

GEOG 105: The Dynamic Earth

Fall 2021 Syllabus

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: **Lisa Siewert**

Office: **282A Wausau Campus**

Office Hours: **Tuesdays 2-3pm or by appointment in-person or virtually**

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/6367047890?pwd=Z2xjZXRtWWIxclR6T0x4aFo2b1Zndz09>

Meeting ID: **636 704 7890**

Passcode: **geology**

E-mail: lsiewert@uwsp.edu This is my preferred method of communication.

Course Information

Course Description: A contemporary approach to the study of Earth's geologic, atmospheric, hydrologic, and biological systems and its place in the solar system. Natural resource extraction, use, and environmental implications. Wisconsin's natural systems are emphasized.

Credits: 3 credits

Prerequisite: none

Class Meeting times:

- **Lecture:** Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-1:50pm in room 180
- **Lab:** This is a hybrid class, there is not an in-person lab. The Canvas site has the weekly schedule and all lab related materials.

Expected Instructor Response Times

- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours.
 - ***If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.
- I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Skinner & Murck. The Blue Planet: An Introduction to Earth System Science

Lab Manual: The labs will be available on Canvas.

Course Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain basic underlying processes that create patterns of weather and climate.
2. Explain basic physical processes that create and modify various landforms.
3. Explain basic hydrological cycle and its impacts on weather and climate, plant and animal distributions, rivers, and landforms affecting Wisconsin.
4. Explain basic location and characteristics of biomes, and interpret the distribution, origin, form, population, habitat, and human significance of natural organisms affecting Wisconsin.

General Education Program Learning Outcomes

1. students will be able to explain major concepts, methods, or theories in the natural sciences to investigate the physical world.
2. students will be able to interpret information, solve problems, and make decisions by applying natural science concepts, methods, and quantitative techniques.
3. students will be able to describe the relevance of aspects of the natural sciences to their lives and society.

You will meet the outcomes listed above by reviewing the textbook, lecture materials, lab exercises, and exams. This is a hybrid class, so the lecture portion of the class is on-line. There are two hours of laboratory that meet face-to-face each week. You are responsible for all material covered in class and lab. Exams and quizzes will be given during lab time as listed in the course calendar.

- **Exams:** Exam questions are based on lecture, the textbook, and other required readings. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Exams will be given in person during our scheduled class time.
- **Lab Exercises:** Lab exercises are due on Sundays unless otherwise stated.

Topic Outline

Important Note: Refer to the Canvas course home page for pertinent information. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding Module. As tasks come due, they will appear in your "to do" list. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

Week	Date	Lecture	Lab (due Sundays—see Canvas)
1	R Sept 2	Introduction	Student Questionnaire
2	T Sept 7	Earth-sun relations, portraying Earth	Earth's Geographic Grid
	R Sept 9	Earth's radiation and energy balance	
3	T Sept 14	Energy & Earth's Energy Balance	Earth-Sun Relationships Temperature Patterns
	R Sept 16	Atmosphere – Global Temperature Patterns	
4	T Sept 21	Air Pressure	Insolation
	R Sept 23	Air Pressure, Wind, Global Circulation	
5	T Sept 28	Water in the Atmosphere	Temperature Variability Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
	R Sept 30	Precipitation Processes and Patterns	
6	T Oct 5	Weather, fronts, storms	Air Masses & Fronts
	R Oct 7	Weather, fronts, storms	
7	T Oct 12	EXAM 1 (1:00-1:50pm Rm 180)	Atmospheric Moisture
	R Oct 14	Hurricanes	
8	T Oct 19	Climate Controls	Weather Variability & Climate Change
	R Oct 21	Soil Characteristics & Formation	
9	T Oct 26	Biosphere 1	Soils
	R Oct 28	Biosphere 2	

10	T Nov 2	Earth Structure & Composition	Earth Layers Earthquakes
	R Nov 4	Earth Structure & Composition	
11	T Nov 9	Plate Tectonics	Plate Tectonics
	R Nov 11	Igneous landforms	
12	T Nov 16	Igneous landforms	Volcanic Hazards
	R Nov 18	EXAM 2 (1:00-1:50pm Rm 180)	
13	T Nov 23	Fluvial processes	<i>no lab</i>
	Th Nov 25	No Class – Happy Thanksgiving	
14	Tu Nov 30	Fluvial landforms 1	Streams
	Th Dec 2	Fluvial landforms 2	
15	Tu Dec 7	Glacial landforms	Glaciers
	Th Dec 9	Glacial landforms	
16	Tu Dec 14	Final Exam (8:00-10:00 AM Rm 180)	

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to Canvas
- read documents online
- view online videos

Course Structure

This course will be delivered partially in-person and online through the course management system, Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

Grading Policies

Graded Course Activities

Click the **Assignments** link in Canvas to access assignment listing, categories, and weights as applicable. Click the **Syllabus** link to see a chronological listing of assignments. Click the **Grades** link to see current grades.

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all online and in-person activities as listed on the course calendar.

Complete Labs

All labs for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 5% loss in overall points for each day late.

Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 3 days following the due date of an assignment. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Canvas home page under the link to this course.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

A	94-100%	B	84-87%	C	74-77%	D	64-67%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	F	< 64%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		

Tutoring

The TLC, located in the library, is here to help you excel! The TLC offers the following:

- one-to-one assistance from a writing consultant on writing assignments of all kinds.
- one-to-one or group tutoring in subjects such as engineering, chemistry, math, or world languages.
- workshops on topics such as time management, stress management, and effective study strategies.
- individualized academic coaching to help you develop academic skills and strategies tailored to your own aspirations.
- coffee and tea!

All TLC services are free to currently enrolled UWSP@Wausau students.

Drop-in and scheduled appointments are available. Drop-in appointments may last anywhere from 5 minutes to 60 minutes, while scheduled appointments generally last between 45 and 60 minutes.

Virtual and in-person options for scheduled appointments are available.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Academic Success Coordinator, Lori Randall, at lori.randall@uwsp.edu or **715-261-6148**. To find a list of current drop-in hours, check the TLC website: <https://www.uwsp.edu/wausau/tlc/>

Course Policies

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete

will only be assigned if 50% of the course assignments have been completed by the end of the semester. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within a semester after the incomplete was assigned.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu.

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
 - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
 - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
 - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
 - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
 - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
 - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without

appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

Face covering requirement:

Under the [chancellor's order](#), and in an August 9, 2021 email sent by Chancellor Gibson that summarizes the order, "[A]ll students, employees and visitors to any UW-Stevens Point campus or facility will be required to wear face coverings when inside campus buildings and enclosed spaces with others outside of your household (e.g., in a UWSP vehicle). This policy is in effect until further notice."