

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY 12

Course Outline

Course Introduction

Physical Geography 12 focuses on developing a skill set to recognize geographical phenomenon while understanding how these events relate to humans and our relationship with the Earth. This includes the interrelationship of people, places, and resources: human and physical systems; resource management and resource sustainability. The course is organized around themes location, place, human and physical interactions, movement, and regions and how the systems of Earth such as weather, climate, and tectonic processes effect the world we live in.

In this course, it is intended that students walk away with an understanding, and appreciation, of the interconnectedness of the physical systems that define our planet. Although each system is unique, it is interdependent and defines landscapes and ecosystems. We, as humans, have had to learn how to adapt to ensure our survival.

Big Ideas

Incorporating data from a variety of sources allows us to better understand our globally connected world.	Natural processes have an impact on the landscape and human settlement.	Interactions between human activities and the atmosphere affect local and global weather and climate.
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Curricular Competencies

Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- **Use geographic inquiry processes and geographic literacy skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data and ideas from a variety of sources and spatial/temporal scales; and communicate findings and decisions (evidence and interpretation)**
- **Assess the significance of places by identifying the physical and/or human features that characterize them (sense of place)**
- **Assess the interpretations of geographic evidence after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence and interpretation)**
- **Draw conclusions about the variation and distribution of geographic phenomena over time and space (patterns and trends)**
- **Evaluate how particular geographic actions or events affect human practices or outcomes (geographical value judgments)**
- **Evaluate features or aspects of geographic phenomena or locations to explain what makes them worthy of attention or recognition (geographical importance)**
- **Identify and assess how human and environmental factors and events influence each other (interactions and associations)**
- **Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial actions in the past and/or present, and determine whether we have a responsibility to respond (geographical value judgments)**

These themes will be explored in the following units:

Unit 1 – Geography Themes and Skills

Unit 2- The Restless Earth

Unit 3 – The Changing Earth

Unit 4 – Weather and Climate

Unit 5 - Biomes

Tests and Quizzes

Students are not required to write tests or quizzes at school – these tests/quizzes are “open book” and can be taken at any time from any place. Please note however, that each test/quiz is **TIMED** – there are very few exceptions I will make to extending timelines as students have access to a vast amount of resources to ensure their success writing tests/quizzes. In addition, students will only be provided with **ONE ATTEMPT** for each test/quiz. Despite these tests/quizzes being “open,” it is strongly recommended that students review and prepare so that they are familiar with the content.

Assignments

Although there are no “due dates” for assignments, it is important to remember that you have signed up to enrol in an online course – you have signed up to take responsibility for your own learning! You are, ultimately, responsible for ensuring that assignments are submitted on a consistent basis. As a general rule of thumb, students have ten months to complete the course.

Assessment

This is a senior level course and, as such, will build upon skills and process learned in previous grades. It is, therefore, assumed that students have developed some proficiencies with respect to writing, and have experience presenting information in a formal capacity.

Re-Submitting Assignments

Typically, re-submitting assignments is not permitted in this course. This is due to the fact that students who choose to enrol in an online course have access to extensive resources that student’s who enrol in traditional classroom settings do not have. In addition, online learning is self-paced – this provides students with as much time as they need to produce high-quality submissions.

If you are concerned about your performance on an assignment, rest-assured that you and I can work together to find an agreeable solution. Keeping in line with best-practices, students will be formatively assessed throughout the course – as a result, your final grade will be a reflection of progress and learning throughout the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarising, a “zero” will be issued for that assignment with not opportunity to re-submit.

Course Completion

If you require a grade by a certain date (for applications, entrance, scholarships, etc...) **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM ME** and ensure that all work is completed with adequate time left to mark and issue a final grade. Typically, I require **AT LEAST** one week to finalise a grade.

I will never issue a final grade without confirming with student’s first. There should be no surprises when it comes to reporting so rest assured, we will communicate and reach agreement on final grades.