

# Geography 141: The Natural Environment

## Summer 2018

(Draft: subject to change)

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### Course Fees/Costs and required materials:

1. \$25 testing fee. This fee will be assessed to you upon course registration and goes to UO distance education for proctoring course exams. If you will be testing at an institution other than UO, they may assess you an additional fee to use their proctoring services.
2. [Physical Geography, 5th Edition](#) by Mason, Burt, Muller, and de Blij. Available in the UO Bookstore. Also available to rent or own as an eBook through [RedShelf](#).
3. [Google Earth](#) desktop application, version 6 or higher. It will be difficult to use Google Earth on iPads or phones...please plan on using Google Earth on laptop or desktop computer. This software is also installed on Academic Workstation computers in campus libraries.

\*\* NOTE \*\*

This is an online course where course materials and assignments (except exams) will be posted on Canvas. Exams are administered by University of Oregon Distance Education (<https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/>). You will receive emails from both me and distance education regarding setting up a proctor.

If you will be taking the exam ON CAMPUS:

[https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/on\\_campus](https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/on_campus)

If you will be taking the exam OFF CAMPUS, please visit this page:

[https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/off\\_campus](https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/off_campus)

### Course Overview:

*This course will introduce you to the major processes that shape the natural world, including the weather, climate, vegetation, and landforms that we experience each day.*

You will develop an understanding of the major disciplines that comprise physical

geography: meteorology (study of the atmosphere and weather), climatology (longer-term trends in weather and its variation over the earth), biogeography (distribution of life on earth) and geomorphology (processes that shape the surface of the earth). This course serves as the prerequisite for 300-level physical geography courses. Specific topics include:

- Weather and Atmospheric processes
  - Seasons, earth/sun relations, controls of temperature including the greenhouse effect, long-term and recent climate change
  - Winds, moisture, clouds, atmospheric stability, and the basis of weather systems
- Climate and Biogeography
  - Global climate regions
  - Patterns in vegetation
  - Global distribution of biomes
  - Factors controlling the distribution of species
- Geomorphology
  - Weathering and mass wasting
  - The fresh water resource
  - Landforms made by rivers
  - Landforms made by glaciers

**General course structure:** This course will progress through a series of 8 modules, roughly 1 module per week of the class. Each module will open on the Saturday of its respective week at 12am, and the assignments for that module are due by 11:59pm on Fridays.

**Assignments and Grading:** Your class grade will be based on the following categories and percentage breakdown of points.

Lab exercises 25%

Interactive discussion 10%

Fieldwork exercises 10%

Practice Quizzes 10%

Pre/post module short answer responses 5%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam 20%

Grades are not curved, but the grading scale reflects the breadth and depth of material covered. Lower grade boundaries are:

A+:98; A:92; A-:88; B+:84; B:80; B-:76; C+:72; C:68; C-:64; D+:60; D:56; D-:52

NOTE: You must receive a passing grade in the lab section (> 60%) of the course in order to pass the class.

**Disability Services Notice:**

I want to ensure a quality learning experience to all students. If you need specific accommodations to obtain the most you can out of this class, please let me know by (1) either contacting me yourself or having campus learning services contact me about your particular needs, and (2) providing the appropriate documentation from campus learning services. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs, but you must notify me by the first week of class if you need special arrangements.

**Academic Honesty:**

Cheating, such as copying material from other students on tests or lab assignments will result in failing the test at a minimum and may require involvement from the Dean of Students. Copying other's work is not allowed and electronic submission of the lab material makes detecting such cases less difficult. In serious cases, you will flunk the class or be expelled from the university.

Plagiarizing occurs when you copy materials from other sources without citing the source (i.e., taking credit for someone else's work), or copy someone else's lab. All students should be familiar with the material in this [guide on avoiding plagiarism](#).