



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-X04

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

Discussions (25%): There are two parts to the discussions first you must complete your own original post and then you need to respond to one other person's post. You will get 5 points for your original post and **(your original post should be at least 5 sentences.)** 5 points for responding to another student's post **(if you don't complete your own original post, you will not get credit for responding to a post).** Discussion posts cannot be turned in late however, I will drop the lowest discussion post score.

Chapter Quizzes (25%): These weekly quizzes will come from the PowerPoints. They will consist of 10 multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions. They will be taken on Canvas and all quizzes close at 11:59 pm. I will drop the lowest quiz score.

Exams (50%): There will be four exams that will test student understanding of course content. There will be an exam at the completion of every 5 modules and one comprehensive final exam. Exams will be open for one week. You may use your course materials on the exam, but not the internet. The exams have a time-limit and therefore you should not rely on course materials to get you through – you need to be actively studying and referring to the material. You should plan so you can complete the exam during this time. For exam open and close dates see the Course Schedule or the Canvas Calendar.

***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, discussion posts will NOT be accepted late. No late assignments of any kind accepted after three days. *

Evaluation and Grading Evaluation Scale The following table will be used for assigning grades:

94-100% =	A	(Demonstrates a mastery! of the learning objectives)
90-93.9% =	A-	
87-89.9% =	B+	
84-86.9% =	B	(Demonstrates a functional level of the learning objectives)
80-83.9% =	B-	
77-79.9% =	C+	
74-76.9% =	C	(Demonstrates basic achievement of learning objectives)
70-73.9% =	C-	
67-69.9% =	D+	
64-66.9% =	D	(met some learning objectives, has significant deficits)
60-63.9% =	D-	
0-60% =	E	(failure to demonstrate an understanding of learning objectives)

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

The chapter readings are posted within the Canvas modules

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Module Topics and Assessments:

- Syllabus Quiz and Video Introduction- Week 1
- Introduction to Earth- Week 2
- Portraying Earth- Week 2
- Introduction to the Atmosphere- Week 3
- Insolation and Temperature- Week 3
- Atmospheric Pressure and Wind- Week 4
- Atmospheric Moisture- Week 5
- Atmospheric Disturbances- Week 5
- Climate and Climate Change- Week 6
- The Hydrosphere- Week 7
- Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere- Week 8
- Terrestrial Flora and Fauna- Week 10
- Soils- Week 10
- Introduction to Landform Study- Week 11
- Internal Processes- Week 11
- Preliminaries to Erosion: Weathering & Mass Wasting- Week 12
- Fluvial Processes- Week 13
- Karst & Hydrothermal Processes- Week 13
- The Topography of Arid Lands- Week 14
- Glacial Modification of Terrain- Week 14
- Coastal Process and Terrain- Week 15

Assessments for Each Topic:

- Quiz and Discussion Post for each module

Exams:

- Exam One (Modules 1-5): Week 4
- Exam Two (Modules 6-10): Week 8
- Exam Three (Modules 11-15): Week 12
- Final Exam (Modules 1-20): Week 16

Break Period:

- Spring Break: Week 9

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.