

GEOGRAPHY 121-Online – 2019F

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dave Sauchyn

TEACHING ASSISTANT: TBA

GUEST LECTURE (Biogeography): Dr. Mary Vetter

CONTACTS: For all correspondence with your Instructors and TA, use the UR Courses email tool.

INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

The instructors and TA will respond to your questions at our earliest convenience. This should be the same day during the week. If you send us a message on the weekend, we will reply on Monday unless it's urgent. We are committed to providing feedback on labs and exams within one week.

GRADING:	Lab exercises (6)	= 30%
	Lab Quiz	= 10%
	Midterm exam	= 25%
	Final exam	= 35%

Note: The Lab Quiz, Midterm and Final are compulsory – otherwise a grade of NP will be assigned

DESCRIPTION:

Geography 121 is an introduction to the physical basis of geography. The course provides a basic understanding of the atmospheric, hydrological, biological and geological processes that create the earth's landscapes and account for their geographic variability. Also considered is the interaction of human and physical processes, in terms of physical constraints and opportunities for land and water use and human impacts on the physical environment.

The course consists of the 11 Units listed in the table below. For each Unit, there is a series of lectures that are delivered at the course web site as videos, with the instructors explaining the course content using diagrams, images, stories and animation. This static content, without narration, also is provided in PDF files. There are also links to other good sources of information on physical geography. As you would in a classroom, carefully listen to the lectures, and read the course materials, and ask questions, using the messaging tools, if there is anything you don't understand.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Unit	Date	Topics	Labs	Exams
1	Sep 4-13	Introduction	LAB 1	
2	Sep 16-20	The atmosphere; global energy balance		
3	Sep 23-30	Circulation of the atmosphere; Weather	LAB 2	
4	Oct 1-7	Climate classification, Climate change	LAB 3	
5	Oct 8-15	The hydrological cycle		Midterm (Oct 11)
6	Oct 16-25	Streamflow and fluvial geomorphology	LAB 4	
7	Oct 28 – Nov 1	Geological basis of physical geography		
8	Nov 4-15	Weathering, Slope processes, Glaciers	LAB 5	
9	Nov 18-22	Periglacial, aeolian and coastal geomorphology		
10	Nov 25-29	Biogeography	LAB 6	
11	Dec 2-6	Soil types and processes		LAB QUIZ (Dec 5) Final Exam (Dec 16)

ABOUT THE LABS:

The lab exercises provide an introduction to the quantitative and practical aspects of physical geography. They are based on information pertaining mainly to Canada's biophysical environment. The labs provide you with the opportunity to apply the knowledge you gain from the lectures. Using maps, data collected by government agencies, and photographs taken by the instructors, you will analyze weather, streams, climate, landforms and soils, and then answer a series of questions. The labs must be completed during the period assigned to each lab in the table above. Therefore, each lab is due on the final day of the ranges of days shown for each Unit that includes a Lab. For example, Lab 1 must be completed on or before September 13.

ABOUT THE EXAMS:

There are three exams. The mid-term is a one-hour timed online exam that you must take at some point on October 11. The Lab Quiz, on December 5, will have a similar format. It tests

your practical knowledge gained from the labs,. The final is two-hour “take home” exam that will test your knowledge of the entire course. It will be posted to the course web site on at the beginning of the day on December 16 and you will have until the end of the day to take the two-hour exam.

OTHER:

Please carefully read all the other documents posted at the web site under the headings “Communications Tools” and “Start Here”.