

SYLLABUS  
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY  
GEO 160 Section 80 - HONORS  
Spring 2020  
MWF 10-10:50am, Popplewell 101  
LAB: R 9:30-11:20am, Popplewell 102

**Instructor:** Dr. Dawn M. Drake

**Office:** 115E Popplewell Hall

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**Phone:** 816-271-4161

**Office Hours:** M 3-4:00pm; T 11:30am-1:30pm; W 8:30-9:30am; R 2-3:00pm; or by appointment (unless otherwise posted by email or on my door)

Students are encouraged to seek help from the professor if you have any questions about labs, tests, or materials covered in class or the readings. Appointments are available for students who cannot be accommodated within the listed office hours. Weekend appointments can also be scheduled in extreme circumstances. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to seek help.

**Recommended Text:**

1. Christopherson, Robert W, et al. *Geosystems Core*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 2017.

**Required Text:**

1. Marshall, George. *Don't Even Think About It: Why our Brains are Wired to Ignore Climate Change*. New York: Bloomsbury, USA: 2015.

**Course Objectives:** Physical Geography is designed as an introductory course to expose students to a broad cross-section of topics related to geomorphology, climatology, hydrology, biogeography, and atmospheric science. We will discuss numerous topics that are relevant to your day-to-day life, many of which you may have never considered before. You will also receive hands-on experience with common research methods and lab skills in physical geography. Throughout the class, I will expect you to think critically and write academically as we cover the material.

While the lecture portion of this class will not vary between the general sections and the honors section of the course, there will be elevated expectations in the honors lab portion to include a reading assignment with class discussion, a mandatory weekend field trip to learn more about physical geography and research techniques, and additional expectations and tasks added to labs to allow you to demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills. More details about field trip options will be provided within the first few weeks of the course.

This General Studies course contributes to the Missouri Goals for General Education in the **skill areas** of **Managing Information, Communicating, and Higher-Order Thinking** and in the **knowledge area** of **Life and Physical Sciences**. It will promote the development of the following skills by students, which were identified by Missouri Western State University as critical to a General Studies Education:

1. **Present information clearly and concisely, using traditional and contemporary technologies.**
2. Focus on a purpose (e.g., explaining, problem solving, argument) and vary approaches to writing and speaking based on that purpose.
3. Use linguistic, mathematical or other symbolic approaches to describe problems, identify alternative solutions, and make reasoned choices among those solutions.
4. **Defend conclusions using relevant evidence and reasoned argument.**
5. Think critically and reason analytically.
6. Understand common phenomena in the physical and natural environment and understand the methods by which they are studied through lectures and the connected laboratory experience.

These skills will be assessed through a variety of formative assessments in the virtual classroom as well as the summative assessments outlined in the University's General Studies Assessment Plan for the student learning outcomes listed in bold face.

Additionally, the content of this course, as established by the professor, satisfies the following thematic standards suggested by the National Council for Social Studies (for detailed information on all ten themes refer to [www.socialstudies.org/standards/2.0.html](http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/2.0.html)):

3. People, Places, and Environments

8. Science, Technology, and Society

9. Global Connections

**MWSU Honors Program Mission Statement:** The Honors Program at Missouri Western State University provides an enriched educational experience for the exceptional student. The program is designed for the student who enjoys learning, and whose personal goals emphasize the pursuit of understanding and knowledge. Ultimately, the program provides students with academic training and skills which will serve them well in both their chosen careers and their personal lives. Goals of the program are to foster the growth of intellectual inquiry, independence, and initiative in honors participants with an array of learning experiences including special courses, colloquia, and independent research and study. Each honors experience is simultaneously challenging, exciting, and enjoyable.

**Course Evaluation:** Your final grade in this class will be based on your performance on 4 exams and 10 lab assignments, an assignment based on the mandatory field trip experience, participation in discussion related to the book assignment, a written assessment related to the book assignment, and a current events in physical geography presentation. Exam material will be drawn from lecture slides, maps, movies shown in class or assigned as homework, and labs. There is a possible 750 points to be earned in the class. Each exam will be worth 75 points and consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The lab assignments will combine for another 300 points (equal to the tests). Lab assignments will consist of a combination of written work and learning to use the research and lab tools of physical geography. They will apply your knowledge gained in class to new situations and sometimes require outside research. The labs will include additional tasks beyond those asked of the general sections. An assignment based on the mandatory field trip experience will be worth 50 points. Classroom discussion and a written assignment related to the book assignment will be worth another 50 points. Finally, the current events presentation will be worth another 50 points and will require you to present for 10 minutes (whereas general sections will present for 5 minutes). The following point scale will be used to calculate your final grade for the class.

750-675: A  
674-600: B  
599-525: C  
524-450: D  
449 or less: F

Students must earn an A or B in this course to be counted for honors credit. Grades of C or D will still be considered "passing," but will not be counted for honors credit. Students taking A/CR/U must earn an A in the course for it to be counted for honors credit.

I will not discuss individual grades in the classroom. That must be done in my office. I also do not automatically bump up borderline grades. If you earn 674 points, you have earned a B, not an A. If you earned 676 points, you would not want me to bump you down to a B instead of the A that you earned. Do not expect to receive a higher grade than you earned and do not ask for that consideration. Also be aware that an A is only awarded for extra effort. If you turn in the bare minimum work, do not expect to receive that honor. Students who earn A's are attentive, have good attendance records, and prepare for lecture. They also do well on exams and put extra effort into labs.

Grade appeals should be done following procedures outlined in the MWSU Student Handbook and the Department of History and Geography. For more details see <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wpcontent/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/StudentHandbook2016.pdf>.

**Extra Credit:** The Department of History and Geography **does not allow** individual students to perform extra credit work to improve their grade, but opportunities will be offered to the whole class throughout the semester.

**Early/Late Work:** Late work will be penalized, but it is always better to turn work in late rather than not at all. For each day an assignment is late (except for weekends), one point will be deducted, to a maximum of half the value of the assignment. Early work will be accepted. **LABS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL**

**Students with Disabilities:** Students seeking accommodations must first provide documentation of needed accommodations to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) located in Eder Hall, Suite 203. Once accommodations have been approved by the ARC, students are responsible for notifying their instructors of those accommodations. This should be done within the first two weeks of classes. Accommodations are not retroactive.

**Classroom Decorum:** I expect you to respect yourself, the professor, and your fellow students by acting appropriately in the classroom. If you are going to sit in class and text message or read outside material, please do not come to class. If you are chronically disruptive to the classroom or the professor, you will be asked to leave. To that end:

- All cell phones, pagers, and headphones must be turned off and stored during lectures, labs, and exams. **If any electronic item goes off during the exam, there will be a mandatory five point deduction to the offender's score.**
- Students may use laptops for note taking only, assuming they do not disturb others in the class. Other computer use is not permitted. Any non-class related computer usage, including during lab, will result in consequences.
- No disruptive conversations during class. If I have to stop for you, you will be asked to leave.
- No reading of outside materials is permitted during lecture or lab.
- Please be on time for class.
- If you must leave class before the end of lecture or lab, let the professor know in advance. Do not begin to pack up before the professor finishes lecture.

**MWSU Policy on Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty is defined in the Student Code of Conduct as engaging in acts which include (but not limited to):

- a) Falsifying documents or academic records;
- b) Any activity that violates the University's Academic Honesty Policy including (but not limited to) any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, using any electronic device to either improperly store information for an exam or to transmit portions of questions or answers to other students, or allowing another student to take your exam for you.

Students are required to do their own work. Using work done by other students is cheating. Posting, downloading, or otherwise using or disseminating class study guides, exercises, or exam questions found on the various online "study sites" is cheating. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms. Please see the Student Handbook for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. For information about Academic Regulations and Standards Committee, go to <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/facsenate/academic-regulations/>.

**Classroom Recording Policy:** The course materials that I author, including, but not limited to, PowerPoint slides, Panopto recordings, Canvas screenshots, class handouts, web-based and social media content, and course syllabi, are my intellectual property and are protected by copyright law. Students in the course may download and make copies of my course materials for the course student's own use. This includes selling materials to sites such as Course Hero or Study Blue. Additionally, disseminating class content online violates copyright. Students who disseminate course materials online may be liable for monetary damages.

Students are allowed to record course proceedings for their personal use. In fact, it is encouraged. Publicly reproducing or distributing these materials or enabling others to do so without my express written consent is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with this direction may constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook and result in disciplinary action by the University.

**Attendance Policy:** "Missouri Western State University has the expectation that students should be active participants in their coursework. Regular class attendance is considered a key element of participation and an essential part of the educational experience" (MWSU Student Handbook). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class throughout the semester. If you are late, you will be counted as absent. **Attendance will not be considered as a direct variable in your final grade, but it does have a direct impact on your grade.** Failure to attend class will result in a penalty born out in a student's inability to perform well on labs and exams. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT EXAMS.** Students must be on time for exams. Once one student has completed the exam no students may begin it. Make-up exams are only given if the professor receives 48 hours notice with a suitable excuse. It is at the professor's discretion to determine if the excuse is justified. Two days for make-up exams each semester. One will be just before mid-term grades are due and the second will be just prior to final exams. Exams will be scheduled on that day to accommodate the student and the professors' schedule. All make-ups must be completed on those dates. **Only one exam may be made up per semester.** Final exams will be made up at the discretion of the instructor. All disputes of the exam make-up policy will be taken to the department chairperson for a final decision. Labs not turned in on time due to absence from class are subject to point deductions.

**Weather Policy:** In the event that the instructor is unable to make it to a scheduled class session, you will be notified through your university email account, when possible. The email will contain instructions for what you are to do in lieu of coming to class that day. Typically, class will be held if the University is open. Campus closures will be sent through the Griffon Alert system. It is your decision to travel to campus in adverse weather. If you are uncomfortable driving, do not risk your life. You will be granted opportunities to turn in assignments without penalties and make-up exams.

**Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, 226 Blum Student Union, for a list of resources and support. <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/>

You can also contact Shana Meyer, Vice President for Student Affairs, [slmeyer@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:slmeyer@missouriwestern.edu)

The Campus Cupboard is a free resource with pantry and hygiene items, located at 214 Blum Student Union. The pantry is typically open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 pm and by appointment. You can stop by the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Blum 228, to contact the Dean of Students with questions or concerns. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable your professor to connect you with the resources you need.

**A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct:** Consistent with its mission, Missouri Western seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and University policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Missouri Western encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook about what happened so they can get the support they need and Missouri Western can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Missouri Western is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, see the MWSU sexual-misconduct policy

Students have received information via email regarding training regarding Title IX. Student employees may have additional required training. Please follow the link in the email sent to your MWSU student account to complete the training. Students who do not complete the training will receive a hold on their account, prohibiting future semester enrollment until the training is complete. These training courses will ensure that all students are appropriately educated about these important regulations.

**Pregnancy Resources:** Missouri Western State University does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy, and recovery from pregnancy, will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor. Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Pregnant or parenting students needing assistance should contact the Title IX Coordinator, Adam McGowan at 816-271-4432 in Blum Student Union 228.

**Note on Course Content:** Geography as a discipline covers a broad spectrum of topics including some that might be uncomfortable or controversial to certain students. Feel free to discuss with the instructor any materials that concern you. The classroom is an open and inclusive where all opinions will be heard. No one should be attacked for their opinions, but incorrect assumptions or opinions based on inaccurate information will be dealt with accordingly.

**Note that this syllabus acts as a contract. If you remain in the class, you are responsible for the policies contained herein. The professor will inform you of any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to adjust accordingly.**

**Tentative Class Schedule:** Note that this schedule is tentative and is subject to change at the professor's discretion. Please refer to the schedule for lecture titles, assignment due dates, events, and examination dates. It is your responsibility to make schedule changes.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Thursday Lab Assignments
1/13	Introduction; What is Geography?	Chapter I (Introduction)	
1/15	5 Themes of Geography; Physical Geography	Chapter I	Introduction to Lab
1/17	Tools of the Trade ( <b>Drop/Add Ends</b> )	Chapter I	
1/20	<b>NO CLASS – MLK DAY</b>		

1/22	Calculations; Our Solar System	Chapter I and 1	<b>Select Current Events Topics; Lab 1 - Topo Maps</b>
1/24	Seasons; Earth's Atmosphere	Chapter 1	
1/27	Earth's Atmosphere	Chapter 1	
1/29	Energy basics and Insolation	Chapter 2	Lab 2 - Calculations
1/31	Energy Balance; Temperature	Chapter 2	
2/3	<b>NO CLASS – LECTURE DELIVERED ON CANVAS</b> Temperature Controls; Global Temperature Patterns	Chapter 2	
2/5	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Ronald Schumann</b>		Lab 3 - Temperature
2/7	Movement in the Atmosphere	Chapter 3	
2/10	Ocean Currents; Oscillations	Chapter 3	
2/12	<b>EXAM 1 (Chapters I, 1-3 and Labs 1-3)</b>		<b>NO LAB – Work on Climate Book Reading Independently</b>
2/14	<b>NO CLASS – LECTURE DELIVERED ON CANVAS</b>  Water, Humidity, and Stability	Chapter 4	
2/17	Air Masses	Chapter 4	
2/19	Violent Weather	Chapter 4	Lab 4 - Weather
2/21	Water	Chapter 5	
2/24	Groundwater; Scarcity	Chapter 5	
2/26	Climates and Climate Regions	Chapter 6	
2/28	Climate Regions; Long Term Climate Reconstruction	Chapters 6 and 7	Lab 5 - Water Budgets
3/2	Climate Change	Chapter 7	
3/4	Climate Change	Chapter 7	Lab 6 - Climate Classification
3/6	<b>EXAM 2 (Chapters 4-7 and Labs 4-6)</b>		
3/9	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
3/11	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
3/13	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
3/16	Rock Cycle	Chapter 8	
3/18	Earthquakes and Volcanoes	Chapter 8	<b>Written Book Assignment Due; Guest Speaker – Dr. Saskia van de Gevel; Discussion of Book (30 minutes)</b>
3/20	Volcanoes and Mountains	Chapters 8	
3/23	Weathering	Chapter 9	
3/25	Karst Landscapes; Mass Movement	Chapter 9	Lab 7 - Plate Tectonics and Igneous Landforms
3/27	Rivers and Drainage ( <b>Last Day to Withdraw</b> )	Chapter 10	
3/30	Fluvial Processes	Chapter 10	

<b>4/1</b>	Floods; Oceans and Seas	Chapters 10 and 11	Lab 8 - Fluvial and Coastal Landscapes
<b>4/3</b>	Coastal Landscapes; Wind	Chapter 11	
<b>4/6</b>	<b>NO CLASS – LECTURE DELIVERED IN CANVAS</b>  Living in Coastal Environments; Glaciers	Chapters 11 and 12	
<b>4/8</b>	Glacial Landscapes; Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 12	<b>NO FORMAL LAB – Work Independently</b>  Lab 9 - Coastal News and Glacial Landscapes
<b>4/10</b>	Climate and the Polar Environment	Chapter 12	
<b>4/13</b>	<b>EXAM 3 (Chapters 8-12 and Labs 7-9)</b>		
<b>4/15</b>	Ecosystems; Soils	Chapter 13	<b>Current Events Presentations</b>
<b>4/17</b>	Soils; Energy Pathways	Chapter 13	
<b>4/20</b>	Communities; Succession	Chapter 13	
<b>4/22</b>	Soil Taxonomy	Chapter 14	Lab 10 - Soils and Biomes
<b>4/24</b>	Biomes; Conclusions	Chapter 14	

**FINAL EXAM (Chapters 13-14 and Lab 10):** Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30-10:30am in Popplewell 101. **ANY STUDENT FAILING TO ATTEND THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE AN “F” IN THE COURSE**