



**Physical Geography – GGS 102-SEC DL1**  
**George Mason University**  
**Spring 2020**  
**January 21<sup>st</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Online**

**Instructor:** Sherry Young

**Office:** 1102 Exploratory Hall GTA Offices

**E-mail:** syoung20@masonlive.gmu.edu

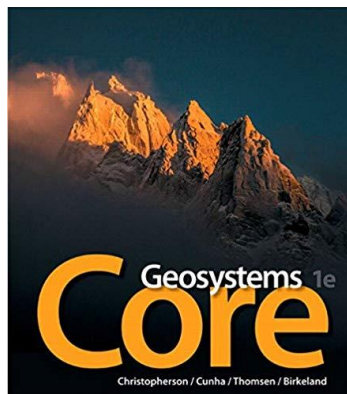
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm and Thursday 2:30-3:30 pm on campus or online

**Course Overview:** Physical geography is the spatial study of the natural materials and processes that interact on Earth. In physical geography, Earth is studied from a systems science perspective which emphasizes the interactions between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere. In this course, students will become familiar with climate, weather, landforms, earth processes, and ecosystems through an examination of their spatial distributions and patterns.

**Prerequisites:** No prior coursework is required, but basic computer skills are a must.

**Enrollment and repeat policy:** This course adheres to the general Mason policy that an undergraduate course may be repeated for grade up to three times; however, some majors may have more restrictive limits on specific courses, for more information please check with your advisor. Dropping or withdrawing (W grade) from a course is not counted as a repeat in this policy.


**Required Textbook:** Geosystems Core Plus the Modified Mastering Geography with eText 1<sup>st</sup> edition by Robert W. Christopherson, Stephen Cunha, Charles E. Thomsen, and Ginger Birkeland ISBN: 9780321949554. Make sure the version you buy includes the **modified** online access code; assignments will be linked to Blackboard.



## **Technology Requirements:**

1. Regular access to a computer and mouse: updated enough to view and listen to videos online and to complete assignments on Blackboard and the Mastering Geography site. There are several computer labs on campus available for student use. A phone alone will not be adequate.
2. GGS computer lab: lab in EXPL 2102 is open 24 hours for you to use. Registration in a GGS class should automatically grant you swipe access. Please contact ggsit@gmu.edu to report issues.
3. Microsoft Word: assignments will have to be uploaded as a PDF or Word doc. into blackboard. Ability to view PowerPoints and PDFs.
4. Reliable internet access.

## **Important Dates:**

First day of classes	01/21
Last day to drop – full refund	02/05
Last day to drop – 50% refund	02/11
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period	02/12-02/24
Selective Withdrawal Period	02/25-03/30
Exam 1	02/16 - 02/22
Exam 2	03/22 – 03/28
 Spring Break	03/09-03/15
Last Week of Class & Exam 3	04/26 – 05/02

## **Mason Core: Natural Science**

Mason Core natural sciences 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. This course is an asynchronous online course; there are no set course meetings, as all course materials are available for students to access online. **Note: there are still set deadlines and material will be available in scheduled weekly content folders.** General information about online courses for George Mason can be found at <https://masononline.gmu.edu/faqs/#FAQ1?cmgfrm=www.google.com>
2. This online course consists of 16 weekly modules that start at 12:00 am Sunday and end on Saturday at 11:59 pm EST of the same week. You may work at your own pace during the week; however, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be completed by 11:59 pm on Saturday of the assigned week. **Expected total time required** to work on assignments **per week range between 6-10 hours** depending on how fast you read and complete the assignments and how comfortable you are with the material. Some weeks have more assignments than others. Assignments are available a week early on the Mastering Geography Website for anybody who would like to work ahead. **Exams and quizzes are only available during the assigned week** and will be taken on Blackboard. Late assignments will only be accepted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances, in general late assignments receive a grade of 0. **Make-up exams will be given only for University approved excused absences** with documentation. Assignments serve as attendance (see table with assignments and due dates).
3. Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important university information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.
4. I will return emails as quickly as possible Monday through Friday. If you send an email on Saturday or Sunday it could be a full 24 hours before I respond.
5. Students of this course must be familiar with the GMU honor code <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code>. Violations of the honor code will be reported.
6. Occasional discussion board interactions will occur on Blackboard. Please be kind and respectful to fellow students. Remember your audience when posting on the discussion board and use proper academic/business netiquette and language. Review the George Mason Diversity Statement below.
7. Failing to complete work or interact with the professor **will not** result in automatically being dropped or withdrawn from the class. Students are solely 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. Even if it's 0.
8. Mastering Geography assignments are connected to Blackboard once you set up your account with your **Modified Mastering Geography code**. See the Word doc. about setting up your Mastering Geography account.

## Assignments and Grading:

Graded assignments for this class will consist of weekly homework including a mixture of Mastering Geography assignments, Map Master assignments, and discussion board assignments with readings (total 29%), weekly quizzes (total 11%), and 3 exams (total 60%). The exams are not cumulative; however, new material will build on previously learned concepts. Reading assigned chapters in your textbook and viewing the chapter-based PowerPoint lectures are imperative to being successful in this class. Assignments were created to further your understanding about the material covered in the textbook.

Assignment	Frequency or Dates	Percent of Total	Points	Where
Homework	Weekly for each chapter	29%	290	Pearson Mastering Geography Website, Map Master, and discussion board
11 Quizzes	Weekly for each chapter except weeks with exams	11%	110	Blackboard
Exam 1	02/16 - 02/22	20%	200	Blackboard
Exam 2	03/22 – 03/28	20%	200	Blackboard
Exam 3	04/26 – 05/02	20%	200	Blackboard

**Grading Scale:**

Grade	Points	Percent Range	Grade	Points	Percent Range
A <sup>+</sup>	960-1000	96% - 100%	C <sup>+</sup>	760-799	76% - 79.9%
A	930-959	93% - 95.9%	C	730-759	73% - 75.9%
A <sup>-</sup>	900-929	90% - 92.9%	C <sup>-</sup>	700-729	70% - 72.9%
B <sup>+</sup>	860-899	86% - 89.9%	D	600-699	60% - 69.9%
B	830-859	83% - 85.9%	F	<600	<60%
B <sup>-</sup>	800-829	80% - 82.9%			

**GGG 102 Calendar – Spring 20**

Week	Dates	Textbook Chapters & Readings	Assignments (must be completed before 11:59 pm Saturday night of each week)
1	01/21 - 01/25	<b>Week 0:</b> set up Mastering Geography and review welcome video	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		<b>Week 1: Textbook: Intro Section</b> pages I1-I27 ***You should start some of next week's work this week because next week includes 2 full chapters.	Introduce yourself on Blackboard: discussion board.
		<b>PowerPoint</b> in course documents week 1.	Chapter Intro Quiz on Blackboard
2	01/26 – 02/01	<b>Chapter 1</b> Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere pages 1-30 and PowerPoint	Assignments on Mastering Geography for chapter 1.
		<b>Chapter 2</b> Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures pages 32- 60.	Assignments on Mastering Geography for chapter 2.
		<b>PowerPoints</b> in course documents week 2 for chapters 1 & 2	Chapter Quiz (1&2) on Blackboard
3	02/02 – 02/08	<b>Chapter 3</b> Atmospheric & Oceanic Circulation pages 62-84.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master.
		<b>PowerPoint</b> in course documents week 3	Chapter 3 Quiz on Blackboard
4	02/09 – 02/15	<b>Chapter 4</b> Atmospheric Water and Weather pages 88 – 122.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & Map Master.
		<b>PowerPoint</b> in course documents week 4.	Chapter 4 Quiz on Blackboard

5	02/16 - 02/22	Chapter 5 Water Resources pages 124 – 148.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 5	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) on Blackboard</b>
6	02/23 – 02/29	Chapter 6 Global Climate Systems pages: 150-172.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 6	Chapter 6 Quiz on Blackboard
7	03/01 – 03/07	Chapter 7 Climate Change pages 174 – 210.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master.
		PowerPoint in course documents week 7	Chapter 7 Quiz on Blackboard
8	03/08 – 03/14	<b>Spring Break</b>	No Assignments, Enjoy!
9	03/15 – 03/21	Chapter 8 Tectonics, Earthquakes, & Volcanism pages: 212-244.	Assignments on Mastering Geography Discussion Board Cascadia
		PowerPoint in course documents week 8	Chapter 8 Quiz on Blackboard
10	03/22 – 03/28	Chapter 9 Weathering, Karst, Landscapes, & Mass Movement pages: 246-266.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 9	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 6-9) on Blackboard</b>
11	03/29 – 04/04	Chapter 10 River Systems and Landforms pages: 268 – 290.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 10	Chapter 10 Quiz on Blackboard
12	04/05 – 04/11	Chapter 11 Coastal Systems & Wind Processes pages 292-318.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 11	Chapter 11 Quiz on Blackboard
13	04/12 – 04/18	Chapter 12 Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes pages 320 – 342.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 12	Chapter 12 Quiz on Blackboard
14	04/19 – 04/25	Chapter 13 Ecosystems & Soils pages 344-376.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 13	Chapter Quiz on Blackboard
15	04/26 – 05/02	Last week classes Chapter 14 Terrestrial Biomes pages 378-410.	Assignments on Mastering Geography & map master
		PowerPoint in course documents week 15	<b>Final Exam (Chapters 10-14) on Blackboard End of semester! Great job!</b>

**\*\* Schedule may change if necessary.**

**\*\*\* Exam 1 covers chapters 1-5, exam 2: chapters 6-9, exam 3: chapters 10-14.**



### **George Mason Diversity Statement:**

“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.” To read more please visit <http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/>.

### **Disability Accommodations:**

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs as early in the semester as possible.

### **Academic integrity:**

The George Mason honor code is available to read at the Office for Academic Integrity (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>). The Honor Code Pledge reads as follows:

*To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.*

Violations of the honor code will be penalized with failure of the assignment and possibly the entire course upon discretion of the instructor. While collaboration and group learning is encouraged, each student must turn in their own work. All sources of information used within your work must be properly cited.