



Physical Geography, Geog 107

Fall 2010

Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10-11:15, Brooks 202
Instructor: Dr. Tim Warner
Office: 341 Brooks
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:30-12:30, Thursdays: 8:45-9:45, or by appointment
Telephone: 304-293-4725 (Note: I have voice mail, so be sure to leave a message)
Email: Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu
*Note that this email is the fastest way to reach me.
I don't usually check email through eCampus*

Teaching Assistant: Joshua Wixom
Office: 229 Brooks
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 10-11:00 am, or by appointment
Email: jwixom@mix.wvu.edu

Physical Geography Labs (Geog 106)

Geog 107 (this class) and Geog 106 (labs) are **two separate classes**.
 You can take 107 *without* taking 106.
 However, if you take 106, you **must have passed 107, or currently be enrolled in 107**.

Text: *Introducing Physical Geography*, Alan Strahler, John Wiley
 Note: You can use either the 4th or 5th Edition. There are multiple options – e.g. paper back, a binder version, etc.

Points

Exam I	Introduction, Maps, the Atmosphere	100
Exam II	Weather and Climate	100
Exam III	Biosphere, Hydrosphere and Lithosphere	100
Final	Comprehensive (Optional)	100
Exercises	3 exercises	100
Attendance Bonus	Awarded if you take the first three exams	10

Grades

Points	Grade
360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
0 – 239	F

Final Grade: Exams 300 points (Drop lowest exam score) + Exercises 100 points (+ Attendance bonus) = 400 total (410 including bonus)

1. Your exam score is the sum of the **best three** of the **four exams**.
2. The final is **comprehensive**. Very few students do better on the final than in the first three exams. Avoid relying on the final if you can.
3. If you attend **the first three exams**, you will get an attendance bonus of **10 points**.

4. **On no account will anyone who does not take all of the first three exams get the bonus points.**
5. If you have a conflict with an exam date or exercise due date because of a university-sponsored event, or a University Day of Special Concern, please see me **in advance** of the conflict, to schedule an **earlier** time for the exam or handin. **On no account will special arrangements be made after the event even if you missed class for a university-sponsored event.** If something comes up urgently telephone or email me immediately.
6. **If you attend the first three exams, and are satisfied with your grade, you do not have to take the final, and you will still get the attendance bonus.**
7. **Mid-Term Grade Report:** If you miss Exam 1, you will be assigned an F, even though you potentially can make up the material by taking the final.
8. **If you miss two exams, it is unlikely you will be able to earn sufficient points to pass the course. Therefore, you should only miss an exam if you are genuinely ill. Don't assume you can simply make up the exam by taking the final. You may need that flexibility later in the semester.**
9. The three biggest things you can do to ensure that you get a good grade for this class is (1) to **turn all your work in on time**, (2) **take the first three exams**, and (3) **make a point of never missing class**. Attending every class is probably the key point here, that way you are less likely to forget an exam or homework. Missing one homework exercise will likely result in your dropping at least **one letter grade**.
10. There will be **no** extra credit assignments. If you are struggling, it is better to spend the time studying.
11. **Exercises** may be handed in up to one week after the due date, with a **50% penalty**, unless you make an arrangement with me **at least one day prior** to the due date. To make up part of the last points, you can complete an additional essay assignment for **credit for up to 80% of the deducted points, but this additional assignment must be turned in within a week of the due date for the original assignment.** (e.g. if you got 32/33 points on the assignment, you would only receive 16 points credit (half of 32). If you do the makeup exercise within the week and get full credit for it, you would get 13/16, giving you a final grade of 16+13= 29/33.)
12. Exercises are normally returned within one week of handing them in. **You must pick up the exercises.** I will only discuss potential errors in the grading for a period of **one week after they are returned to you.** You must keep your graded exercises for studying, and also to verify your grade if there is any error in transcribing grades.
13. It is your responsibility to check your grades on eCampus to make sure all tests and quizzes you took are reported correctly. You must report any problems to me within one week of the posted grade.

General Policies

1. **Class attendance is compulsory.** Please drop this class if you know you will not be able to attend all classes. At West Virginia University, class attendance contributes significantly to academic success. Students who attend classes regularly tend to earn higher grades and have higher passing rates in courses. Excessive absences may jeopardize students' grades or even their ability to continue in their courses.
2. **Classroom behavior.** Please consider others in your classroom behavior. My first priority is to provide the maximum learning opportunity for the majority of the students. Because a few disruptive students can have a large negative impact for many other students please observe the following rules:
 - A. Arrive on time. I will make a point of starting promptly if I can. Please note that I use the start of class to make important announcements.
 - B. Leave only when dismissed. If you must leave before class is scheduled to end, please arrive early, and find a seat in the front row, so you can leave without disturbing others. Also please let me know before class starts so that I am not taken by surprise by your departure.
 - C. Do not talk or indulge in any behavior that distracts others.
 - D. If someone talks to you, please ask them to stop.
 - E. Please turn off cell phones.
 - F. Do not read the newspaper.
 - G. Students who are disturbing me or the class will be asked to leave. A warning will not necessarily be given.

Office Hours

1. It is not necessary to make an appointment if you come to see me during office hours, although I always welcome a note to let me know.
2. Relatively few people take advantage of my office hours, or those of the teaching assistant. I urge you to take advantage of this extra resource.
3. The most busy time for office hours is immediately before an exam, or when homework is due. Try not to leave questions to the last minute, so that you do not have to wait in line when you come to see me.

Cheating

1. Do not copy answers from another student under any circumstances – whether in an **exam**, or in completing the **exercises**.
2. Cheating will not be tolerated. The penalties are very severe. Consult the university code on cheating in the student handbook for more information.
3. **All work, including homework, should be done independently.** Evidence of cheating includes having the same pattern of errors or spelling mistakes.
4. You should always protect yourself from accusations of cheating by making sure others do not copy your work. This applies not just to **exams**, but also to the **homework exercises**.

How to do well in this class

1. Come to every class and use your time in class productively.
 - A. Class attendance is highly correlated with grades.
 - B. I will remind you of important dates.
 - C. Most people learn more effectively if they experience information in a variety of formats (hearing, seeing, reading, writing).
2. Be an *active* learner
 - A. Pay close attention in class.
 - B. Take good notes including all that I write down, as well as notes from material I don't write down.
 - C. Write down the figure numbers of the the key figures I emphasize. Make notes about the key ideas for these figures.
3. Review your notes each week, and read the associated material in your text. Annotate your notes with explanations and additional information from the text.
4. University guidelines suggest you should study at **least 2 hours for every hour in class**. Leaving all your studying to the night before the exam will take longer, and result in a lower grade.
5. Find a quiet place to study, where you are comfortable and have no distractions. Music, TV, or even seeing people walk past you, are all distractions.
6. Study effectively, actively, and on a regular schedule.
 - A. I do not recommend using flash cards, or at least *only* using flash cards. This course does not emphasize the rote learning of isolated facts. There are some definition type questions, but most questions require you to understand the material. If you use flash cards, be sure to test your ability to sketch key diagrams, too.
 - B. I also don't recommend just highlighting the text or your notes.
 - C. Read material, then cover it, and see if you can explain to yourself what you just read. (i.e. test yourself.)
 - D. See if you can sketch key diagrams from scratch.
7. If you get behind, don't panic. You will have to work even harder to catch up. But most people can catch up, if its not too late, and you make sufficient sacrifices.
8. Take advantage of both my office hours and the TA's office hours for help. Very few people use this resource. The TA in particular is a valuable resource, as the TA might be able to give you a different perspective.

GEC Course Information

This course satisfies the following GEC objectives:

Objective 2. Basic Mathematical Skills and Scientific Inquiry (Group B – natural or physical sciences)

Geog 106 Physical Geography Laboratory, is a separate course. It is recommended, but not required.

Geog 106 and this course (107) together satisfy the **science laboratory requirement** under Objective 2.

Obejctive 4. Contemporary society

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be expected to be able to:

- Understand how our planet and its environment interact as a system.
- Use basic geographic skills, for example, to be able to understand and to use maps in a quantitative manner.
- Explain how the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and terrestrial sphere interact upon one another.
- Use critical thinking to evaluate from a geographic perspective the major contemporary environmental problems currently affecting the globe, including global climate change, ozone and biodiversity.

Course Philosophy and Overview

Physical geography is an exciting subject! We deal with no less a topic than the world we live in, and how it works. We study the world from a broad perspective, examining each of the four global environmental spheres (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere), with a special emphasis on how these environmental spheres are inter-related. For example, we study how the atmospheric circulation and ocean patterns determine climate patterns, and in turn, how climate patterns determine vegetation, and then how climate and vegetation influence soils. It is an inter-connected web!

It is important to be knowledgeable about how our planet works. Firstly, it is intellectually satisfying to know that our physical world is not just a random association of attributes. Secondly, understanding the diversity in the world environment helps us understand the human condition. Thirdly, it is of practical value to be able to read a map, predict the weather, or understand when the ocean might be seasonally cold (not necessarily in winter!) making some places not so good as a vacation spot. Fourthly, and possibly most important of all, humans are changing this planet at an unprecedented rate. Policy decisions made today will have a significant effect on your life long after those who are currently making those decisions have passed on.

In order to understand how the world works, you need to know the language of physical geography. Consequently, for the exams you must be familiar with definitions and facts outlined in the syllabus. But it is the understanding of the *principals* of the geography that is at the core of this course. Consequently the main emphasis of exams is on critical understanding, not rote learning. You should therefore expect questions that are a bit longer and more complicated than most multiple-choice questions. These are not “trick” questions - they are trying to test your ability to make connections between ideas.

Attending class is compulsory. In order to make this a profitable experience, though, you should be an active participant in the lecture. By that I don't mean you have to ask a lot of questions (though I encourage you to ask as many as you feel comfortable raising), rather I mean you need to synthesize the information you gather. Don't just write what is presented in the PowerPoint overheads; add notes based on how you understand what I am explaining. Think critically, and don't just accept things that seem contradictory or wrong.

It is impossible to be an active participant in a lecture if those around you are not respectful of your need to concentrate. You are paying a great deal to take this class. If the people around you are making a noise, you are quite at liberty to ask them to respect the many others who are interested in learning. I will not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning experience of others. If you are having trouble understanding a concept or the PowerPoint notes, raise your hand and ask me to clarify the issue, so that the whole class may benefit. It is likely that you will be doing others a favor, since you are probably not the only one confused.

Days of Special Concern

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to be absent from class to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Students should notify me by the end of the second week of classes or prior to the first Day of Special Concern, whichever is earlier, regarding Day of Special Concern observances that will affect their attendance. Further, students must abide by the attendance policy of this class, as stated on the syllabus. I will make reasonable accommodation for tests or field trips that a student misses as a result of observing a Day of Special Concern, so long as I am notified in advance as specified above. In general, students who are unable to take scheduled tests should plan on making them up in

advance of the assigned date. My policy of allowing students to drop the lowest test score also should be used to provide flexibility for students who will miss exams for religious observances.

Social Justice Statement

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I support that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Class cancellation for weather or emergencies

If the University decides to close, cancel, or delay classes, an announcement is posted immediately on various websites, including www.wvu.edu and MIX.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING EXAMS

1. The exams are multiple-choice, and computer-based.
2. **You MUST take your exam during the specified time.** *(Note if you are late: the computers shut down at the end of the overall testing period. Once this happens the test is finished regardless of any unanswered questions.)*
3. **You may start the exam at any time between 1:00 and 4:30 (though leave yourself sufficient time to complete the exam).**
4. **You MUST report to the hallway outside 415 & 416 BROOKS HALL to check in with the test proctors.**
5. **You MUST bring your WVU STUDENT ID CARD.** *We will NOT accept any other form of ID. Period.*
6. **You MUST NOT have any materials whatsoever (including papers, notes, memory sticks/cards, cell phones) with you at the computer.** **If any of these items are found with you at the computer, we will assume you are attempting to cheat and you will receive a zero on the test. You may leave these items with your coat or backpack on the floor around the perimeter of the room. You can obtain a pencil and sheet of paper from the proctor by leaving your ID. You can use these to jot down things you have memorized to help you during the test; you must return these to the proctor to retrieve your ID.**
7. **No cell phones are allowed, even if they are switched off. Having a cell phone in your possession will be regarded as evidence of cheating.**
8. **You MUST NOT open up any other computer program while testing.** The computers are locked down to prevent this and there is monitoring software installed on the computers.
9. **Should you arrive at a high volume time, you may need to WAIT for an available computer.**
10. If there is an Internet problem you may be asked to wait for the system to come back on line. If necessary, we may need to extend the testing time or reschedule the exam.
11. **Grades:** It is your responsibility to check your grades on the class webpage or eCampus to make sure all tests and quizzes you took are reported. Contact me if you have any problems.

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Lecture	Day	Date	Section	Topic	Chap	Ex
1	T	Aug 24		Introduction	Prologue ¹ / Introduction ²	
2	Th	26		Map essentials	1 ^{1,2}	
3	T	31		Isopleths and Projections	1 ^{1,2}	
4	Th	Sept 1		Earth-sun, Time	1 ^{1,2}	
5	T	7		GPS, GIS & Remote	Chap 1 & p77/ Introduction ²	1
6	Th	9	Atmosphere	Introduction, Heat balance	2 ^{1,2}	
7	T	14		Weather - Temperature	3 ^{1,2}	
8	Th	16		<i>Complete material & Review</i>		
	Fri	17		Exam I		
9	T	21		Weather - Moisture	4 ^{1,2}	
10	Th	23		Weather - Moisture	4 ^{1,2}	
11	T	28		Weather - Pressure (I)	5 ^{1,2}	
12	Th	30		Weather - Pressure (II)	5 ^{1,2}	
13	T	Oct 5		Weather systems (I)	6 ^{1,2}	
14	Th	7		Weather systems (II)	6 ^{1,2}	
15	T	12		Climate (I)	7 ^{1,2}	2
16	Th	14		Climate (II)	7 ^{1,2}	
		19			P64 ¹ , p178 ¹ / p150-151 ² ; p171-174 ² ; p58-59 ²	
17	T			El Nino and Ozone		
18	Th	21		<i>Complete material & Review</i>		
	Fri	22		EXAM II		
		26				
19	T			Global warming (I)	Ch 3 ¹ , P71+,159 ¹ / Ch 1; p70-74*; p101-107*	
20	Th	28		Global warming (II)		
	T	Nov 2	ELECTION	NO CLASS - VOTE		
21	Th	4	Biosphere	Biogeography	8 ^{1,2}	
22	T	9		Biomes (I)	9 ^{1,2}	
23	Th	11		Biomes(II)	9 ^{1,2}	
24	T	16	Hydrosphere	Fresh water & Oceans	15,5/ 14,5*	3
25	Th	18	Lithosphere	The Earth	11 ^{1,2}	
	T	23	THANKSGIVING	RECESS		
	Th	25	THANKSGIVING	RECESS		
26	T	30		Plate tectonics	12 ¹ /11 ²	
27	Th	Dec 2		Landscapes: putting it all together		
	Fri	3		EXAM III		
	T	7		Review		
	Th	9		Review		
	Th	16	FINAL	Comprehensive (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)		

¹ Chapters and page numbers for the 4th Edition

² Chapters and page numbers for the 5th Edition

Note: This outline is only a guide. You should expect departures from this outline.

You must come to class to pick up the exercises. Each exercise is handed out approximately 1 week before it is due.