



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: GEOG

Course and Section #: 1000-002

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Geography

Credits: 3

Course Description

Through this course you will learn the fundamentals of the Earth's dynamic physical systems. We will also focus on how humans interact with these fundamental physical systems and how we can use these understandings in our everyday lives. This course explores the world through each of the major components of physical geography: climatology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography, focusing on how they are interrelated. This course also emphasizes the dynamic interactions among climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Jeff Peters

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe and explain the major components of Physical Geography, including climatology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography.
 2. Describe and explain the major spatial patterns and interrelationships among the physical elements at the Earth's surface.
 3. Utilize basic skills and tools used in Physical Geography research.
 4. Analyze the Earth's surface in regard to scale, pattern and processes.
 5. Show recognition of human-environment interactions.
 6. Appreciate the surrounding environment and the interrelated processes that form those landscapes.
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Course Materials and Texts

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY: An Open Educational Resources Publication by
College of the Canyons

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

- **In-class assignments: (30%)**

- These assignments will be completed in class individually or in a group. They will be used to supplement the course lectures. These assignments can only be completed in class so if you miss class on the day they are assigned they cannot be made up.

- **Exams: 3 (50%)**

- There will be three exams that will test students' understanding of course content. There will be an exam at the completion of every 4 chapters. Exams will be taken through Canvas. They are open note, but you should not rely on Google. Using Google is considered cheating, and it actually gets a lot of the questions wrong.

- **Final Project: (20%)**

- For the final project, you need to select a topic this can be something we covered in class or something that relates to a topic we covered. The presentations for the final project will take place on the following dates, so it very important that you attend class on these dates. I will randomly assign students the dates on which they will be presenting. The dates of the presentations are as follows You will need to include the following information as part of your final project.
- A summary of your topic, or PowerPoint, or Google Slides, etc.
- Bibliography
- 3-5 minute presentation summarizing your topic

- **Total points= 600**

* Late work will be allowed up to three days after the due date with a 10 percent reduction per day and up to 30 percent max reduction. However, only the exams can be turned in late. *

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

The chapter readings are posted within the Canvas modules

Below is an outline of topics covered each week. Full details and deadlines are available in Canvas.

- Week 1: Course Orientation, Introduction to Physical Geography
- Weeks 2-3: Climatology: Weather, Climate Systems, and Patterns
- Weeks 4-5: Hydrology: Water Cycle, Watersheds, and Human Impact
- Weeks 6-8: Geomorphology: Landforms, Tectonic Processes, and Erosion
- Weeks 9-11: Biogeography: Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Human Influence
- Weeks 12-13: Human-Environment Interactions
- Weeks 14-15: Synthesis of Physical Geography Concepts
- Week 16: Final Exam Submission

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

Generative AI This course requires you to complete assignments that assess your understanding, application, and problem-solving ability applied to geology and physical science. You are expected to do your own work. Problem solving and scientific thinking are tools that are necessary for students to learn in this course. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, summarizers, or solvers, is only permitted to help students gain an understanding of content. Copying AI outputs or any sources will be treated as any other form of plagiarism (academic dishonesty) and will be handled according to the university's academic honesty policy. Instead, you can use AI like you would a textbook or internet search, to help you gain understanding of a subject. Use AI sparingly because it is an extremely energy and water intensive cloud-based software tool. Every time you use it; it costs about 1 liter of water and significant energy resources. After you've read and consulted with other sources (textbook, class notes, etc.) then write a response to journal and quiz questions that is your own original language. Please also note that AI hallucinates and often feeds students incorrect information, especially in subjects like this one. It is easy to spot AI responses because of their overly detailed examples with interspersed hallucinations. Note that for this class, assignments that are determined to be plagiarized will receive a zero and warning for the first offense. The second offense will result in negative points, and I will report you to the administration for academic dishonesty. A third offense may result in immediate failure of the course. If you have questions about acceptable use of AI tools, please consult the instructor before submitting your work

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.