



**GEOG 122: Global Physical Systems (100% Online)**

Syllabus, Summer 2021 (June 1 – June 28 )

**Contact the Course Instructor:**

Instructor	Office	Electronic Mail	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Rob Hellström	#203, Conant Science Bldg.	<a href="mailto:rhellstrom@bridgew.edu">rhellstrom@bridgew.edu</a>	(508) 531-2842	by email

**Course Prerequisites:** none. You may add the class if the course is not full.

**Credits:** 3

**Course Structure:**

Meeting	Course SRN	Day, Time	Place
ONLINE	50043	100% Online	Blackboard course site

**Required textbook book:**

This text contains required readings, homework exercises, helpful diagrams and tables to successfully complete this course; it is available at the Bridgewater State U. bookstore:

**Physical Geography: Physical Geography:** Mason et al., 2015, **The Global Environment.**

5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press. 626 pp.

**ISBN: 9780190246860**

[paper or e-book](#)

**Course Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the interactions among the physical components of ecosystems through a regional approach. Human societies and communities continuously interact with features of the Earth’s natural environment such as weather patterns, climate change, water, mountains, soils, animals and vegetation. This course will focus on weather patterns, climate change, biogeography, and processes that reshape natural and human landscapes. The main objective of this course is to explore how changes within the Earth System alter physical features that impact life on Earth.

The course is taught entirely through the course web site on Blackboard. This site will provide all necessary lectures, assignments and online Quizzes. <http://blackboard.bridgew.edu/>

The course web site will provide lecture outlines, 10 online quizzes and 4 homework assignments.

**Assignments:**

**Quizzes:** Each unit in the textbook begins with Objectives that you should understand after completing the reading assignments (see last page) in this class. At the end of units are Appendices that will help you find terms and a Glossary at the end of the textbook defines terms. The Blackboard course site contains weekly (most weeks) quizzes (see due dates on last page) that will reinforce the Objectives through multiple choice and T&F questions. All quizzes have equal weight toward your grade. All

questions are equally weighted for a maximum of 100%. All assignments must be completed through the course Blackboard site and submitted according to the directions given. You must complete the quizzes in one sitting, but you will have 2 opportunities to submit your answers if you run into technical difficulties. You may not submit answers after the due date. You should use the textbook and posted class lecture notes to answer the questions, as all questions are based from material in the textbook.

**Homework project:** In addition to quizzes you will have four homework assignments on a topic of your choice but related to Physical Geography (see last page for major Lecture Topics and the Lectures on Blackboard). The final two assignments require building a PowerPoint presentation. Contact the Instructor for more ideas or peruse the units in the textbook for topics. You will find detailed requirements in the Homework section of the Blackboard course site.

*Completing and submitting quizzes and homework assignments:*

1. Login to Blackboard (you will be enrolled in **GEOG 122 AW1**) and click on the Homework and Quizzes sections to complete assignments. Due dates are posted on the last page of the syllabus. **Both Quizzes and Homework Assignments are due before 12:00 midnight of the due date.**
2. **Submit homework using the file upload and submit section below each assignment of the Blackboard course site.** This may take some getting used to the first time. Your four project assignments will have a time/date stamped after you submit. Late assignments will be deducted 10% for every day (1 to 24 hours late), and you will receive zero credit if submitted more than two days (48 hours) late without previous permission from the instructor. It is to your advantage to complete all assignments on time. Be sure you know how to submit and please do not hesitate to contact the professor if you are having trouble.
3. Submit the answers to online quizzes **before 12:00 midnight of the weekly due date** (see last page) and submit your answers to the Instructor as instructed by Blackboard when you complete the quizzes. You will get immediate score on your answers after submission. Quizzes are NOT TIMED and you may return to finish taking the quiz any time from when it is posted to midnight of the due date. You **will receive a zero (0%) if submitted after midnight of the due date.**
4. Answer keys will be available two days (48 hours) after the due date (see the Past Due Quizzes section).
5. Your quiz and homework scores will be recorded under the **Blackboard grades link**.

### **Grading:**

Your final grade is based on 10 Online Quizzes and 4 Homework assignments.

- **Online Quizzes (60%):** There are ten (10) online quizzes, each 6% of your final grade, which consist of questions related to lectures and directly from reading material; all answers can be found within the textbook. You will find quizzes under the Quiz section of Blackboard. You may complete the quiz early and in multiple sessions prior to the deadline, however, **do not click the submit all and finish button until you are happy with your answers.** After you click this button you cannot return to the attempt.
- **Homework Assignments (40%):** Each of four assignments is worth 10% of your grade. You will find homework assignments under the Homework button. The assignments build upon the previous homework. Your ultimate goal is to produce a 15 to 20 slide PowerPoint presentation on a topic of your choice related to Physical Geography (see Blackboard for details).
- **Questions and feedback (please ask early):** you may ask questions by emailing the Instructor at [rhellstrom@bridgew.edu](mailto:rhellstrom@bridgew.edu).

**Special needs:** Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor no later the first week of class.

GEOG 122: *The Physical World*  
**Lecture, Homework (HW) and Online Quizzes(Q) Outline, Summer**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (unit)</b>	<b>Due</b>
1	<i>Introducing Physical Geography and Earth</i>	1 and 2	
	<i>Mapping Earth's Surface</i>	3	<b>Q1</b>
	Earth-Sun Relations	4	
	<i>Radiation and Heat Balance</i>	5	<b>Q2</b>
	<b>Topic + References for Project</b>	BB Submit	<b>HW1</b>
2	<i>Temperature of the Lower Atmosphere</i>	7	
	<i>Atmospheric Moisture and the Water Balance</i>	11	<b>Q3</b>
	Precipitation, Air Masses and Fronts	12	
	<b>Project Outline with Notes</b>	BB Submit	<b>HW2</b>
	<i>Weather Systems</i>	13	<b>Q4</b>
	<i>Climate Classification and Regionalization</i>	14	
	Natural Climate Change	18	
	<i>Human Impacts on Climate</i>	19	<b>Q5</b>
3	<i>Biogeochemical Cycles: Climate, Soil, Plants and Animals</i>	20	
	<i>Classification and Mapping of Soils</i>	23	<b>Q6</b>
	<i>Biogeographic Processes</i>	24	
	<i>The Global Distribution of Plants</i>	25	
	Zoography: Spatial Aspects of Animal Populations	26	<b>Q7</b>
	<b>PowerPoint Presentation Draft</b>	BB Submit	<b>HW3</b>
4	<i>Plates and the Lithosphere</i>	30	
	<i>Earthquakes and Landscapes</i>	33	<b>Q8</b>
	<i>The Formation of Landforms and Landscapes</i>	35	
	<i>Water in the Lithosphere</i>	38	<b>Q9</b>
	<i>Coastal Processes</i>	48	<b>Q10</b>
	Prepare Final Presentation	--	
	<b>Final PPT Presentation with notes</b>	BB Submit	<b>HW4</b>