



COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 101

Introduction to Physical Geography I

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: _____
Amber Church, Instructor

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____
Jeff Wolosewich, Acting Dean

DATE: _____

YUKON COLLEGE

September, 2013

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Course Outline prepared by Amber Church, September 2013.

Yukon College
P.O. Box 2799
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5K4

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY II

INSTRUCTOR: Amber Church
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
PHONE: 335-4884
E-MAIL: amber@akstudios.ca

COURSE: Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Room A2204
LAB: Friday 10:00 – 12:00
Room A2801

COURSE DESCRIPTION

GEOG 101 is an introduction to the physical environment and methods of earth system research. The basic principles and processes that govern climate-weather-water systems on the surface of the earth will be examined from a systems perspective. Natural and human-induced changes in environmental systems through time will also be addressed. Issues of spatial and temporal scale, in the context of earth systems, will be demonstrated by field and laboratory investigations and principles of geographic information systems and remote sensing. The course will highlight a range of current research taking place throughout Yukon. GEOG 101 is the complementary course of GEOG 102; the two courses are taught as a single unit.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will:

1. Understand the processes that govern Earth's weather, climate, and hydrological systems.
2. Understand the concept of earth systems research including the interactions between the landscape, climate, and biophysical features.
3. Have developed some comfort in a laboratory setting.
4. Be able to provide examples of current research and work taking place throughout Yukon Territory and understand its implications.
5. Be able to critically analyze current media surrounding global climate change.

DELIVERY METHODS/FORMAT:

The class will combine lectures and laboratory exercises.

Lectures

Lectures will primarily follow the course text, but will expand upon the material covered. Current Yukon research will be highlighted throughout the course material.

Laboratory Exercises

Laboratory exercises will explore geographic principles introduced in the lectures and readings. They are designed to give students experience with tools used in Geography.

EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory. A student may be dismissed from a course or program if more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled contact hours are missed in any one course. Dismissal from a course may result in loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding.

Lecture Assignments

There will be two lecture assignments: the critique of climate change media assignment and the weather journal assignment.

The critique of climate change media assignment will require you to read, digest, and critique a 10 pieces of current media discussing climate change/global warming and then present your findings in a five page report (double-spaced, 12 point font). The goal of this assignment is to introduce you to how science is presented in the media, to learn to critically evaluate, and to learn to articulate and present your work. **Due at the start of the final exam.**

The weather journal assignment will require you to track local weather patterns every day for a one month period. You will then present your results in graphical form accompanied by a two page synopsis of your data. **Due on November 13th.**

Laboratory Assignments

Laboratory assignments will generally take the form of question sets that can be answered through hands-on participation in laboratory sessions. They will be due one week after they have been assigned, in the subsequent lab period. You should bring a pen, pencil, coloured pencils, a ruler, calculator, and protractor to labs.

Examinations

A mid-term examination is scheduled during class on *Wednesday, October 16th*. The final examination will be scheduled during the exam period, December 5 – 13th (final date TBA). It is vital that students wait to schedule any travel plans until they know their exam schedule as exceptions will not be made for missed exams.

Breakdown of Marks

Note: Both the lab and the lecture portion of the course must be passed (>50%) in order to pass the course.

Total Lab Marks	40
Regular Laboratory Assignments	40
Total Lecture Marks	60
Critique of Climate Change Assignment	15
Weather Journal Assignment	15
Mid-term exam:	10
Final exam:	20

FLEXIBILITY

Efforts will be made to accommodate individual learning styles and needs. Please talk to your instructor or to Student Services should you have any requests for accommodation.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism (academic dishonesty) is a serious academic offence and will result in you receiving a mark of zero (F) on the assignment of the course. In certain cases, it will also result in dismissal from the college.

Plagiarism involves representing the words of someone else as your own, without citing the source from which the material is taken. If the words of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to standard procedures (eg. APA). The re-submission of a paper for which you have previously received credit is also considered an academic offense.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC CONDITIONS:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability or chronic condition. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student has a disability or chronic condition and may need accommodation to fully participate in this class, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

Christopherson, R.W. & Byrne, M.L. 2008. Geosystems: An introduction to Physical Geography. Canadian Edition. Prentice-Hall Canada, Inc.: Toronto. 768 pp.

Laboratory materials will be distributed during the lab sessions.

Various other reference materials may be used throughout the course. These will be announced by the course instructor prior to a required reading assignment.

EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY:

UBC with GEOG 102, GEOG 101 (3)

SFU GEOG 111 (3)

UVic GEOG 213 (1.5) or GEOG 100PL (1.5)

UNBC GEOG 210 (3)

URegina with GEOG 102, GEOG 221 (6)

UAF GEOG 205 (3)

UAS GEOG 205 (3)

BCOU GEOG 110 (3)