



## COURSE SYLLABUS

Self-Paced Degree Program

### **GEOG 100 WB - Introduction to Physical Geography**

Web-Based: Online classroom located at [uiulearn.uiu.edu](https://uiulearn.uiu.edu)

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#### Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** Laura Barnwell

**UIU faculty Email:** [barnwelll80@uiu.edu](mailto:barnwelll80@uiu.edu)

**Telephone Number:** 912-409-0684

**Office Location:** Online

**Availability:** I read messages daily and will respond within 24 hours at least to acknowledge receipt of your message even if I do not have an immediate answer or resolution to the inquiry. If you need to contact Upper Iowa University, please call the toll-free number (800) 553-4150 or email [selfpaced@uiu.edu](mailto:selfpaced@uiu.edu).

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#### Course Description

**Semester Credits:** 3 semester credits

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course provides a framework for understanding the aerial and spatial interrelationships and processes that operate in the physical environment in order to develop a better comprehension of the physical world around us. The content of the course will examine Earth-sun relationships, latitude, longitude, maps, plus the physical factors associated with meteorology, climate, and earth surface processes.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credit Hours:** 3 Semester Hours

As a requirement of HLC Accreditation, all UIU courses, regardless of meeting schedule or instructional mode, follow the Federal Credit Hour Definition. As such, each credit hour earned at UIU is equivalent to a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement.

For more information on how specific instructional modes meet this requirement, please see *UIU's Policy Guidelines for Instructional Time Expectations*: [UIU Policies](#).

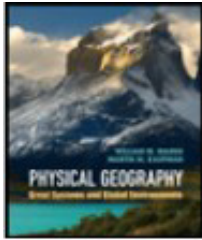
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#### Course Materials

It is the student's responsibility to make sure she/he has access to all required course materials by the start of the session.

**Required Textbook**

Marsh, W. & Kaufman, M. (2013). *Physical Geography: Great Systems and Global Environments*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521-76428-5



### **Physical Geography**

Author: Marsh, William M. Edition: 2013

ISBN 13: 978-0-521-76428-5

ISBN 10: 0-521-76428-9

MBS Direct SKU #: 1220714

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

**Recommended Resources:** American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.), Washington, D.C.: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

### **Ordering Textbooks**

Purchase your textbook through the online university bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), or by phone at (800) 325-3252.

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### **Course Objectives**

1. Students will learn about the physical features of the Earth, the names and locations of significant features, the interaction of earth systems, and the distribution of biomes and organisms
2. Students will learn and be able to use scientific methodology to test hypotheses
3. Students will understand the dependence of humans (and all Earth life forms) on earth systems and earth resources
4. Students will understand the impact of human activities on the environment
5. Students will understand the phenomenon of population growth, and the factors that influence it.

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### **General Education Task**

Upper Iowa's General Education courses reinforce those skills and competencies required for students' success beyond the classroom in the rapidly changing environment of the 21st Century. These skills and competencies include critical reading and thinking, effective listening, problem solving, and reasoning.

### **Task Statement**

#### **I. Natural Sciences**

Task: Apply scientific method, including observation, hypothesis and experiment, to support conclusions involving either physical or biological problems.

Students in GEOG100 will learn and apply scientific methods and reasoning in several assignments and activities throughout the course. Their performance on the task will be assessed through an exercise involving changing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Sources and sinks of the gases will be described, along with the factors that influence emission or sequestration of the gases. Students will examine these and determine whether it is necessary to limit greenhouse gas emissions and if so, how best to proceed.

## **VI. Behavioral Sciences**

Task: Use a theory or set of concepts to analyze a feature or consequence of a social institution, an interpersonal process, or an intrapersonal state. A student will complete this task either in each of two separate disciplines or in sequence within a single discipline.

Students in GEOG100 will examine the pattern of human population over the past 10,000 years and learn about the factors that have influenced it. They will learn about the work of Thomas Robert Malthus in the area of population growth and be able to describe its relevance to human populations and development. They will also study the demographic transition model and propose a step 5. They will then be asked to describe how their suggested means may be globally applicable, given the limited resource base of Earth and the increasing impacts of human activities.

All students will be assessed on both tasks.

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## **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

Refer to myUIU for your official enrollment term and enrollment period.

You have six months from the date of your enrollment to complete this course. You should begin work on the course immediately upon enrollment and start submitting lessons for grading and evaluation in a timely manner.

**Important note: If no course work has been submitted within the first 60 days, an administrative withdrawal will be processed.**

## **Course Requirements**

This course is comprised of eight Units. The course will consist of six (6) Unit Assignments, a General Education Task Assignment, sixteen (16) short papers, six (6) quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

## **Student Introduction**

Student Introduction is the first assignment in Unit 1. It is worth 10 points.

Since we may never have the opportunity to meet face to face, I would like to know a little bit about you. Please introduce yourselves to me.

## **Assignments**

There are six (6) Unit Assignments, a General Education Task Assignment, sixteen (16) short papers.

### ***Unit Assignments***

There is an assignment in Units 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7, worth 40 points. The assignment will cover materials from the chapters covered in that Unit.

### ***Short Papers***

There will be sixteen (16) short papers worth, 25 points each. There are 2 in each Unit (Units 1-8). They will draw from materials you have learned in each Unit.

### ***General Education Task Assignment***

- In the Natural Sciences track, you will learn and apply scientific methods and reasoning in several assignments and activities throughout the course. Your performance on the task will be assessed through an exercise involving changing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Sources and sinks of the gases will be described, along with the factors that influence emission or sequestration of the gases. You will examine these and determine whether it is necessary to limit greenhouse gas emissions and if so, how best to proceed.
- In the Behavioral Sciences track, you will examine the pattern of human population over the past 10,000 years and learn about the factors that influenced it. You will learn about the work of Thomas Robert Malthus in the area of population growth and be able to describe its relevance to human populations and development. You will study the demographic transition and other population related phenomena. Your performance on the task will be assessed through an exercise in which you will summarize the stages of the demographic transition model and defining the science of futuring and identifying a potential fifth stage. You will also be able to explain the limitations of such models.

Detailed instructions are provided in the course under Unit 3. It is worth 40 points.

## **Quizzes**

There will be six (6) quizzes in Units 1,2,3,5 6, 7 that will be worth 25 points each. The quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Refer to the Course Schedule below for Chapters covered in each Quiz.

## Examinations

### *Midterm*

There will be a midterm exam at the end of Unit 4, covering Chapters 1-12. It is worth 100 points. The exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. You will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete this exam.

### *Final Exam*

There will also be a final at the end of the course. It will also be worth 100 points. The final exam is not comprehensive and it will cover Chapters 13-23. The exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. You will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete this exam.

## Grading Criteria

The course letter grade will be based on the following grading criteria:

Activity	Points
Student Introduction	10
Quizzes (6 x 25 points each)	150
Unit Assignments (6 x 40 points each)	240
Short Papers (16 x 25 points each)	400
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Grading Scale

This course will use the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percent
<b>A</b>	93-100%
<b>A-(minus)</b>	90-92%
<b>B+</b>	87-89%
<b>B</b>	83-86%

<b>B-(minus)</b>	80-82%
<b>C+</b>	77-79%
<b>C</b>	73-76%
<b>C-(minus)</b>	70-72%
<b>D+</b>	67-69%
<b>D</b>	63-66%
<b>D-(minus)</b>	60-62%
<b>F</b>	0-59%

### Grades and Feedback

I will post grades in the Gradebook and provide feedback in the relevant areas in uiuLearn.

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### Course Schedule

<b>Units</b>	<b>Topics of Study</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
<b>UNIT 1</b>	Chapter 1 (entire) Chapter 2 (p.21-29) Chapter 3 (p.34-47, 50-52)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment. Introduce yourself Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 1 Assignment 1 Introduction Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 2</b>	Chapter 4 (p.57-75) Chapter 5 (entire) Chapter 6 (p.113-138)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 2 Assignment 2 Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 3</b>	Chapter 7 (p.159-163) Chapter 8 (entire) Chapter 9 (201-218, 220-226)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment. Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 3 Assignment 3 Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 4</b>	Chapter 10 (p.246-259, 261-263) Chapter 11 (entire)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete short papers 1 & 2	Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2

	Chapter 12 (entire)	Complete the midterm exam.	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
<b>UNIT 5</b>	Chapter 13 (p.320-325, 329-332) Chapter 14 (entire) Chapter 15 (p.367-383)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment. Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 4 Assignment 4 Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 6</b>	Chapter 16 (entire) Chapter 17 (entire) Chapter 18 (p.440-454, 460-462)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 5 Assignment 5 Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 7</b>	Chapter 19 (entire) Chapter 20 (entire) Chapter 21 (p.529-543, 553-554)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete quiz and assignment. Complete Short Papers 1 & 2	Quiz 6 Assignment 6 Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2
<b>UNIT 8</b>	Chapter 23 (entire) Chapter 24 (614-627)	Read the assigned chapters. Complete Short Papers 1 & 2 Complete the final exam	Short Paper 1 Short Paper 2 <b>Final Exam</b>

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## Course Expectations

### Email

Upper Iowa University employees and students are issued an UIU email account. University email communications will only be sent to UIU email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UIU email accounts.

### Technology Requirements

Access to a reliable up-to-date computer, updated virus protection, and an Internet connection to access course materials and complete course activities.

Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have a reliable up-to-date computer, updated virus protection, and Internet connection to access the course materials and complete course activities. You need to make alternate arrangements in case of unexpected computer and Internet problems. Upper Iowa University Page 3 of 8 Backup: Remember to regularly back up course files to avoid data loss in the event of hardware failure or user error.

### Professional Writing and Speaking Guidelines

Communications in class and online should follow the Student Conduct and Discipline, Respect for the University Environment, and Code of Student Responsibility in the [Student](#)

[Handbook](#) (pg. 20 and 21). Respect the opinions of others using appropriate language and communications.

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## University Policies

University Policies are listed in detail within the course content on uiuLearn. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the applicable policies.

## Withdrawal (W)

If a student decides to withdraw from a course before the end of an enrollment period, the student's charges, financial aid, tuition assistance, and/or veteran benefits could be affected. All students should consult with the Business Office and Financial Aid Office to understand the financial impact of withdrawing prior to initiating the withdrawal process.

Tuition adjustments are independent from academic and financial aid deadlines. Upon receiving a request for withdrawal, using the number of lessons submitted as compared to the total due, a refund of tuition is made according to the following guideline.

On or before the first day of the enrollment period\* 100%

After the first lesson through 10% of the enrollment period 90%

After the first 10% through the first 25% of the enrollment period 50%

After the first 25% of the enrollment period 0%

\*Enrollment is measured by the number of assignments to be submitted during a six-month period of time, as determined by the University, during which semester credits are earned toward graduation. The refund/repayments shall be calculated using the percentages noted above as determined using the number of assignments completed and the number of assignments yet to be submitted.

For example, if a student submitted 2 of 17 assignments, they completed 11.76% of the class assignments. The student would be refunded 50% of the tuition cost.

For students from Wisconsin, Maryland, Georgia, Oregon, or Arizona, state laws apply. For students enrolled through the cpacredits.com program, no refund is allowed after the first two weeks.

Students who withdraw from a course prior to submitting the first assignment, or who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99.

Course withdrawal may impact financial aid eligibility. A financial aid counselor is available to discuss this decision.

Upper Iowa University is required to use a pro rata schedule to determine the amount of Title IV aid the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. If financial aid funds have been released to the student because of a credit balance on the student's account at Upper Iowa University, the student may be required to repay some or all of the amount released to the student. This policy is subject to federal regulations. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

Withdrawing from a course in progress may result in significant student account charges. Consult with the Business Office before withdrawing. For more information on financial aid



implications, go to [uiu.edu/financialaid](http://uiu.edu/financialaid).

## Administrative Withdrawal (AW)

A grade of AW (administrative withdrawal) is recorded for any course from which a student is administratively withdrawn. **At least one complete assignment/unit must be received and verified by the instructor within the first 60 days of the enrollment period or the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Students who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99. Students through the [cpacredits.com](http://cpacredits.com) partnership follow the withdrawal policy listed above. Non-Attendance (NA): Never attended grades are not applicable to the Self-Paced Degree Program.

## Extension

Students will be allowed to request an extension and receive an 'X' (-extension grade) at the end of their original six-month enrollment period if:

- A minimum of one assignment has been received for grading per guidelines **AND**
- All course units and exams are not completed and submitted **OR**
- A course withdrawal has not been initiated.

Note: The fee for a self-paced extension is \$99 per course. The request for an extension must be submitted no earlier than one month before the end of the course and no later than a week before the end of the course.

### Extension grade details

- When the extension is granted and an "X" grade is issued, the student will receive a four-month enrollment period to complete the course.
- Students do not have the option to withdraw from a course after the initial six-month enrollment period.
- An 'X' grade posted to the student's official record will be replaced with a final letter grade; however, the extension will remain on the official transcript as a notation.
- If the course is not completed by the end of the extension period, the instructor will assign a final grade (A-F) based on work completed in relation to the total course requirements.
- If credit is not earned by the end of the extension period, students can reenroll and repeat the entire course for credit.

Note: Students are not reported as enrolled during the extension period and are not eligible for student loan deferment. No more than one extension will be granted.

## **Academic Accommodations**

It is the policy of Upper Iowa University to ensure equal access to educational and co-curricular activities to students with disabilities as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Director of Student Accessibility Services as early in the session as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students are required to disclose their disability to the Director by completing an application for services that can be found on the Student Accessibility Webpage. The Application Packet for New Students can be found here: [Student Accessibility Services](#). In addition to the application packet, the student is required to submit supporting documentation. Submit these to the Student Accessibility Services Office either in person or by email/Fax. A brief interview, in-person, by phone or virtually, with the Director will confirm or deny the accommodations requested. The Student Accessibility Services Office will email accommodation letters to the appropriate professor, the student, and the student's advisor. Additionally, students should work cooperatively with their instructors throughout the session to make sure that their accommodations are appropriate and effective.

Contact the Director at (563) 425-5949, [accessibility@uiu.edu](mailto:accessibility@uiu.edu) or stop by the office on the 2nd floor of the Student Center, Office of Student Life, Room 229.

### **Emergency Directives:** (Fire, Natural Disaster, Threat on campus, etc.)

In accordance with Upper Iowa University's emergency management plan, any student that requires assistance in the event of an emergency (Fire, natural disaster, threat on campus) is responsible for notifying their instructor of the need for assistance. (Evacuation, and/or indoor safety protocols) This information will be held confidential and only needed in the unlikely event that there is an emergency.

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## **Copyright Statement**

In recognition of the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), Upper Iowa University reminds both faculty members and learners that a willful infringement of the law may result in disciplinary action. The University library has available materials discussing the "fair use" concept, along with criteria and guidelines for reproduction and use of copyrighted materials.

This syllabus is subject to change.

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