

Course Outline and Syllabus - Winter 2018
Introduction to Physical Geography - GEOG 1290 A03
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Mohammad Alam

Office: 303 Wallace Building

Email: Mohammad.Alam@umanitoba.ca

Office hours: by appointment

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Lecture Location: 218 Wallace

Course description:

Physical Geography examines the phenomena and processes of the Earth-atmosphere system that underlie human environment interactions and environmental change. The topics included in this introductory course appear as parts of many disciplines such as: Geology, Meteorology, Climatology, Biology, and Oceanography; but the basic concern of those who study Physical Geography is to investigate the ways in which phenomena associated with these various disciplines interact with one another. Humans are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of changes that occur in the physical environment. We are at last beginning to realize that we too have an impact upon the environment, and that the consequences of our actions may have a positive or a negative effect.

Course objectives:

- To familiarize students with an understanding of the breadth of physical geography and its related themes of systems and environment
- Comprehend major concepts related to systems and cycles of weather and climate, the solid earth, landform evolution, vegetation and the biosphere
- To develop an appreciation of the complex inter-relationships inherent in Earth's natural systems.
- To understand the methods used to examine the Earth, their development and that of the geographic discipline.
- To encourage you to listen, read and think critically and effectively.

Required Course Text : Strahler, Alan and Archibold, O. 2011. Physical Geography, Fifth Canadian Edition.

ISBN:9780470678855

Course Assessment

Assessment	Percentage	Dates
Midterm Tests (2 Tests at 25% each)	50%	February 06 (Midterm test1) March 13 (Midterm test 2)
Final Theory Exam	50%	TBA (in exam period)

Exam Format

- Multiple choice questions, will be based on lectures, corresponding textbook readings, assigned readings, videos, and class discussions and activities.
- Material covered in mid-term test 1 will be separate from mid-term test 2, but the final exam will be cumulative
- The final exam is cumulative (approximately 50% of questions from course material covered in Midterm I and II, and 50% of questions from material covered after Midterm II).
- Students who miss a midterm test due to a documented medical or personal emergency will be offered a “makeup” test. See ‘Test./Exam Absence’ section.

Midterm Test and Final Exam Regulations:

- In all tests and exams, NO dictionaries, digital dictionaries, notes, books, textbooks, cellphones, PDAs (such as Palm Pilots) or text messaging devices are allowed.
- Students are responsible for appropriately concealing their test and exam answers in order to prevent copying by other students. Allowing another student to copy off of your test/exam is considered cheating, and therefore academic misconduct.
- Please consult policy regarding Academic Integrity below.

The Grade distribution for this course is as follows:

A+: 90% or above (Exceptional)

C+: 65 - 69% (Satisfactory)

A: 80 - 89% (Excellent)

C: 60 - 64% (Adequate)

B+: 75 - 79% (Very Good)

D: 50 - 59% (Marginal)

B: 70 - 74% (Good)

F: ≤ 49% (Failure)

Test/Exam Absense:

In the case of absense from a test or the final examination related to medical or compassionate reasons, studnets will be permitted to write a make-up test/exam. The student is responsible for providing written proof of either illness or compassionate distress in order to be allowed to write a make up test. Students are required to let me know of their situation promptly and present written proof within five (5) working days. Please see list below for acceptable and unacceptable reasons for rewriting the term tests.

Reasons for granting an extension (term test): a death in your immediate family, an illness in either yourself or in a dependent (requires written note from a doctor dated BEFORE the assignment is due), and required to travel for work. The Instructor will not accept a note dated AFTER the due date.

Reasons for not granting an extension: having another assignment due at a similar time/day, being away from the university for a personal reason (i.e. holiday or personal vacation), being too busy with other course work (i.e. having a midterm that same day or week), not attending the lectures due to personal or compassionate reasons (or other reasons), car broke down and could not submit assignment on time, computer is not working properly and you lost the assignment, or any other reason deemed inappropriate by the instructor. This is not an exhaustive list. Please don't ask for an extension if any of these or

similar reasons apply. If you know that you will be away, you **MUST** submit the assignment before the due date.

If you miss the final exam due to illness or compassionate reasons, you must make arrangements with your own Faculty office.

The VW date (Voluntary Withdrawal date)

The last date of voluntary withdraw without academic penalty is **March 16, 2018**; the results of the test 1 will be available prior to this date.

Student Expectations

- Attendance in class is expected from all students. Missed lecture notes are your own responsibility. While the PowerPoint slides are available on *UM Learn*, clarification notes are usually required in order to make sense of the material.
- Cell phones must not be used during class. This includes text messaging, web browsing, email etc. Please ensure your cell phone is turned off during lecture.
- Talking in class interferes with the learning of the student you are talking to and the students around you. Please refrain from talking during lecture. Students who talk during lecture will be required to leave the lecture hall.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions of the instructor during and after class.
- The instructor may not always be able to have a lengthy discussion with you after class, due to other commitments. Please make an appointment or see me during office hours if you require more than a quick answer at such a time.
- Inform instructor promptly if you miss a quiz, test, or final exam.
- Consult your UM email account regularly. This is how the instructor and university will communicate with you.
- Read the textbook. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the test or exam. Not all material covered in the lecture is found in the course textbook.
- Students are responsible for ensuring quiz/test /assignment grades have been recorded correctly in *UM Learn*. Students have five (5) days after the in-class quiz/test review or assignment return to discuss any grading concerns. After this five-day period, **NO** changes will be made.
- Consult *UM Learn* for PowerPoint notes and additional information
- Consult *UM Learn* Frequently for announcements, updates etc.

Why You Should Attend Lecture?

- Test questions will be taken from the lectures. Attending lecture benefits the student, because it ensures course material is reviewed at least once.
- Students who do not attend lecture run the risk of missing important information not available in the textbook or course notes.
- The course notes alone are not a substitute for attending lecture.

- Students are encouraged to bring the PowerPoint slides to class in order to include notes and clarification as the slides may not be entirely self-explanatory.
- The pace of the lecture will not allow students to copy the PowerPoint slides during class time
- If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a fellow student (not the instructor)

Using Copyrighted Material:

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. Class lectures and other materials have been appropriately acknowledged and ensured that it is copied in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are available for your private study and research, and you must not distribute them in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (e.g., UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Student Accessibility Services

- ICM and the University of Manitoba are committed to providing all students equal access to learning opportunities. "This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions should be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning." Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is the office that works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.
 - Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical or temporary), are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange a confidential discussion at (204) 474-7423 (V), (204) 474- 9790 (TTY) or student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca.
 - Students registered with Student Accessibility Services and who have a letter requesting accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the semester to discuss the accommodations outlined in their letter. Additional information is available at the Student Accessibility Services website: www.umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/

Academic Integrity Policy

- Academic Integrity refers the values on which good academic work must be founded: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the College community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.
- Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba's policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2017-2018, General Academic Regulations <http://bit.ly/2asr1ZN>

- The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension. For more information on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud: <http://bit.ly/2b63fBP> & <http://bit.ly/2b63ywR>
- All work is to be completed independently unless otherwise specified. No notes, books, or electronic devices are permitted in the final exam whether accessed or otherwise.

Student Accessibility Services:

- Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services to facilitate the implementation of accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services

520 University Centre (Main Office), 155 University Centre (SAS Exam Centre)

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Canada

Phone: 204-474-7423 Fax: 204-474-7567 TTY: 204-474-9790

Website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

Email: student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

- Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the accommodations recommended by Student Accessibility Services.
- The University of Manitoba Accessibly Policy: <http://bit.ly/2bcrP6i>

Important Dates: Winter 2018

Date	Significance
Thursday, January 04	First Class Lecture
Tuesday, February 06	Mid-Term 1
Monday, February 19	Louis Riel Day (University Closed)
February 20 to 23	Reading Week
Tuesday, March 13	Mid-term 2
Friday, March 16	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
Friday, March 30	Good Friday (University Closed)
Friday, April 06	Last day of classes for Winter term
April 9 to 23	Final Exams Period

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Class Content	Suggested Readings	Evaluation
January 04-30	<p>Introduction: Introduction to Geography Earth-sun geometry and the seasons</p> <p>Atmosphere: Introduction to the atmosphere Radiation and energy balance Air temperature Atmospheric pressure and winds Atmospheric moisture Weather systems Climate classification</p>	Chapters 1-8	
February 01	Mid-term 1 test review		
Febraury 06	Mid-term test 1		Test will consist 60 Multiple choice questions based on materials covered in Feb 01
February 13-15	Mid-term 1 results will be posted on UM learn		
February 08-March 06	<p>Atmosphere: Climate classification cont'd</p> <p>Lithosphere: Introduction to the lithosphere Lithospheric plates Volcanic processes Tectonics Weathering and erosion Glacial processes</p>	Chapters 9-16, 18	
February 19 -23	Reading Week		No classes
March 08	Mid-term 2 test review		
March 13	Mid-term test 2		Test will consist 60 Multiple choice questions based on materials covered in Mrach 08
	Mid-term 1 results will be posted on UM learn		
March 15- April 05	<p>Lithosphere: Aeolian Processes and Landforms</p> <p>Hydrosphere: Circulation of the world's ocean Coastal processes Coastal Landforms</p> <p>Biosphere: Pedology Introduction to Biogeograph</p>	Chapters 17, 5, 19-21	
April 09-23	Final Exam Place, Date and Time: TBA		

(Note: there may be variation as the class progresses)