

**University of Guelph**  
**Department of Geography**  
**COURSE OUTLINE- Winter 2011-Provisional**  
**GEOG\*1300 INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

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Office hours: Mon. & Tues. 3:00 – 4:30pm

**Course Description:**

An introduction to physical geography. The principles and processes governing climate, landforms, and vegetation systems and interrelationships. Natural and human-induced changes to environmental systems. Laboratories will address techniques of measurement, representation and analysis of environmental systems through maps, remotely sensed images, laboratory and field observations.

Course Objectives: The **aim of this course** is to introduce the components of the Earth's natural systems as studied by physical geographers through the processes, interactions and flows of energy between of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. The surface of the Earth, is an extremely dynamic environment where forces and processes driven by internal and external sources of energy interact to create climate, landforms and landscapes. The effects of solar energy, climate, tectonic activity, gravity, weathering, erosion and sediment transport will be discussed within the context of physical geography. While much of the material covered will be descriptive, rather than mathematical, students are reminded that Physical Geography is a quantitative science and some of the material in this course draws upon basic science theory and relationships. From time to time simple numerical relationships will be introduced and you will be expected to solve simple problems in lab assignments and on the final exam.

**Course Organization and Presentation:**

There are two sections for this class and two different instructors. Each of us will approach the course material differently and the lectures and lecture material and midterm exams will vary between the two sections. Therefore, you should attend the weekly lecture on Wednesday evenings.

There is course web page. The D2L course website is used to make class announcements, post the reading list, post incomplete lecture slides as .pdf files, post grades, post weblinks and to communicate with your classmates. A discussion forum had been set up where you can exchange ideas with your classmates.

To access this resource you should be using your central account ID and password. This is the same login ID and password that is used to access your University of Guelph WebMail and WebAdvisor.

Students are expected to take notes in class to supplement the posted lecture material. If you are unable to attend class it is your responsibility to get the notes from one of your classmates. Lectures may include occasional guest lectures and selected multimedia material.

In addition to the weekly lectures there are two hour laboratory session **most** weeks. Students are required to pay a lab fee of \$10.00 in the first week of labs to cover the cost of the Lab materials and transportation for the field trip.

### Required textbook and workbook:

Christopherson, R.W. and Byrne, M., (2009) ***Canadian Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 2nd Edition***, Prentice Hall, Toronto.

Encounter Earth: Interactive Geoscience Explorations (used for some lab assignments and to illustrate class material)

### Method of Evaluation:

Labs	30%
Mid-term	30%
Final Exam	40%

Lab assignments are due at the beginning of the following scheduled lab (see lab schedule). The **late penalty for labs is 25% per day**, so it is best to get them in on time. If you have a legitimate reason for an extension you must contact your GTA and make arrangements for a new deadline before your assignment is due.

The final exam contains a multiple part question that covers the laboratory material. Students must obtain an overall average of **50%** in the combined mid-term and final exams to pass the course.

### Course Policies:

#### Academic Misconduct

Please note that academic misconduct and dishonesty is a serious offence at the University of Guelph. This includes the copying or sharing materials submitted for your lab assignments. You are encouraged to work together but you must submit your own work. The University's policy on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. If you are unfamiliar with these policies please visit:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>.

#### E-Mail:

I will **NOT** reply to e-mail regarding course content/scheduling issues that have been announced in class or are on the course webpage. See me about these issues after class or during my office hours.