

Geography 130.002: Earth's Physical Environment

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
10:00- 10:50 AM
Jan 9- May 2, 2019
Whitehall Classroom Bldg., Rm. 238**

"I looked at books, I looked at maps, I looked at atlases, I enjoyed that, but the thing that inspired me most of all was being taken from the school into the local area to look at nature... to look at the way the land looked, to understand the geography, to walk up little hills and streams and see how the ecological system worked, look at the environment." -Michael Palin

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Office hours: Wednesday 12-1 pm
Thursday 2-3 pm

Course Description

A course exploring the fundamental characteristics of earth's physical environment. Emphasis is placed on identifying interrelationships between atmospheric processes involving energy, pressure, and moisture, weather and climate, and terrestrial processes of vegetative biomes, soils, and landscape formation and change. Fulfills elementary certification requirements in education, and USP cross-disciplinary requirement.

These courses engage students in the fundamental processes of science through the exploration of an area in science. Students will be expected to use their knowledge of scientific concepts to formulate predictions, collect and analyze data, and construct explanations for the questions posed.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, the student will:

1. Understand Earth's systems
2. Be able to define, describe, and explain these systems and their processes
3. See the connections between environmental and human processes

Required Materials:

Christopherson, Robert W. and Ginger H. Birkeland. (2018). Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography (10th Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Class Schedule (*subject to change)

Class Date	Reading	Topic	Quiz/ Lab
January 9	Chapter 1	Intro to Geography/ Systems	
January 11		Maps/ GIS	
January 14	Chapter 2	Solar System	Quiz 1
January 16		Seasons	
January 18	Chapter 3	Earth's Atmosphere and Pollutants	Lab 1- due Wednesday 1/23
January 21	No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
January 23	Chapter 4	Energy Balance	
January 25		Temperature Patterns and Trends	Quiz 2
January 28	Chapter 5	Atmospheric Circulation	
January 30		Ocean Currents	Review
February 1	TEST 1: THE ENERGY-ATMOSPHERE SYSTEMS		
February 4	Chapter 6	Intro to Water and Atmospheric Moisture	
February 6	Chapter 8	Water, continued	
February 8		Water Resources	Lab 2
February 11	Chapter 7	Weather	
February 13		Extreme Weather	
February 15	Chapter 9	Global Climate Systems	Quiz 3
February 18		Climate Regions	

February 20	Chapter 10	Climate Change	Review
February 22	TEST 2: THE WATER, WEATHER, AND CLIMATE SYSTEMS		
February 25	Chapter 11	Earth's Structure and Materials	
February 27		Plate Tectonics	
March 1	Chapter 12	Tectonics, cont.	Lab 3
March 4		Earthquakes	
March 6		Volcanism	
March 8	Chapter 15	Eolian Processes and Arid Landscapes	Quiz 4
March 11	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES		
March 13			
March 15			
March 18	Chapter 13	Weathering	
March 20		Weathering, cont.	
March 22		Karst Topography and Mass Movement	Lab 4
March 25	Chapter 14	River Systems	
March 27			
March 29	Chapter 16	Global Oceans and Seas	Quiz 5
April 1		Coastal Systems	
April 3	No Class: AAG Conference		
April 5			
April 8	Chapter 17	Glacial Landscapes	
April 10		Periglacial Landscapes and Section III Review	Review
April 12	TEST 3: THE EARTH-ATMOSPHERE INTERFACE		
April 15	Chapter 18	The Geography of Soils	
April 17	Chapter 18, continued	Soils, cont.	

April 19	Chapter 19	Ecosystems	Lab 5
April 24		Biodiversity	
April 22	Chapter 20	Biomes	
April 26		Conservation Biogeomorphology	Review
May 2	TEST 4: SOILS, ECOSYSTEMS, AND BIOMES 8 AM Whitehall Classroom Bldg. Rm.238		

Description of Course Activities and Assignments

Student Engagement Assignment: In the first two weeks of class, you will be required to submit a 10-point assignment via Canvas per University requirements. Details of this assignment will be announced in class 1 week prior to the due date TBA.

Homework: Homework for this course includes **reading the textbook and studying for the exams and quizzes in addition to completing lab work and assembling the final Lab Portfolio at the end of the semester.** Have the reading of the chapter completed before the day or days when the chapter will be covered. It is recommended that you re-read the chapter or parts of the chapter following the lecture to cement your understanding of the material.

Quizzes: There will be (5) quizzes throughout the semester worth 10 points each. Quizzes will be given on alternating Fridays. There will be no quiz on test weeks.

Quizzes will be of various formats, and are intended to evaluate your reading comprehension and understanding of class lectures. Quizzes are intended to assess any material covered before the date of the quiz (you will not be asked questions we have not gone over in class lecture).

Quizzes cannot be made up, and absence on a quiz day will result in a “zero” on the quiz plus a loss of attendance points for that day (in the case of an unexcused absence).

Labs: There will be (5) labs. Labs will be introduced on or before Friday on weeks when there is no quiz. You will have some time to work on labs in class, and completed labs are due in hard copy on the following **Monday**. You will receive 10 points for turning in a completed lab (labs with egregious errors must be corrected and resubmitted for full credit), and I will go over them in class. At the end of the semester, you will turn in all 5 corrected labs with a “lab write-up” for each and a 2-page introductory essay for the UK Core Project “Lab Portfolio” (detailed below).

Labs may require you to use various tools, including a calculator, a ruler, etc. Make sure you are prepared for the lab work or let me know otherwise.

Tests: There will be (4) tests covering the major theme/ system outlined in the textbook. All tests will follow the same format: 50 multiple choice questions. While the tests are not cumulative, much on the material builds on itself, and you are expected to build knowledge and understanding as we go along. The final is Test #4 and will follow the same format as the other three tests.

UK Core Project: “Lab Portfolio”: You will be required to hold on to your completed, corrected labs (max 10 points). When you are finished a lab, write a 1-2 pages lab summary, tying the lab concepts to the material covered in the text book and lectures. At the end of the semester, you will create a document containing digital copies of the labs with summary as well as an Introduction and Summation of Physical Geography (1-2 pp), a Table of Contents, and a Cover Page. As the semester gets underway, I will provide templates and a rubric. Please notify me if you need assistance with portfolio assembly. **THIS IS DUE APRIL 26 at 11: 59 PM via CANVAS.**

Course Assignments and Points:

- **Student Engagement Assignment** due via Canvas TBA = 10 points
- **Attendance** (4 points on 25 non-quiz, labs, test, or review days) = 100 points
- **5 Quizzes (in class)** at 10 points each = 50 points
- **5 Labs (initial assessment)** at 10 points each = 50 points
- **4 Exams** at 100 points each (50 questions @ 2 pts. each) = 400 points
- **UK Core Project: “Lab Portfolio”** (due April 26 at 11:59 pm via Canvas) = 100 points

710 total points

Course Grading:

***Percentage points are calculated by dividing your earned points by the total points possible and rounding up.**

A= 90 – 100%

B= 80 – 89%

C= 70 – 79%

D= 60 – 69%

E= Below 60%

Mid-term Grade:

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/calendar>).

Final Exam Information:

May 2, 2019 | 8 AM | Whitehall Classroom Bldg. Rm. 238

Classroom Etiquette

Expectations for this class include being on time, not using cell phones, using laptops only for taking notes and writing, participating in class discussions and being respectful of other students' viewpoints. I do not allow audio recording or video recording in the classroom (unless it's an accommodation required by the Disability Resource Center).

Attendance Policy

Attendance for class is highly encouraged and accounts 100/710 points toward your grade, or approximately 14%. Attendance will be taken on lecture days when there is no quiz, lab, test, or review, and is worth 4 points for each of those days. Students will not be docked attendance points for excused absences.

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

Per *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2*, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request "appropriate verification" when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of

absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

Academic Integrity

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations due to disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information

The University of Kentucky faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy.

Discrimination is prohibited at UK. If you experience an incident of discrimination we encourage you to report it to Institutional Equity & Equal Opportunity (IEEO) Office, 13 Main Building, (859) 257-8927.

Acts of Sex- and Gender-Based Discrimination or Interpersonal Violence

If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination or interpersonal violence, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member or TA/RA/GA, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University these individuals MUST report any acts of violence (including verbal bullying and sexual harassment) to the University's Title IX Coordinator in the IEEO Office. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program (Frazee Hall – Lower Level; <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter/>), the Counseling Center (106 Frazee Hall, <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Counseling/>), and the University Health Services (<http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/student-health/>) are confidential resources on campus.