April 7, 2023 (see assignment for interim deadlines)
Participation	Forum Posts	5%	As indicated for each post
Final Exam	Mixed	35%	Set by Registrar

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

- Students must score at least 50% on the final exam to pass the course. Students must complete the majority of laboratory assignments (i.e., at least 50% worth) in order to pass the course.** The lab weighting combines all marks from labs. Please note that some labs are worth more marks than others.
- Students are responsible for material covered in the **lectures** as well as the **assigned readings**.

- ☒ Participation is an important part of active learning and, therefore, part of your final grade. Participation will be assessed by students' posts responding to prompts and commenting meaningfully on other students posts throughout the semester. The format is designed to allow participation for all types of learners while also recognizing that illness and other factors can affect attendance. The cumulative marks on all posts will be weighted for the participation grade. Deadlines for each post will be indicated with the prompt.
- ☒ Virtual proctoring will be used if exams cannot be held in person. Please note that ProctorTrack will not function well if your browser is other than Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. **It is your responsibility to have the appropriate browser on your device for online exams.**
- ☒ Assignments with a written component may be required to be submitted to Turnitin.com (see Section 12 below). If this is the case, students will have unlimited submissions.
- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to **digest feedback** before contacting the instructor or TA; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- ☒ **All laboratory assignments are due at the beginning of the next lab unless** otherwise specified. **Do not** try to finish work from the week before and expect to hand it in without penalty during the lab. Late submissions will receive deductions of 10% per day (1 day = 24 hours after beginning of scheduled lab period). Assignments will not be accepted after they have been returned to the class and will receive a score of zero unless your instructor has granted an accommodation. Your instructor cannot accept medical documentation directly (see Section 9), so allow time for Academic Counselors to process requests.
- ☒ Depending on enrollment, it **may** be possible to make up a lab missed due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances by attending another lab section the same week. If you know in advance that you will be absent from your lab section, you may be able to arrange to attend a different lab section. In either case, **you must get written permission from the instructor** before attending a different lab. You must email the instructor as soon as you know that you will miss the lab. This accommodation is not to be undertaken lightly, and will be allowed a maximum of twice (per student) during the semester. In some cases, it may be possible to have an alternative assignment, but there is no guarantee that it will be of comparable difficulty. Please be aware that some labs will not be eligible for alternative assignments.
- ☒ Students who have an excused absence (accommodation from an Academic Counselor) will be eligible to take a **makeup midterm on Friday March 3 at 2:00 p.m.** The format and content of the makeup may differ substantially from the original test. If a student has a legitimate reason for missing both the midterm and the makeup midterm, the final exam will be reweighted.
- ☒ **The deadline for the Photo Portfolio is firm.** You have the entire semester to complete it, with mini deadlines along the way. Waiting until the last minute to submit it is simply unacceptable. Because the weight of the Portfolio is 15%, accommodations can only be granted by your Academic Counselor.

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.

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

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

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

In arranging accommodation, where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office. It will be the Dean's office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy, instructors may not collect medical documentation.

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was **seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities**.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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.

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for COVID are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

12. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely 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 remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

13. 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 (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

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.

14. 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.

All required papers 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 The University of Western Ontario 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

18. Important Dates

Tuesday January 17: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 20: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18 to February 26: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Tuesday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Friday April 7: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 10: Classes end

April 11 and 12: Study days

April 13-30: Examination Period