

SYLLABUS  
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY ONLINE  
GEO 160 Section 40 (Lecture)  
GEO 160 Section 41 (Lab)  
Fall 2019

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

**Office:** 115E Popplewell Hall

**Email:** ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu

**Phone:** 816-271-4161

**Office Hours:** M 10:00am-12:00pm; T 10:00am-12:00pm; R 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment (unless otherwise posted by email or on my door). Office hours can also be conducted virtually through email. Skype sessions are available upon request.

Students are encouraged to seek help from the professor if you have any questions about labs, practice activities, quizzes, or materials covered in class or the readings. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to seek help. This course is self-paced with the exception of the introductory materials and the current events presentation that have specific deadlines. Lectures are delivered via Panopto and require a high-speed internet connection. Chapter quizzes are completed online through Canvas and practice activities and end of sphere quizzes are submitted via Mastering Geography. Many of the labs will be submitted through Canvas, although some may require Mastering as well. The current events presentation will be uploaded via a link in Canvas. Students must each have their own access code for Mastering Geography in order to complete the bulk of the assignments for the course. Students must also be proficient in the use of Canvas to succeed in the class. I can provide some guidance on the use of Canvas and instructional videos are provided on the course's Canvas website. Please email me if you are confused. I will try to provide emails to keep people on track, but it is not my responsibility to make sure you complete the coursework on time. ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT. The last day to withdraw from class is NOVEMBER 1, 2019.

**Required Resources:**

1. Mastering Geography access. ISBN for access code: 9780134011257

Mastering Geography is an online platform developed by Pearson Education that links seamlessly with Canvas. It provides an interactive platform to enrich learning through animations, mobile field trips, and drone video. It will be used to deliver readings, some lab components, and a variety of practice activities to help you learn key concepts in physical geography. It is likely that end of sphere quizzes will also be administered in Mastering. All students must have individual access to Mastering Geography as many of the grades for the course are reported by Mastering.

**Recommended Text:**

1. Christopherson, Robert W, et al. *Geosystems Core*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 2017 (above ISBN for access code includes e-text)

**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 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.

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

**Course Evaluation: Your final grade in this class will be based on your performance on 15 chapter quizzes (25 points each), 15 sets of chapter practice activities (20 points each), 13 lab assignments (25 points each), 4 end of sphere quizzes (15 points each), and a current events in physical geography presentation (40 points).** Quiz material will be drawn from lecture slides, maps, movies/video clips assigned during lectures, and labs. There is a possible 1100 points to be earned in the class. The point break down for quizzes, labs, and assignments is further described below. This is a self-paced class, with few exceptions. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all quizzes, labs, and assignments by DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT. Mid-term grades will be issued for all work completed as of October 18, 2019. The following point scale will be used to calculate your final grade for the class.

- 1100-990: A
- 989-880: B
- 889-770: C
- 769-660: D
- 659 or less: F

### **POINTS BREAK DOWN:**

Each chapter quiz will be worth 25 points and consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and occasional short answers or calculations. Chapter quizzes will be conducted in Canvas and combine for 375 points. Additionally, at the end of each of the four spheres in the text book (after chapters 3, 7, 12, and 14), there will be an additional quiz that will pull together large concepts from the sphere that will be important for subsequent chapters in the book. These will be worth 15 points apiece, a total of 60 points, and it is anticipated that they will be multiple choice and given in Mastering. Additionally, each chapter will offer 20 points to be earned for completing a selection of practice activities in Mastering. Not only will these help the student practice concepts before the quiz, but also provide a low stakes way to earn additional points. There will always be more than 20 points in activities offered for a chapter, therefore allowing extra credit points to be earned by the student that completes all of the activities. Practice activities will combine for 300 points. Lab assignments will combine for another 325 points and consist of a combination of written work and learning to use the research and lab tools of physical geography. Labs will apply knowledge gained in class to new situations and sometimes require outside research. Lab assignments will be administered using text and videos in Mastering, but many times also require you to submit items in Canvas. I will provide links in Canvas to help with this. The current events presentation will be worth another 40 points and will require students to record a video of themselves presenting on a pre-approved current event topic and then watch the presentations of all classmates and write short summaries of each. More detail of this assignment will be provided on Canvas. ■

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 989 points, you have earned a B, not an A. If you earned 990 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 and complete lectures and practice activities. They also do well on quizzes and put extra effort into labs. Furthermore, be aware that due to the linking of Mastering and Canvas, Canvas does not accurately calculate grades for this class. Students can always make an appointment to discuss their current grade in the course.

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.

**Copyright Permissions:** 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. 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.

**MWSU Policy on Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. 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/>.

**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.

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, or contact the Dean of Students with questions or concerns. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable him/her to provide any resources that he/she may possess.

**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.

**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.**

**Accessing Course Content:** You must complete the introductory videos and practice quiz on Canvas before you can begin working on course materials. If you do not complete those assignments by the deadline of September 1, 2019 at 11:59pm CT, you will be locked out of the course and unable to proceed to subsequent sections. The extra credit assignment to familiarize yourself with Mastering is due a few days later. Failure to complete it will not lock you out of the course, but will make it difficult for you to succeed throughout the semester.

Each chapter of the textbook is contained in a separate module within Canvas. You must view all lectures in Panopto and open the study guide for a chapter prior to completing the quiz for that chapter and continuing on to the next module. The lectures within each chapter are labeled in sequential order to guide you. While practice activities and labs are not required before continuing on to the next chapter, you cannot pass the course without completing them and should not procrastinate. They are designed to help you on the chapter quiz and therefore should be completed before taking the chapter quiz.

**REMINDER:** This class runs from August 26, 2019 to December 9, 2019. After you complete introductory assignments, you can complete the work at any pace you are comfortable (with the exception of the current events presentation), but all work must be completed and submitted by DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT.

## Suggested Calendar for Pacing and Set Due Dates (all times CT)

1. Week of August 26: Chapter I (Introduction)
  - Practice Quiz due September 1 11:59pm
2. Week of September 2: Chapter 1
  - Introduction to Mastering Extra Credit due September 6 11:59pm
3. Week of September 9: Chapter 2
4. Week of September 16: Chapter 3
5. Week of September 23: Chapter 4
6. Week of September 30: Chapter 5
7. Week of October 7: Chapter 6
8. Week of October 14: Chapter 7
9. Week of October 21: Chapter 8
10. Week of October 28: Chapter 9, Start Chapter 10
11. Week of November 4: Finish Chapter 10, Start Chapter 11
12. Week of November 11: Finish Chapter 11, Start Chapter 12
13. Week of November 18: Finish Chapter 12, Chapter 13
  - Current events presentations must be uploaded by 11:59pm CT on November 22
14. Week of November 25: **FALL BREAK**
15. Week of December 2: Chapter 14
  - Current Events reflections due by 11:59pm on December 9, 2019
  - ALL WORK IS DUE AT 11:59 PM CT on December 9, 2019