

University of Victoria Department of Geography
COURSE DESCRIPTION 2015

GEOG103: Introduction to Physical Geography

Instructor: Dr. Ian J. Walker Office hours T, R 0900-1000 DTBB124
Lectures: M, R 1000-1120 ELL 168
Labs as scheduled

Objectives This course introduces students to the study of Physical Geography using an earth-systems approach. The course examines processes within and interrelations between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere that result in patterns of weather and climate, landforms, soils and ecosystems. Lectures will be structured around 'real world' issues (e.g., climate change, natural hazards, natural resources) where the intersection between earth sciences and human activities will be

nd edition, by Michael Pidwirny & Scott Jones, UBC Okanagan, online <http://www.physicalgeography.net>

Two excellent print textbooks, both with Canadian editions are:

- x De Blij et al. (2010). Physical Geography. The Global Environment Canadian edition. Oxford University Press (ISBN 9780195428971) or 2013 4th global edition (ISBN: 9780199859610)
- x Strahler, A.H & Archibold, O.W (2011). Physical Geography Science and Systems of the Human Environment 5th Canadian edition Wiley. (ISBN 9781118077894)

CourseSpaces website Once signed in to the UVic webpage, click 'My online tools' then 'CourseSpaces'

Important Course Policies:

- x Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit.
- x Students must obtain a passing grade on both the examination component (mid-term + final) and the laboratory component (labs + lab exam) to obtain credit.
- x Extenuating circumstances & exceptions to these policies will require: a) direct discussion with the course instructor in advance, if possible and b) official medical or counseling documentation.
- x Labs are an important part of GEOG103
 - o All details regarding your labs & their marks are managed by your TA. Please discuss any issues on labs with the first.
 - o A lateness penalty of 25% of the total mark per day will be applied to all late assignments. This deduction will apply unless you make arrangements with your TA in advance or can provide official medical or counseling documentation for extenuating circumstances.
 - o Please attend only the laboratory section for which you are registered. You must miss a lab, please make arrangements with your TA in advance to attend another section.
 - o You must pass the laboratory component (labs + lab exam) to obtain credit in this course.
- x Examinations
 - o Attendance for mid-term and final examinations is mandatory. Exceptions will be made only under the following conditions:
 - f* The instructor is informed before the exam that the absence will occur and agrees that the extenuating circumstances warrant the absence. Personal preferences or commitments (e.g., holidays, travel, etc.) are not considered 'extenuating'.
 - f* Students must provide official counseling or medical documentation to support their request.
 - f* Do not sit an exam if you are ill. Contact the instructor immediately and provide medical documentation in advance, if possible. A

Grading

Grades assigned for GEOG103 are in accordance with the Department of Geography grade structure and interpretations as follows:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%

Passing Grades	Description (as listed in the Undergraduate Calendar)
A+	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
A	
A-	
B+	
B	

