Course Instructors | Dr. Ryan Danby | Email: ryan.danby@queensu.ca
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Office | D131 Mackintosh-Corry Hall |  
Contact Time | Three 1.0 hour lectures per week  
One 1.0 hour laboratory per week |  
Format | Lectures and Tutorials (based on text readings) |  
Class Assessment | Lab Assignments (3) 30%  
Lab Quiz 15%  
Midterms (2) 30%  
Final Exam 25% |  

**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**

- Acquire an understanding of the natural processes that give rise to patterns and phenomena observed on the Earth’s surface at local, regional and global scales;
- Understand how the Earth’s four major spheres interact with and influence each other;
- Consider how human activities are linked to and impact the Earth system;
- Gain exposure to the tools used by geographers for studying spatial and temporal patterns (maps, geographic information systems, satellite imagery, aerial photography, statistics).

**COURSE TOPICS**

- Weather and Climate (the global energy system, atmospheric processes, temperature, precipitation, winds/currents, climates across latitudes, global climate change)
- Landform Evolution (the solid earth, weathering, the water cycle, fluvial processes, glacial systems)
- Soils and Biodiversity (soil systems, biogeographic processes, terrestrial biomes)
- Tools and techniques in physical geography (maps, aerial photographs, data handling)

**COURSE READINGS**

A textbook is required for this course, and regular readings are required in advance of lectures. We are currently considering a newly published textbook for the course:
If chosen, this book will require purchase through the bookstore (approximately $100) and we will make use of on-line features and support available through WileyPLUS.