

Geography 106: Physical Geography Laboratory Syllabus

Fall 2009 v. 1.0 (25 August)

Location	Brooks Hall 251		
Instructors (TA)	Joshua Wixom (Coordinator)	Erin Murphy	Phil Gardone
Office	G31 Brooks Hall	144 Brooks Hall	242 Brooks Hall
Office Hours	T 10:00-11:00am W 10:00-11:00am W 3:30-4:30pm	T 12:00-2:00pm R 1:00-2:00pm	T 2:00-3:00pm W 11:00-12:00pm F 11:00-12:00pm
E-mail	jwixom@mix.wvu.edu	emurphy7@mix.wvu.edu	pgardone@mix.wvu.edu
	Sections: 011 - W 11:30-1:20pm 010 - W 1:30-3:20pm	Sections: 009 - M 11:30-1:20pm 001 - M 1:30-3:20pm 007 - M 3:30-5:20pm 004 - R 4:00-5:50pm	Sections: 002 - T 11:30-1:20pm 006 - T 4:00-5:50pm 008 - W 3:30-5:20pm 005 - R 11:30-1:20pm

Lab Book:

Kite, J.S. and A.E. Hessel, 2009, Physical Geography Lab Manual Views from the Mountain State, 2nd ed., Dubuque, Iowa, Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company, 103 p.

Text Book:

Strahler, A. and A. Strahler, 2006, Introducing Physical Geography, 4th ed., Hoboken, New Jersey, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 728 p.

Atlas:

de Blij, H.J. and R.M. Downs, Editors, 2007, College Atlas of the World, National Geographic: Wiley and Sons, 383 p.

*****Complete any Preliminary Exercises in the lab manual before class*****

*****Bring the lab manual, textbook and atlas to each lab*****

*****A simple calculator is suggested for each class, quizzes, and exams*****

Geography 106: Physical Geography Laboratory Syllabus

Class Description: Geography 106 is the lab companion to Geography 107: Physical Geography lecture. Both classes deal with the world we live in, and how it works. The lab will study the world from a broad perspective, examining each of the four global environmental spheres (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere), with a special emphasis on how these environmental spheres are interrelated. Students will explore atmospheric circulation and how ocean patterns determine climate patterns, and in turn, how climate patterns determine vegetation, and then how climate and vegetation influence soils. Our world is an inter-connected web!

The class goals are to develop sophisticated sets of skills, including map reading and interpretation, graphical data manipulation and analysis, and biogeography data collection in the field. The class will also help you develop a deeper appreciation of aspects our physical environment that play important roles in everyone's life, including weather, climate, and "natural" vegetation. The ultimate goal of Geography 106 is to enable you to become a better citizen of a delicately balanced planet.

Geography 106 will reinforce concepts covered in the lectures and exercises in the lecture course (107). Concurrent registration in both classes is strongly recommended, but not required. Geography 106 may be taken after Geography 107 is completed, but may not be taken by students who have never enrolled in Geography 107 or an equivalent class at another university. The format for Geography 106 will be standardized for all sections. Lecturing will be held to a minimum, so **students will be expected to complete assigned preliminary readings before coming to lab each week**. Students should consider these readings to be a serious responsibility that must be met every week. The lab schedule will not permit in-class time for students who fail to do the assigned readings beforehand. Lab activities will focus on problem solving, usually using "real world" environmental data from selected case studies in the earth sciences, many of them from within the Appalachian region. Web-based resources and conventional maps will be used extensively and at least one local field trip is planned.

General Education Curriculum: Completion of Geography 106 and 107 fulfills the "Lab" requirement for **WVU General Education Curriculum (GEC) Objective 2: Basic Mathematical Skills and Scientific Inquiry (Group B)**. Required quantitative skills do not exceed basic algebra and geometry, but the lab will require critical spatial reasoning and analysis of data table, graphs, and many different types of maps. Alternately, these two classes may be used to fulfill the **"Additional Course from Groups A, B, or C" Requirement in Objective 2** or **GEC Objective 4: Issues of Contemporary Society**. Many topics in the course are related to human interaction with the environment and problems associated with global change and resource depletion. Students entering WVU before August 2005 may take Geography 106 and 107 to meet requirements for 4 hr. of lab science credits in WVU LSP Cluster C.

Geography 106: Physical Geography Laboratory Syllabus

Grades will be determined from short-answer dominated tests (50%), announced and unannounced quizzes (20%), and attendance, participation, and graded in-class exercises (30% total). Students will have to work to earn good grades in the class. Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, lab exercises will be due at the beginning of the lab immediately following the in-class exercise. Late work is unacceptable. A standard 10 point scale will be used, although tests may be "curved", if they are especially difficult. The last lab test will be given during the last scheduled class, which typically falls during "dead week." Labs do **NOT** meet during exam week.

Attendance *is required*. If you miss a class, generally, you will have to complete the exercise on your own time. The individual attention and assistance available in the lab section may not be reproducible outside of your scheduled section, but you are encouraged to ask for assistance during TA office hours, provided you already have made a good faith effort to complete the exercise on your own.

Missing a test or quiz is strongly discouraged. If you must miss a test or quiz for a valid reason, contact the instructor (TA) as soon as possible, preferably *before* the missed class. Make-up tests or quizzes may be in essay format. It is your responsibility to promptly explain the reason for your absence, and to arrange and complete each make-up exam or quiz. **NOTE: EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND LABS MUST BE MADE-UP WITHIN 5 DAYS OF ABSENCE.** Successive absences, especially without contacting the instructor, may lead to forfeiture of any option to take a make-up.

Academic Dishonesty and Ethics: EVERYONE in this class is required to read and adhere to this pledge when taking tests:

I adhere to all of the guidelines regarding academic dishonesty (cheating) in the WVU University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. I have read and understand these guidelines. I have not given or received help from anyone (besides lab instructors or proctors) during this test. I have not seen any form of this year's test. I have not used a cheat sheet, crib note, textbook, study guide, cell phone, radio, dictionary, or other aid while taking this test, unless explicitly permitted in writing by the instructor. I have not copied answers from another student's test or answer sheet, nor will I knowingly allow another student to copy from my test or answer sheet.

I do not know of any other student who has given or received help during this test. I will report as soon as possible any suspicious, dishonest, or unethical conduct related to this test to a proctor, a teaching assistant, Dr. Kite, or the head of the Department of Geology and Geography. I understand that this class has "zero-tolerance" for academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will be fully pursued by the staff and members the department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and WVU. Penalties may include assignment of a grade of "unforgivable F", or worse. Theft of tests or unauthorized intrusion into computer accounts or files may be pursued through criminal codes. **Your name on a test shows that you agree to follow these rules.**

Geography 106: Physical Geography Laboratory Syllabus

The policy for quizzes requires that anyone turning in a quiz must turn in the results their own work. Quizzes require class attendance, and turning in a quiz bearing the name of someone who is not in the class is dishonest conduct. Some quizzes allow collaboration with other students or friends; in these cases, each student is held to a standard in which each individual must significantly and meaningfully participate in group efforts that yield answers to the quiz questions.

Disability Statement: If you are a person with a disability and anticipate any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise your lab instructor early in the semester and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Social Justice Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. We support that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, military or veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Suggestions as to how to further a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.