

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Spring 2024</b>
<b>GEOG 120-1</b>	<b>Physical Geography</b>	<b>Prerequisite:</b> none
		<b>Credits:</b> 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Delivery:</b>	In Class	<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Stephen Jeans	<b>First Day of Class:</b>	Monday, May 6, 2023
<b>Days:</b>	Monday to Friday	<b>Email:</b>	sjeans@ambrose.edu	<b>Last Day to Add/Drop:</b>	End of the First Day of Class
<b>Time:</b>	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Phone:</b>	403-407-9500	<b>Last Day to Withdraw:</b>	End of the Last Day of Class
<b>Room:</b>	A2133	<b>Office:</b>	L2111	<b>Last Day to Apply for Coursework Extension:</b>	End of the Last Day of Class
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday to Friday ~hour prior to class start (or check the lab area)	<b>Last Day of Class:</b>	Friday, May 17, 2023

### Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar>.

### 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.

**Textbook**

Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland, G., Byrne, M.-L., & Giles, P. (2019). *Geosystems: An introduction to physical geography (Updated 4th Canadian edition)*. Pearson Canada Inc. ISBN-10: 0134854063 • ISBN-13: 9780134854069

notes: see the Lions Bookstore, at Ambrose University, for e-Text version, looseleaf book, etc.  
 also acceptable are previous textbook editions by the same authors (when in doubt ask your course professor).

**Course Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule, subject to change, as circumstances require (guest speaker, etc.).  
 See our **Course Reader** on Moodle for specific page numbers of Chapter readings (not all pages are required).  
*Weeks with green highlight background indicate possible out-of-classroom/outdoor experience for portion of class.*

Day	Date	Reading	Topic/Activity	Required, Notes, and Activities Due
1	May 06	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	About geography (spatial and cartographic), Earth’s seasons	(Note: each day requires handing in both the Day’s Work and Exit Slip.)
2	May 07	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Atmospheric structure and Earth’s surface energy balance	
3	May 08	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Chapter 7	Temperature, global circulation patterns, and atmospheric moisture	
4	May 09	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Weather (systems, fronts and forecasting), and water resources	likely outdoor lab activity for portion of class time, dress for weather
5	May 10	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	Global climate systems and climate change	likely outdoor lab activity for portion of class time, dress for weather
6	May 13	Chapter 12 Chapter 13	Endogenic and exogenic geomorphology	
7	May 14	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	Landscape denudation and fluvial processes	
8	May 15	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Coast, wind, glacial and periglacial environments remotely observed	

150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary, AB T3H 0L5  
 T 403-410-2000 TF 800-461-1222  
 info@ambrose.edu  
 ambrose.edu

9	May 16	Chapter 18	Pedology and field research work	likely outdoor field trip for majority of class time, muddy/messy walk/work, boots, layered clothing recommended
10	May 17	Chapter 19 Chapter 20	Ecosystems, biogeography, and biomes	

**Requirements:**

**Day’s Work** is a daily set of learning-related tasks. Format varies considerably with concept taught. Students can expect to practice pen and paper problems for some activities and make observations of atmosphere and soils for others. There will be small group and large group activities that include handing in the product of that work. As much as possible the bulk of the work is conducted in-class with course professor and peer support. Some out-of-class research and revision may ensure the highest mark possible. The Fieldtutorial trip, literally to the fields around campus, is a part of this mark.

**Exit Slips** are short checks of student understanding that mirror work in class that day. Designed as feedback for both professor and learner to improve as the term progresses. Majority of content is non-cumulative (typically only requiring strong knowledge of the day’s work). Delivered at the conclusion of a day’s class meeting, about twenty (20) minutes in duration, can include mapping problems, a quiz of about 15 questions, a diagram, a short paragraph, or other activity.

**In-classroom Laboratory and Field exercises**

To reinforce concepts taught during the term, in conjunction with the topic of the week, laboratory (wet lab. and/or dry lab.), and/or out of class/building exercises are assigned/collected. Coached by the course professor, typically completed within class time, and in small groups where possible. Available space, weather, and other factors may alter delivery.

**Accommodation**

Universal Design for Learning is used in the development of this course. Exit Slips provide students with additional time (<1.5x to 2x regular time to complete), and other accommodations for Daily Work assignments. See your instructor.

**Equipment**

Everything science (and art) of physical geography is taught, so, you will be map making, collecting data, solving problems of scale, etc., which requires our course textbook, Moodle (requiring a laptop, highly recommended, calculator app or cellphone as well), along with some colours (pencils, pens, whatever you are comfortable with).

**Health and Safety**

To keep our community safe, stay home if you are unwell (symptomatic or not) with any illness that is communicable (COVID, flu or cold virus, etc.). Students are expected to be physically present, however, staying at home until well is the best kindness you can show to others. Contact your course instructor to discuss arrangements that ensure you keep current with learning and course standing. Should the need arise, if your instructor becomes ill (but mainly asymptomatic), then class work will move online (synchronous or asynchronous).

**Attendance:**

Attendance and participation in class activities is mandatory. Contact the course professor before a class you may miss. Lectures are not recorded, so, marks/points lost through excused absence can be discussed with the professor and suitable alternate arrangements made at the professor’s discretion.

## Grade Summary:

### Grading Schedule

Day's Work	50%	~one to four per day, practice, formats depend on weather/resources
Exit Slip	50%	~one per class, mostly non-cumulative summative assessment of day
Total: 100%		

**Late assignments** accepted at the course professor's discretion. Mark is reduced by 10% / day (weekends count as a day), but, lowered to 5% / day possible if the student is in contact with the instructor ahead of the deadline, and onward until complete. No makeup session for missed Day's Work or Exit Slip planned, at course professor's choice only.

Note that a breach of **academic integrity** (plagiarism, cheating, falsification, etc.) typically results in a mark of zero, the instructor's decision if no satisfactory discussion with the student. Academic misconduct is an action, whether actual, attempted, or assistance provided to another, in relation to academic and scholarly activity, whether deliberate or inadvertent, that is dishonest, misrepresents information, or creates unfair advantage.

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Grade	Numeric equivalent	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	100	<b>Mastery:</b> Comprehensive understanding of subject matter	4.00
A	95		4.00
A-	90		3.70
B+	85	<b>Proficient:</b> Well-developed understanding of subject matter	3.30
B	81		3.00
B-	76		2.70
C+	71	<b>Basic:</b> Developing understanding of subject matter	2.30
C	67		2.00
C-	62		1.70
D+	59	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Limited understanding of subject matter	1.30
D	55		1.00
F	up to 49%	<b>Failure:</b> Failure to meet course requirements	0.00
P	P/F	<b>Pass</b>	No Grade Points

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 out.

## Other:

### Hallway and outdoor work

Some activities are out-of-class or outdoors to take advantage of large spaces and to teach about natural wonders or physical processes. Advance notice permits the securing of personal items and dressing responsibly for these classes.

### *Equipment use*

To reinforce concepts encountered during this course, participants observe and/or take part in multiple demonstrations and laboratory work that includes 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.

### *Technology*

Students are encouraged to **bring a laptop** to class for digital simulations and science research activities. Regarding cellphones, laptops, and other electronic devices -- out of respect for others, **turn off audible alerts** during class time. Non-course related use, especially distractions, are not permitted.

### *Library*

Ambrose University Library has a wealth of connections to online materials/sites, please inquire about this resource. There is a copy of the course textbook available for short-term loan and reading, please inquire about that.

## Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

### Registration

Registration is the process of selecting and enrolling in classes for upcoming semesters. Only students who are registered will be permitted to attend class and receive a grade for the course. You are responsible for ensuring that the courses you take are appropriate for your program, that they do not have any scheduling conflicts, that they have the necessary prerequisites and that they meet all degree requirements.

### Withdrawal From A Course

Prior to the Add/Drop deadline: through the student registration system whereby course(s) will be removed with no academic or financial penalty. After the Add/Drop deadline and until the Withdrawal deadline: through submission of the 'Withdrawal from Course' form whereby course(s) will remain on the permanent academic record/transcript with the symbol 'W'. (See [ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms](http://ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms).) Students who withdraw from more than 30 credits attempted at Ambrose University will be required to withdraw from their program. Students considering withdrawing from courses are encouraged to discuss with their Faculty Advisor and/or the Office of the Registrar questions relating to their withdrawal decision specifically relating to financial assistance, study permit requirements, prerequisites for subsequent courses, readmission, and/or graduation timeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from a course are still considered registered in the course, even if they are no longer attending classes. In this case, students will be assigned a grade based on coursework completed as per the course syllabus and are responsible to pay the tuition and fees assessed for the course. Under extenuating circumstances, students may request from the Office of the Registrar a course(s) withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline and until the last day of classes. Extenuating circumstances typically consider situations such as medical emergencies, compassionate grounds, or unforeseen conditions/situations beyond the students' control that arise after the start of the semester and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation from a physician or Registered Health Professional must accompany this request.

### Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. More conditions apply.

### Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Communication

Your Ambrose email account is the University's primary and official mode of communication with you. Information delivered to your Ambrose email is considered official notification. Ambrose University is not responsible for your failure to receive important information delivered to your Ambrose email.

### Lecture Recording

The recording of lectures or any other classroom academic activity, other than an audio recording as an accommodation, is prohibited except at the discretion of the instructor. Any use other than that agreed upon with the instructor constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Permission to allow a lecture recording is not a transfer of any copyrights, so such recordings may be used only for individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class and may not be reproduced, transferred, distributed or displayed in any public or commercial manner. Student must destroy recordings in any, and all formats at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in the class. All students recording lectures, must sign the Permission Form to audio record lectures which is available through the Office of the Registrar.

### Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class.

### 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. 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.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

### Privacy

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).

## Academic Success and Supports

### Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services. Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

### Learning Services

Learning Services provides support with

- **research and communication skills** (e.g., writing a paper, researching, giving a presentation), and
- **subject-specific skills** (e.g., solving a chemistry problem, reconciling a general ledger, understanding a philosophical argument).

We offer workshops, one-to-one tutoring, and more, and all of our services are **free** to students currently enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/learning-services>.

### Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

#### On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](https://ambrose.edu/counselling)

- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention Skills and can help you access mental health support. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crissupport> for a list of staff members.
- For additional wellness resources go to the Ambrose wellness page: <https://ambrose.edu/wellness>

#### Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Alberta Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

### Sexual Violence Support

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced gender based sexual violence in the past or while at Ambrose. Many of the staff, faculty, and student leaders have received Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need and you can access information about reporting. Information about the Sexual Violence policy and on and off campus supports can be found on our website— [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](https://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

#### Off Campus:

- Alberta's Oneline for Sexual Violence - 1-866-403-8000 call or text
- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888
- Chat: [www.calgarycasa.com](http://www.calgarycasa.com)

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