Course Instructor | Dr. Laura Thomson | Email: L.Thomson@queensu.ca
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Office | D128 Mackintosh-Corry Hall |
Contact Time | Three 1 hour lectures per week One 1.0 hour laboratory per week | Phone: 613-533-6000 ext. 75913
Format | Lectures and Labs (based on text readings) |
Class Assessment | Lab Assignments (3) 36% Lecture Tests (3) 36% Final Exam 28% |

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces the major concepts studied in physical geography and natural resources. The processes and interrelationships between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere, particularly at, or near the Earth's surface, are investigated to serve as a basis for understanding the nature and distribution of natural resources.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

To complete this course, students will demonstrate:
- Knowledge of key concepts and laws governing physical geography / Earth system science (e.g. electromagnetic radiation, climatology and meteorology, geomorphology, hydrology, geography of soils, biogeography);
- Understanding of the processes giving rise to patterns and phenomena observed in the Earth system at local, regional and global scales;
- Use and implementation of basic tools and techniques used by geographers to study spatial and temporal patterns (maps, remote sensing, statistics); and
- Appreciation of the manner in which humans are linked to and impact the Earth system (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, pollution, carbon and nutrient cycling).

COURSE TOPICS

**Systems and Cycles of the Solid Earth** (the lithosphere and the tectonic system);
**Weather and Climate Systems** (the global energy system, atmospheric processes, temperature, precipitation, winds/currents, climates across latitudes);
**Systems of Landform Evolution** (weathering, the water cycle, fluvial processes, glacial systems);
**Systems and Cycles of Soils and the Biosphere** (soil systems, biogeographic processes, terrestrial biomes).

COURSE READINGS


Available at the Queen’s University Bookstore and on three-hour reserve in Stauffer Library.