



<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Spring 2017</b>
<b>GEOG 120 -1</b>	<b>Physical Geography</b>	<b>Prerequisite: none</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	Tuesday - Friday	<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Stephen Jeans	<b>First day of classes:</b>	Tuesday, May 2, 2017
<b>Time:</b>	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<b>Email:</b>	sjeans@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	end of the second day
<b>Room:</b>	A2141	<b>Phone:</b>	(403) 284-3630	<b>Last day to request revised exam:</b>	n/a
<b>Lab/ Tutorial:</b>	during class time	<b>Office:</b>	L 2078	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	end of the first day of the third week
<b>Final Exam:</b>	portion of the last class period	<b>Office Hours:</b>	by appointment	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	speak with instructor before course ends
				<b>Last day of classes:</b>	Friday, May 19, 2017

### Course Description

An introduction to the science of spatial pattern, variation, process, and interrelationship of Earth's major surface systems along with their influence on human habitat and human interdependence with the planet, including elements of atmosphere, waters, landforms, soils, and biotic communities.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Learning focuses on research and study in many physical geography fields. Geographic tools and research techniques are utilized including remote sensing and field work to confirm, interpret the environment, and resolve geographic issues.

***At the conclusion of the course students will be able to:***

- (knowledge)
- explain the history, techniques, and major scientific fields of physical geography
  - understand broad concepts of Earth as a globe explained by mapping, geometry, and systems theory
  - distinguish climate from weather along with circulation patterns, water budgets, and energy balance
  - explain surface water, groundwater, and ocean location/quality along with hazards including flooding
  - interpret surface landforms patterns as lithospheric, fluvial, or other natural process and movement
  - understand and hypothesize about cold regions, permafrost, and resources of northern communities
  - classify typical soil profiles, formation, distribution, management, and environmental governance
  - identify biotic and abiotic ecosystem components, diversity and distribution, and resource importance
  - relate natural resources to population, densification, development, regulation, and sustainability

- (skill)
- identify and utilize geospatial materials and processes including maps, remote sensing, and GIS
  - undertake ground truthing to collect and confirm map, satellite, and air-photography imaging
  - model and communicate quantitative and qualitative data in relation to environmental and settlement
  - develop cartographic and interpretative materials to communicate science and physical geography

- (attitude)
- appreciate aspects of the finite and interconnected nature of Earth and human habitation of it, and
  - express a perspective on science and human values including faith for geographic decision-making

**Textbooks**

Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland, G., Byrne, M.-L., & Giles, P. (2016). *Geosystems: An introduction to physical geography (4th Canadian edition)*. Pearson Canada Inc. ISBN-13: 9780134045726 [OR 9780134300092 looseleaf version]  
 [plus MasteringGeography with Pearson eText -- Access Card Package]

**Course Schedule**

A tentative schedule is proposed below, and is therefore subject to change, because of outdoor observing and geographical learning exercises that may take advantage of clear skies and/or guest speakers interjected at the instructor's discretion. Planned for the course are readings and topics in the following order:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Note</u> [& essential information for that activity]
Week 1			
05-02	Chapter 01	About Geography and Physical Geography	
05-03	Chapter 02	Geographic Field Techniques	[outdoor weather attire (layers, rubber boots)]
05-04	Chapter 03	Earth Energy and Atmospheric Structure	guest speaker Mr. Sylvester [ w/ outdoor work]
05-05	Chapter 04 & 05	Energy Balance and Global Temperature	
Week 2			
05-09	Chapter 06 & 07	Atmosphere and Hydrosphere Interaction	
05-10	Chapter 08 & 09	Weather and Water Resources	
05-11	Chapter 10 & 11	Global Systems, Regions, and Climate Change	Midterm Exam [~45 min., multiple-choice +]
05-12	Chapter 12 & 13	Dynamic Planet, Lithosphere, and Tectonics	
Week 3			
05-16	Chapter 14 & 15	Landforms and Hydrosphere Interaction	
05-17	Chapter 16 & 17	Costal and Cryosphere Geography	guest speaker Dr. Harris (possible day change)
05-18	Chapter 18	Geography of Soils	* Far Away Places Assignment [due in class]
05-19	Chapter 19 & 20	Biosphere Systems and Biome Geography	Final Exam [~1 hour, end of class]

## **Requirements:**

### *Assignments*

In-class worksheet and/or an exit slip will be expected before a student leaves a class. The content and marking of each day's work will depend on the type of activity. However, exit slips typically consist of two to five questions answered in about 5 to 10 minutes.

A Geography Term Assignment called *Far Away Places* will be demonstrated and discussed in class by the professor. The assignment is a term project that is due toward the end of the course. Study and research for the *Far Away Places* assignment is an opportunity for students to fully engage in the course material through their own interests and academic pursuits and growing understanding of the natural science of physical geography. This assignment includes a written, researched, component (a few pages in length) and may include other media the student would prefer and with permission of the instructor.

### *Field Study*

When weather permits (e.g., NOT driving rain or storm, but cold and overcast weather is fine for conducting geographic study), class work may be taken to the Ambrose campus green spaces (including the aspen parkland and creek to the west) and adjoining properties (explored with permission) for field work and to collect samples for laboratory experiments. Every attempt will be made to inform students about such opportunities a class before. Watch for an email from your instructor and posting on Moodle for updates about possible outdoor activities about a day before class. It is the responsibility of the student to dress appropriately (mainly clothing for cool-wintery air temperatures and change of footwear [i.e., rubber boots] for cold, wet, rocky or muddy ground surfaces).

### *Cautions and Student Equipment*

To reinforce concepts encountered during this course, participants will be asked to observe and/or take part in multiple demonstrations and laboratory work that will include the use of equipment. Safety is an expectation of each student for themselves, for the well-being of others in the class, and for the preservation of Ambrose facilities, apparatus, and sample materials. When conducting work in the classroom or in the field, be observant of proper procedure and check that others around you are not at risk. Report any concerns or incidents immediately to your instructor.

## **Attendance:**

Class attendance is mandatory. Participation in class activities is mandatory. Points lost through excused absence can be discussed with the instructor and suitable alternate arrangements made at the instructor's digression.

Exit-slip Journal and Assignment marks (30%) -- A component for marking is handed each class, and each component has a count of 5 marks. Points will be summed up at the end of term and divided by ~two to produce the 30% grade.

## Grade Summary:

### Grading Schedule

Exit Journal and/or class assignments	30%	
Mid-term written examination	20%	multiple-choice questions, practical component (e.g., classify rock)
'Far Away Places' assignment	25%	
Final written examination	25%	multiple-choice questions, practical component, ~non-cumulative
Total: 100%		

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter grade</u>	<u>Cut-off value</u>	<u>Numeric equivalent</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	96	100		
A	91	95	4.0	Excellent
A-	86	90	3.7	
B+	82	85	3.3	
B	75	81	3.0	Good
B-	72	74	2.7	
C+	68	71	2.3	
C	63	67	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	60	62	1.7	
D+	56	59	1.3	
D	50	55	1.0	Minimal Pass
F		49	0.0	Failure

Late assignments may be accepted at instructor's discretion -- if contact and arrangements are made, however the mark achieved may be reduced by 5%/day (up to 10%/day if no contact is attempted prior to the due-date-class or if that class is not attended).

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously. Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed/emailed out.

### Other:

Some general class resources may be available online through the University Moodle site. Resources to be printed and brought to class will be posted and announced at least a week before. For help on how to access these files please see the computer helpdesk.

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

### Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student

to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.