

Geography 105 Online Syllabus – Spring 2023

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: Eric Larsen
Office: Science B307
Office Hours: Mon 1-2 Wed 10-11, or by appt.
Office Telephone: 715-346-4098
E-mail: elarsen@uwsp.edu

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.

Prerequisite: None

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through UWSP's Canvas course management system.

Expected Instructor Response Times

- During standard working hours (8AM-5PM) I should be able to respond to emails within that day. After ~4 PM don't expect an answer until the following morning. I will certainly attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours at most. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
- I will do my best to grade all written work within 48 hours.

Textbook & Course Materials

- **Required Texts:**
 1. Skinner & Murck. The Blue Planet (3rd edition): An Introduction to Earth System Science. **Available as a rental text.**
 2. **The Dynamic Earth:** Laboratory Manual for Geography 105. Lemke, Ritter, Heywood. **Available for purchase at UWSP bookstore.**

Course Technology Requirements

- A computer/internet connection to connect to UWSP's Canvas software.

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas you can check with the instructor or

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts in physical geography & earth science. Topics are organized around the following “spheres:”

- 1.) Atmosphere
- 2.) Biosphere
- 3.) Hydrosphere/cryosphere
- 4.) Lithosphere

The emphasis of the course is on the **processes** driving physical systems on the earth, the interactions between physical systems/spheres, and human influences on the physical environment. These processes result in specific geographic **patterns** that affect all aspects of the earth's physical environment. The **overall objective** of the course is to understand how the four spheres interact and combine to form the (ever-changing) world physical system.

Grading Policies-Evaluation

Student Evaluation: Your grade will be based on examinations and lab exercises.

Examinations: There will be two midterms and one final examination in this course. The final exam is not comprehensive. If you miss the exam without prior coordination with the instructor, you will be assigned zero points.

Lab Exercises:

All the labs are in the Lab Manual “The Dynamic Earth: Laboratory Manual for Geography 105.” Review lab deliverables in the lab instructions for detailed information about what to turn in.

Lab Expectations:

- Labs are worth 10 points each. 4-5 questions will be graded from each lab and keys will be posted after the lab due date. Lab exercises vary in length. In general, lab exercises take 1-3 hours to complete.
- 4-5 questions will be graded from each lab, and lab keys posted after the lab due date.

- You are highly encouraged to seek instructor support during office hours. Alternative arrangements can be made by appointment. Lab instructor assistance is not available during weekends and evenings; you must plan accordingly to receive instructor assistance!

Lab Exercise Due Dates: Lab due dates are specified on the “Geography 105 – Schedule” document on Canvas. Instructor assistance is not available during weekends and evenings; it is recommended you give yourself time to consult with me during the day if you have difficulties with the labs.

Penalty for late Lab Exercises: It is very important to adhere to due dates for an online class. Late lab exercises are subject to a **25%** deduction of the total possible points. After 1 week you lose 35%, and after 3 weeks I will not accept them. Late lab exercises must be either emailed to the instructor at elarsen@uwsp.edu, slipped under my office door, or placed in my mailbox. Late assignments will *only* be accepted up to three weeks past the scheduled due date.

Grades: The course grading scheme is as follows:

Item	Total Points Available	Percent of Grade
Exam 1	100 (percent score on exam)	25%
Exam 2	100 (percent score on exam)	25%
Exam 3	100 (percent score on exam)	25%
Lab Exercises	100 (percent score, all labs combined)	25%
Total	400 points	100%

Example for calculating grades: Let’s say you earned the following scores for your work:

Exam 1	87% of total points	=87/100 points
Exam 2	94% of total points	=94/100 points
Exam 3	82% of total points	=82/100 points
Lab Exercises	90% of total points	=90/100 points
Total		353/400 = 88.25%

You accumulated 88.25% of available points so your grade would be an B+ (see below)

Grades:

A	>= 93%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	60-66%
B-	80-82%	F	<60%
C+	77-79%		

Calculating your grade at any time in the semester:

Let's say, for example you have handed in 6 labs (all 10 point labs) and have taken exam 1.

Lab grades

Lab 1 = 8/10

Lab 2 = 7/10

Lab 3 = 9/10

Lab 4 = 10/10

Lab 5 = 10/10

Lab 6 = 7/10

Your Lab average so far would be $51/60 = 85\%$ or 85/100 points

Exam 1 score was 92%

So your current grade in the class would be 85% (lab) + 92% (exam 1) = $177/200 = 88.5\%$

Course Policies

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

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 in cases of emergency. Incompletes will not be issued for simply failing to complete course requirements in a timely fashion. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within the following academic semester.

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Incompletes.aspx>

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

<mailto: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 week of class.