



**Physical Geography – GGS 102-001  
George Mason University  
Fall 2020**

**Instructor: Lori Mandable**

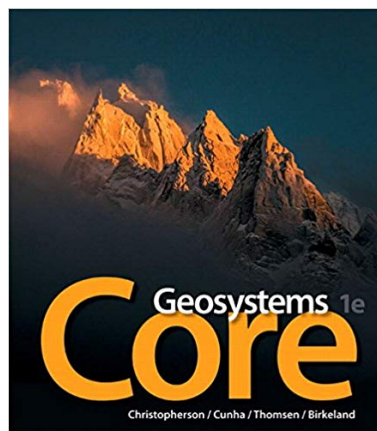
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**Office Hours: Mondays 12p-1:15p, Wednesdays 12p-1:15p, Thursdays 1:30p-2:45p and by appointment**

**Required Textbook:** Geosystems Core Plus Mastering Geography with eText 1<sup>st</sup> edition by Robert W. Christopherson, Stephen Cunha, Charles E. Thomsen, and Ginger Birkeland ISBN: 9780321949554.



**Mason Core: Natural Science**

This class is designated as a Mason Core Natural Sciences course. Such courses engage students in scientific exploration; foster their curiosity; enhance their enthusiasm for science; and enable them to apply scientific knowledge and reasoning to personal, professional and public decision-making. This course meets learning outcomes 1 through 4 for Natural Science.

**Learning Outcomes:**


1. Understand how scientific inquiry is based on investigation of evidence from the natural world, and that scientific knowledge and understanding: a) evolves based on new evidence, and b) differs from personal and cultural beliefs.
2. Recognize the scope and limits of science.
3. Recognize and articulate the relationship between the natural sciences and society and the application of science to societal challenges (e.g., health, conservation, sustainability, energy, natural disasters, etc.).



4. Evaluate scientific information (e.g., distinguish primary and secondary sources, assess credibility and validity of information).



### General Information and Policies:

1. Attendance is key to doing well in this course. Scientific studies conclusively correlate academic success with regular class attendance. If you must miss a class **please let the instructor know ahead of time** via email or text message. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the instructor to follow up on any missed material.
2. Make up exams and late submissions of post-reading quizzes, assignments and other graded material will only be accepted at the discretion of the instructor for **DOCUMENTED** extenuating circumstances. Missed exams and late submissions of post-reading quizzes and assignments will receive a grade of 0 and it is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor regarding a documented extenuating circumstance. 
3. Use of electronic devices: Because this is a computer classroom, we will frequently be using the internet as a means to enhance our discussions. Please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to the class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and you may be asked to leave the classroom.
4. Cell phones: As a courtesy to your classmates, professor and guest speakers, please turn your cell phone off during class lectures. If you are experiencing a medical or family situation where you need to receive an incoming call, please let us know, mute the ring on your phone, and feel free to exit the class to receive your call.
5. Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. The instructor will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.  
See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.
6. The instructor will return emails and text messages as quickly as possible Monday through Friday. If you send an email on Saturday or Sunday it could be a full 24-48 hours before the instructor is able to respond.
7. University Policies: The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies
8. Inclement Weather and Class Cancellation: GMU posts closings on its website ([www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).) You can receive notification from Mason Alerts via email or text to a cell phone; please let the instructor know if you need more information.
9. Students of this course must be familiar with the GMU honor code, which can be viewed via this link: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code>. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask the instructor for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is

not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor. Any violations of the honor code are taken very seriously and will be reported.

10. Occasional discussions may occur in class. Please be kind and respectful to fellow students. Remember your audience and use proper professional etiquette and language. Review the George Mason Diversity Statement below:

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

11. Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with the instructor. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

12. As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," the instructor is required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's *Title IX Coordinator* per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the *Student Support and Advocacy Center* (703-380-1434) or *Counseling and Psychological Services* (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from *Mason's Title IX Coordinator* (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).



13. George Mason University offers several student support resources on campus. The following link provides information regarding each of these resources and links to their pages for further information: <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/knowning-mason-students/student-support-resources-on-campus/> and is listed at the end of this syllabus.
14. Failing to complete work or interact with the instructor **will not** result in automatically being dropped or withdrawn from the class. Students are responsible for any changes in enrollment. The grade earned will be reported at the end of the semester for all students enrolled at that time.
15. This course will consist of assigned weekly textbook readings, 15 post-reading quizzes (open book & open note/no collaboration with other people – can be taken twice & highest grade used), 5 assignments, 5 discussion assignments and 3 exams. Grading will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	Frequency or Date	Possible Points	Percent of Total	Where
15 Post-Reading Quizzes	Weekly for each chapter	20 points each for total of 300 points	30%	Blackboard
5 Discussion Assignments	TBD	20 points each for a total of 100 points	10%	Blackboard
5 Assignments	Once every 2-3 weeks	50 points each for a total of 250 points	25%	Blackboard
Exam 1	9/23/2020	120 points	10%	Blackboard
Exam 2	10/28/2020	120 points	10%	Blackboard
Exam 3	TBD	150 points	15%	Blackboard
<b>Total</b>		<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>	


#### Grading Rubric

Grade	Percentage	Points
A+	97-100%	970-1000
A	94-96.99%	940-969.9
A-	90-93.99%	900-939.9
B+	87-89.99%	870-899.9
B	84-86.99%	840-869.9
B-	80-83.99%	800-839.9
C+	77-79.99%	770-799.9
C	74-76.99%	740-769.9
C-	70-73.99%	700-739.9
D	60-69.99%	600-699
F	<60%	<600

## GGG 102 Calendar – Fall 2020

\*\*\*Syllabus is subject to change, so check Blackboard for the most up to date version!

Week	Date	Chapter(s) Covered	Graded Work
<b>1</b>	8/24	Syllabus and Course Information	<b>Assignment 1</b> Distributed; Due 9/16
	8/26	<b>Introduction</b> Chapter	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 0</b> (on Introduction) Due 9/2 by 11:59pm
<b>2</b>	8/31	<b>Labor Day – no classes</b>	
	9/2	<b>Chapter 1</b> Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 1</b> (on Chapter 1) Due 9/9 by 11:59pm
<b>3</b>	9/7	<b>Chapter 2</b> Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 2</b> (on Chapter 2) Due 9/14 by 11:59pm
	9/9		
<b>4</b>	9/14	<b>Chapter 3</b> Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulation	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 3</b> (on Chapter 3) Due 9/16 by 11:59pm
	9/16	<b>Chapter 4</b> Atmospheric Water and Weather	<b>Assignment 1</b> Due by 11:59pm <b>Assignment 2</b> Distributed; Due 10/5
<b>5</b>	9/21	Finish <b>Chapter 4</b> Atmospheric Water & Weather	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 4</b> (on Chapter 4) Due 9/21 by 11:59pm
	9/23	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam 1:</b> Chp 0-4
<b>6</b>	9/28	<b>Chapter 5</b> Water Resources	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 5</b> (on Chapter 5) Due 10/5 by 11:59pm
	9/30		
<b>7</b>	10/5	<b>Chapter 6</b> Global Climate Systems	<b>Assignment 2</b> Due by 11:59pm <b>Post-Reading Quiz 6</b> (on Chapter 6) Due 10/7 by 11:59pm
	10/7	<b>Chapter 7</b> Climate Change	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 7</b> (on Chapter 7) Due 10/13 by 11:59pm <b>Assignment 3</b> Distributed; Due 11/4
<b>8</b>	<b>10/13 - Columbus Day Schedule!</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b> Tectonics, Earthquakes, & Volcanism	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 8</b> (on Chapter 8) Due 10/19 by 11:59pm
	10/14		
<b>9</b>	10/19	<b>Chapter 9</b> Weathering, Karst, Landscapes, & Mass Movement	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 9</b> (on Chapter 9) Due 10/26 by 11:59pm
	10/21		
<b>10</b>	10/26	<b>Chapter 10</b> River Systems and Landforms	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 10</b> (on Chapter 10) Due 10/28 by 11:59pm
	10/28	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Exam 2:</b> Chp 5-10
<b>11</b>	11/2	<b>Chapter 11</b> Coastal Systems & Wind Processes	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 11</b> (on Chapter 11) Due 11/9 by 11:59pm
	11/4		<b>Assignment 3</b> Due by 11:59pm <b>Assignment 4</b> Distributed; Due 11/18
<b>12</b>	11/9	<b>Chapter 12</b> Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 12</b> (on Chapter 12) Due 11/16 by 11:59pm
	11/11		
<b>13</b>	11/16	<b>Chapter 13</b> Ecosystems & Soils	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 13</b> (on Chapter 13) Due 11/30 by 11:59pm
	11/18		<b>Assignment 4</b> Due by 11:59pm

			<b>Assignment 5</b> Distributed; Due 12/2
<b>14</b>	11/23	Thanksgiving Break – <b>no class on Monday</b> and Wednesday holiday	
	11/25		
<b>15</b>	11/30	<b>Chapter 14</b> Terrestrial Biomes	<b>Post-Reading Quiz 14</b> (on Chapter 14) Due 12/2 by 11:59pm
	12/2		<b>Assignment 5</b> Due by 11:59pm <b>Bonus Assignment 6</b> Due by 11:59pm
Final Exam	<b>TBD</b>		<b>Exam 3/Final Exam</b> will is COMPREHENSIVE (Intro chapter -Chp 14), but the majority of the exam will cover Chp 11-14

## **Student Support Services:**

### **Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI)**

Aquia Building, Room 238 | [ati.gmu.edu](http://ati.gmu.edu) | [ati@gmu.edu](mailto:ati@gmu.edu) | 703-993-4329

Assistive technology assessments, training, and support services for individuals with disabilities.

### **University Career Services**

Student Union Building I (SUB I), 3400 | [careers.gmu.edu/](http://careers.gmu.edu/) | [careers@gmu.edu](mailto:careers@gmu.edu) | 703-993- 2370

A centralized career center that takes an industry-focused approach to serving our students and employers.

### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), Room 3129 | [caps.gmu.edu/](http://caps.gmu.edu/) | 703-993-2380



Individual and group counseling, workshops, and community education programs designed to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance.

### **Disability Services (DS)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 2500 | [ds.gmu.edu](http://ds.gmu.edu) | [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) 703.993.2474

Promotes equal access for students with disabilities, fosters partnerships, and empower students.

### **Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural Education (ODIME)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 2400 | [odime.gmu.edu](http://odime.gmu.edu) | 703.993.2700

Leads Mason in creating and sustaining inclusive learning environments where all members of the Mason community are welcomed, valued, and supported.

### **Learning Services**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 3129 | [learningservices.gmu.edu](http://learningservices.gmu.edu) | 703-993-2999

Experience-based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns.

### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Resources (LGBTQ)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), Room 2200 | [lgbtq.gmu.edu/](http://lgbtq.gmu.edu/) | 703.993.2702

Promotes the academic success, health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) students and their allies.

### **Office of Military Services**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 1510 | [admissions.gmu.edu/military/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/military/) | 703.993.1316

Assists veterans, active duty service members, guardsmen, reservists, and dependents in making a successful transition into the Mason community.

### **Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 4300 | [oips.gmu.edu](http://oips.gmu.edu) | 703.993.2970

Educates, celebrates, and serves Mason community, including international and domestic students, faculty and exchange visitors, by helping them reach their highest academic and personal goals.

### **Student Health Services**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), 2300 | [shs.gmu.edu](http://shs.gmu.edu) | 703.993.2831

Provides high quality health care, counseling, health education and prevention services to George Mason University students.

### **Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)**

Student Union Building 1 (SUB I), Room 3200 | [ssac.gmu.edu](http://ssac.gmu.edu) | 703-993-3686

Offers educational programming, one-on-one consultations, and resources in the areas of interpersonal violence, personal wellness, and alcohol and drug use.

