
GEO273: **Physical Geography** (Section #2)
Department of Geography
SUNY New Paltz
3 credit hours
Fall 2015: Monday & Thursday, 8:00 – 9:15 PM
Room: HUM (Humanities) #320

Contact Details

Dr. Scott E. Le Vine
Assistant Professor (Urban Planning)
levines@newpaltz.edu
Office: #110 in South Faculty Building
Telephone: 845.257.3599 (Do not rely on my voice mail; use e-mail instead)
Office hours:
Mondays 11:15 AM to 3:15 PM
(or by appointment arranged via e-mail: I am happy to meet with you at other times if my schedule can accommodate)
I will also be available for brief student interaction immediately following each class; please speak to me at the end of class.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the fundamentals of physical geography: earth-sun relationships; the atmosphere, weather and climate; earth's structure and landforms. The study, deployment and use of cartography (maps) of physical features are emphasized.

Course content will cover how the earth's atmosphere functions and its interactions with the solid earth (the lithosphere). We will investigate the factors that lead to systematic variation in weather and climate in different places. A recurring theme will be the two-way interactions between anthropogenic (human) activities and physical processes.

Text (Suggested, but not formally required):

Arbogast, A.A. (2014) *Discovering Physical Geography, 3rd Edition*. Wiley.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through active engagement in this course, students will be able to:

- 1) identify, distinguish, and evaluate the accuracy of explanations of physical geographic process relating to the atmosphere and lithosphere,
- 2) accurately interpret graphs and maps showing the locations of and relationships among physical geographic phenomena,
- 3) develop and test hypotheses explaining real-world and hypothetical weather or climate scenarios, and
- 4) connect important physical processes and human society, both human impacts on physical processes and the limitations that geographic features and physical processes place on people's activities.

Course Design:

The course content comprises readings, lectures, in-class interactive discussion and visual aids. Participation involves in-class engagement as well as performing required assignments.

The in-class lectures and associated content in the text will form the material on which you will be assessed. The coursework is intended to help you prepare for the tests; contact me ASAP if you find yourself struggling with the coursework.

Two non-cumulative in-class tests are scheduled (each accounting for 20% of your grade) and a cumulative final exam (worth 30%). Additionally, 10 assignments will each be worth 2.5%, for a total of 25% of your grade. Finally, two online activities (in lieu of class meetings) will be graded on a pass/fail basis (either full credit or none), each worth 2.5%.

Graded in-class tests will be handed back to students at class one week after you take the test.

Attendance at all classes is expected. An attendance sheet will be circulated for students to sign at the beginning of each class.

Each lecture's slides will be posted on Blackboard by 11:59 PM the previous day.

Students may use laptop or tablet computers for the sole purpose of taking notes during class, and may also record audio of the in-class lectures if desired. In the interest of minimizing distractions, texting or any other use of electronic communication during class is strictly prohibited.

The last day to withdraw without receiving a penalty grade is October 30th.

Lectures will not include planned breaks. If you need to use the restroom please leave and re-enter with a minimum of disruption.

Course Grading:

Course marks will be based on the following scale:

<u>Average</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A	80-82%	B-	67-69%	D+
90-92%	A-	77-79%	C+	63-66%	D
87-89%	B+	73-76%	C	60-62%	D-
83-86%	B	70-72%	C-	Below 60%	F

Academic Integrity:

Submitting material that is not your own work is plagiarism, and will result in a grade of zero and a report to the Department Chair and Dean. Quoting others' work is acceptable (and desirable in certain instances) but you must make it clear to readers when you do so and cite the original source appropriately. Refer

to the University's formal statement on Academic Integrity for a full discussion of policies on plagiarism, cheating and forgery (http://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies_integrity.html).

ADA Policy:

Any student who will need classroom and/or testing accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact the Disability Resource Center, Student Union, Room 210, 845-257-3020. The DRC will provide an Accommodation Memo for your instructors verifying the need for accommodations. Students are encouraged to request accommodations as close to the beginning of the semester as possible.

Inclement Weather:

Check the University website for information on class delays or cancellations. Do not drive to campus if road conditions are hazardous; instead e-mail me before class begins to advise me that you cannot attend due to inclement weather.

Class Outline and Schedule (Planned):

Class #1 Mon. August 24th Intro to Phys. Geo. and 'Tools' (Chapters 1, 2)
Class #2 Th. August 27th Geographers' Tools (Ch. 2)

Class #3 Mon. Aug. 31st Earth-Sun Geometry & Seasons (Ch. 3)
Class #4 Th. Sept. 3rd Earth-Sun Geometry & Seasons (Ch. 3)

Labor Day (No class Mon. Sept. 7th)

Class #5 Th. Sept. 10th Energy (Ch. 4)

No class held Mon. Sept. 14th (Online activity in lieu of class)

Class #6 Th. Sept. 17th Energy (Ch. 4)

Class #7 Mon. Sept. 21st Temperature (Ch. 5)

Class #8 Th. Sept. 24th Temperature (Ch. 5)

Class #9 Mon. Sept. 28th Atmosphere & Pressure (Ch. 6)

Class #10 Th. Oct. 1st Atmosphere & Pressure (Ch. 6)

Class #11 Mon. Oct. 5th Atmosphere & Moisture (Ch. 7)

No class held Th. Oct. 8th (Online activity in lieu of classes)

Semester Break (No class Mon. Oct. 12th)

No class held Th. Oct. 15th (Online activity in lieu of classes)

Class #12 Mon. Oct. 19th Atmosphere & Moisture (Ch. 7)

Class #13 Th. Oct. 22nd Weather systems (Ch. 8)

Class #14 Mon. Oct. 26th Weather systems (Ch. 8)

Class #15 Th. Oct. 29th Climate (Ch. 9)

Class #16 Mon. Nov. 2nd Climate (Ch. 9)

Class #17 Th. Nov. 5th Plant geography (Ch. 10)

Class #18	Mon. Nov. 9 th	Plant geography (Ch. 10)
Class #19	Th. Nov. 12 th	Soils (Ch. 11)
Class #20	Mon. Nov. 16 th	Soils (Ch. 11)
Class #21	Th. Nov. 19 th	Tectonic processes / Landforms (Ch. 13)
Class #22	Mon. Nov. 23 rd	Tectonic processes / Landforms (Ch. 13)
	<u>Thanksgiving Break (No class Th. Nov. 26th)</u>	
Class #23	Mon. Nov. 30 th	Flowing water (Ch. 16)
Class #24	Th. Dec. 3 rd	Phys. Geo and Environmental Issues (Ch. 20)
	<u>(Material from Ch. 20 will not be covered in exam)</u>	
Class #25	Mon. Dec. 7 th	Review session for final exam

Schedule (Planned) for Course Assessments:

Coursework #1:	Assigned Th. Aug. 27 th , due Th. Sept 3 rd (Ch. 1/2)
Coursework #2:	Assigned Th. Sept. 4 th , due Th. Sept 11 th (Ch. 3)
Coursework #3:	Assigned Th. Sept. 17 th , due Th. Sept. 24 th (Ch. 4)
Coursework #4:	Assigned Th. Sept. 24 th , due Th. Oct. 1 st (Ch. 5)
In-class test #1:	Held in class on Mon. Oct. 5 th (Ch. 1-4)
Coursework #5:	Assigned Th. Oct 1 st , due Th. Oct. 8 th (Ch. 6)
Coursework #6:	Assigned Mon. Oct. 19 th , due Mon. Oct. 26 th (Ch. 7)
Coursework #7:	Assigned Mon. Nov. 2 nd , due Mon. Nov. 9 th (Ch. 8/ 9)
In-class test #2:	Held in class on Th. Nov. 12 th (Ch. 5-9)
Coursework #8:	Assigned Mon. Nov. 9 th , due Mon. Nov. 16 th (Ch. 10)
Coursework #9:	Assigned Mon. Nov. 16 th , due Mon. Nov. 23 rd (Ch. 11)
Coursework #10:	Assigned Mon. Nov. 30 th , due Mon. Dec. 7 th (Ch. 13/16)

Final exam: Th. Dec. 17th at 8:00 AM (in HUM #320)