Crandall University

Geography 1013 (GG 1013)

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY 1 (Earth Science)

Fall 2024
Distance Education
Asynchronous

Professor: Dr. Bruce Martin

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Office Hours: By appointment, please email

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to geomorphology, the scientific study of landscape. In the course, students will be introduced to earth materials, the nature and formation of major landform features on the earth's surface, and the processes that continue to shape the physical landscape.

This course will provide students with a foundation for further courses in physical geography. The course will also be very beneficial for students interested in fields that deal with human/environment interaction (education, social sciences, history, anthropology or architecture) and other disciplines that consider the natural environment (such as biology, agriculture, ecology, environmental studies, or engineering). This will also be a very helpful course for students interested in overseas experiences or missions.

Geography 1013 is complementary to Geography 1023. Neither course has any prerequisites. Neither course is necessary as a prerequisite for the other one.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should have:

1) A basic understanding of the physical processes and dynamics that have shaped, and continue to influence, the landscape;
2) An awareness of basic techniques and skills used in physical geography;
3) An enhanced appreciation of the complex interaction of processes and systems active in the natural environment;
4) An introduction to the disciplines of earth & atmospheric sciences and their relevance to a variety of fields of study;
5) A basic understanding of Christian perspectives on the natural sciences.

Course Texts:

1. Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland, G.H., Byrne, M-L., and Giles, P.T. ***Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 4th (or 3rd) Canadian Edition.*** Toronto: Pearson. ISBN

9780134854052. This is now only available digitally (although there may be resale paper copies available). Once you have purchased the eBook (good for 24 months), you can choose to purchase a paper copy.

To get the text, follow the instructions at https://rossway.net/crandall1013 OR on the course Moodle page at www.elearning.crandallu.ca and the course homepage

This is also the text for GG 1023 Winter Term. If you take (or have taken) GG 1023 you do not have to buy another text in January! There may also be print copies available for resale. The same text has been used for several years.

2. Online notes are posted on the website. A schedule of readings is in the Course Calendar

3. For the Labs, you will need a copy of two National Topographic System of Canada maps, scale 1:50 000:
   83/C3 -- Columbia Icefield
   21/H16 -- Amherst

   On campus students, these maps are available in the library. Ask one of the librarians if you require assistance. ***Alternatively, PDF versions of the maps you can access online are here:*** **21H16 Amherst** **83C03 Columbia Icefield**

Course Evaluation:

1. Readings: 5%
2. Discussion: 8%
3. Labs: 25%
4. Midterm: 31%
5. Final Exam or Final Project: 31%

Course Outline:

1. ***Reading Assignments*** **(5%).** There will be regular reading assignments from the course notes and text, as indicated in the calendar. You will be asked, as part of every lab, to indicate whether you have or have not done the readings. Because this will be the chief source of information in the course, reading is essential.

2. ***Participation in a moderated discussion group (8%).*** Over the term you will be expected to join in an online discussion with your classmates. During the year you are responsible to keep an eye on the discussion ... and to participate! You are responsible to make one entry per week (see the calendar for any exceptions). I will post suggested topics. Or you can create your own. There is no set time you have to be online. Rather, interact with other posted comments or post your own. (in this sense it is more of a forum for posted comments than a live chatroom). Your participation will count towards your grade! The Discussion is on the Crandall Moodle Site, Geography 1023. https://www.elearning.crandallu.ca/ . Most students really enjoy this opportunity to discuss ideas related to the course content.

3. ***Labs* (25%).** Laboratory exercises are required and will be evaluated. Labs are on the website. All the materials you require for labs – topographic maps, etc. – are available in the Library. Ask one of the librarians if you require assistance. ***Alternatively, PDF versions of the maps you can access online are here:*** **21H16 Amherst** **83C03 Columbia Icefield.** You are encouraged to work on your labs in partners or in groups. Often it is helpful to interact with other students – great! However you must hand in your own lab! (Remember, your partner[s] may not be correct, anyway!).

   Due dates for the labs are in the Course Calendar.

   Print it off. Complete it. And then scan/photo it and send it as ONE PDF document through Canvas. Please do send it as **ONE PDF document with the pages, in order**. Before you send it, make sure it is legible. If you cannot read it, neither can I 😊

4. ***Midterm examination* (31%)** – **Friday, October 25, 2-4 pm**

   PLEASE clear your schedule for this exam NOW!
   Between the other events of the term there is no alternative date!

   The midterm exam will be based on lecture material and readings covered in the first half of the term. It will be based on:
   - Labs 1-3 (you may not have Lab 3 back yet, but know how to do the exercises)
   - Chapters 1, 12-15 of *Geosystems* (4CE) and online notes (3CE, Chapters 11-14).

5. ***Final examination* (31%)** (*see note below)

   You have an option in the second half of the course. *You may either choose to write the final examination **or** to complete the final assignment (please note the due date). The choice is yours!*

   The date of the exam is **TBA.** It is set by the Registrar. Please consult the most recent edition of the Final Examination Schedule to confirm the date and time. Please note that instructors are ***not*** at liberty to reschedule final examinations. Students who propose not to take a final examination at the scheduled time must apply for rescheduling to the Academic Committee before the last day for withdrawal from classes.

   The final exam will be based on lecture and lab material and readings covered from the mid-term exam until the end of the term. The final exam will cover:
   - Labs 4-6
   - Chapters 15-18 of Geosystems
   - Eolian and Desert notes
   - Theological Issues online notes

6. ***Final Assignment* (31%)** (*see below). Proposal due **November 1**. Project due **December 6.**

***You have an option in the second half of the course.** You may either choose to write the final examination **or** to complete the final assignment (please note the due date). The choice is yours!*

This project may take the form of a research paper (formatted according to the *Guidelines for Research Writing)* or a more creative presentation - original artwork, drama, music, etc. In either case the topic chosen must relate to the subject matter of the course and **must demonstrate research beyond the material presented in class**.

This project may take the form of a research paper or a more creative presentation - original artwork, drama, music, etc. In either case the topic chosen must relate to the subject matter of the course and must demonstrate research beyond the material presented in class.

References MUST include at least six (6) published materials such as books, articles, or websites by recognized authors (credible websites might include government, university, or professional association websites). The project should be (the equivalent) of 10 double-spaced pages. A Selected Bibliography that may help you with your research is located here

A brief written proposal must be submitted by email to the instructor, indicating

- your preferred topic,
- a proposed outline of your project, and
- ideas for resources

Late submissions will NOT BE ACCEPTED because there will not be an opportunity to get them graded in time for the mark deadline!). If you miss the due date, you MUST write the FINAL EXAM!

Please submit your Final Project on Moodle.

** Remember, everyone must write the midterm exam. However, you have an option in the second half of the course. You may either choose to write the final examination or to complete the final assignment (please note the due date). The choice is yours!*

Please note the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism as laid out in the Academic Calendar.

Availability

Please note that I will check email messages at least once per day, Monday-Friday. Therefore Monday-Friday you should receive a response within 24 hours (approximately). I do not do course work on weekends. (Note your labs are due on Tuesdays so you don't have to work Sundays, either! ☺)

A Note About Distance Learning

This course is a Distance Learning course. Most students respond very positively – they can work on their own time and in their own way. But it does require a different approach to learning. You will have the privilege (or challenge, depending how you look at it!) to be more self-directed in your learning. There are several implications of which you need to be aware as you commit to the course:

Practical Implications:

- The workload for this course is equivalent to any other 3 credit hour class offered on campus--approximately 2 hours of reading (textbook) and study for each 1 hour of lecture (online notes).
- You will be expected to be diligent in reading the course notes and text as these will be the chief sources of information.
- Internet access is essential as a source of information (the lectures are all online), to chat with the instructor about course content and assignments, to chat with other students, and to access other websites with information relevant to the course.
- If you are on campus, you are welcome to organize a "Study Group" in order to work on labs and help one another understand difficult concepts. The online discussion group provides a forum for dialogue among both on- and off-campus students.

Personal Implications:

- You will need to be self-directed and self-motivated to complete the course requirements.
- You will need to be disciplined to complete the assignments on time.
- The Study Groups will only be as helpful and productive as you choose to make them. Study Groups can be one of the most effective – and enjoyable – methods of learning.
- You will not need to spend as much time in class as a traditional course … but more time in personal study.
- You may be able to complete the requirements for the course (except for the exams), early!
- You will have the opportunity to direct your own learning times and styles.
- You will learn some invaluable skills and discipline in time management and self-directed learning.

Writing and Student Success Services (SH 253): Crandall University offers academic tutoring, accessibility services, and career counselling to all Crandall University students. Book an appointment, sign up for a workshop, or drop in for help with writing, managing course demands, or career planning. We provide learning accommodations for those with documented learning disabilities. Find more information on the Crandall website or email Jennifer.maillet@crandallu.ca for more details.

Mental Wellness

Crandall University encourages their students who are struggling with their mental wellness to connect with our on-campus mental health counsellor. You can reach out via e-mail counsellor@crandallu.ca or book an appointment at https://www.crandallu.ca/student-life/counselling-services/ Additionally, if students are experiencing a mental health crisis, they can receive 24/7 support by calling 9-8-8.