

**GARRETT COLLEGE**  
**Physical Geography – ESC 121**  
**Fall, 2013**



**SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Peter Skystad – Professor of Biology, Associate Director, NRWT Program  
Office: CAOS Building – NRWT Program Office (Room 1010)  
Office Phone: 301-387-3332 (leave message, 72 hour weekend response delay possible)  
Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:30-11:30 and Fridays by appointment  
E-mail: [peter.skystad@garrettcollege.edu](mailto:peter.skystad@garrettcollege.edu) (72 hour weekend response delay possible)  
NRWT webpage: <http://www.garrettcollege.edu/educationalopportunities/creditoptions/academic-departments/nrwt>  
Instructor webpage: <http://www.garrettcollege.edu/faculty-web-pages/peter-skystad>

Course Meeting Dates/Times: Lecture: Tu-Th 5:20-6:50 ***Labs do not meet first week!***

**Course Description**

This is a course designed to introduce students to the essential principles of physical geography with emphasis on meteorology, climatology, hydrology, aeolian processes, geomorphology, pedology, oceanography, geology, astronomy, and the interdependence of humans, other forms of life, and the physical environment.

**Course Goals**

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method as it is applied via geography's unique perspective.
2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of geospatial aspects of physical phenomena – where it's found and why it occurs there.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the myriad connections between physical elements of the environment.
4. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelationships between the physical world and human activities.

**Course Texts**

Earth Science and the Environment, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Thompson and Turk  
Physical Geography Lab Manual: Exercises in Atmospheric and Earth Surface Processes, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Ed., David Shankman

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. If a student misses more than one scheduled lecture or lab, he/she may have a very difficult time passing this course. If a student misses three or more meetings, he/she may be

removed from the course by the Dean of Academic Affairs for excessive absences. The student is responsible for any information disseminated during lecture or lab and from reading assignments. If a class is missed, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the information missed (have a friend share notes/use lecture notes CD in Library). Tests, quizzes, and other assignments cannot be taken at a date other than the assigned date and time unless the student has a verifiable doctor's excuse (on office letterhead, etc.) or valid proof of a life-threatening illness affecting an immediate family member or death of an immediate family member. Other absences will be evaluated on a case by case basis (there are very few valid excuses for being late or absent that the instructor will approve). All approved missed exams/quizzes must be made up within one class period. Labs cannot be made up under any circumstances. **TARDINESS POLICY:** ESC 121 begins at 5:20 PM. The door will be closed at 5:25 PM and will remain closed for the duration of the class. No student will be admitted after 5:25 PM, so please do not knock on the door if it is closed. Attendance information is required by the Registrar's office and poor attendance, lack of attendance, or tardiness can impact financial aid adversely. **GENERAL ABSENTEE POLICY:** If a student misses more than three days of class (four absences), he/she will be withdrawn from the class and receive an F(A).

### **Classroom Etiquette**

All students are expected to adhere to appropriate classroom behavior. The goal of any classroom activity is to provide the greatest educational benefit to all students. A student should correctly expect, in word and deed, respect and consideration from the instructor and other students and vice versa. The instructor holds, in reserve, the authority to dismiss a student, either temporarily or permanently, who interferes with the rights of others in the educational process. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, tardiness, leaving without permission before class is over, inappropriate or disruptive conversation, sleeping during class, failure to turn off cell phones or other communication devices during class, etc.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

All students at Garrett College are expected to adhere to a strict code of academic honesty and integrity. Violations of the "Code of Academic Conduct" include all forms of cheating, plagiarism, and misuse of college documents and/or instruments. Students determined to be in violation of the "Code of Academic Conduct" will receive an automatic "F" in the course in which the dishonesty occurred and will, in addition, be withdrawn from all other courses. The violator will be academically suspended from Garrett College for a minimum of one semester. Additional penalties may be levied as each violation is investigated and reviewed on an individual basis. To facilitate a more positive atmosphere of learning in this course, please make every effort to avoid even the appearance of any academic impropriety.

### **Cellular Phones and Other Communication Devices**

All cell phones (and other electronic devices) must be **turned off and stowed away** (in a backpack, briefcase, or purse) during class. At no time are cell phones, pagers, or any other type of communication device allowed on your desk (or in your hands) during class. Violators of this policy during lecture or testing will be assumed to be cheating and will be adjudicated according to the penalties for academic dishonesty listed above.

## Tobacco Use on Campus

Tobacco products are not to be used anywhere on campus. Students may use these products within the privacy of a vehicle in the parking lot. Smoking, chewing, and dipping are not allowed anywhere on campus, especially around entrances to college buildings. Please do not throw butts or spit on college property. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Progress Assessment Allocations

Exams I through 6 (drop lowest).....	50%
Final Lecture Exam (comprehensive).....	25%
Lab.....	25%

Note: Lab activities schedule and grading are determined by the lab instructor.

## Lecture Topic Schedule (subject to change)

9/5	Discussion: Chp 1, Earth Systems
9/10	<u>Video</u> – Amazing Earth (90 minutes)
9/12	Discussion: Chp 17, Atmosphere
9/17	Discussion: Chp 17, Atmosphere
9/19	Discussion: Chp 19, Weather <b>EXAM 1 (Chps 1 and 17)</b>
9/24	Discussion: Chp 19, Weather
9/26	Discussion: Chp 20, Climate
10/1	Discussion: Chp 21, Climate Change
10/3	Discussion: Chp 11, Fresh Water <b>EXAM 2 (Chps 19, 20, 21)</b>
10/8	Discussion: Chp 11, Fresh Water ( <u>video</u> - 1 hr.)
10/10	Discussion: Chp 12, Water Resources ( <u>video</u> - groundwater)
10/15	<u>Case Study</u> : Kempton Wetlands Monitoring and Restoration Project
10/17	Discussion: Chp 16, Oceans
10/22	<u>Video</u> – Deep Blue (90 minutes)
10/24	Catch up and Review -- <b>EXAM 3 (Chps 11, 12, 16)</b>
10/29	Discussion: Chp 14, Deserts ( <u>video</u> )
10/31	Discussion: Chp 6, Plate Tectonics ( <u>video</u> )
11/5	Discussion: Chp 7, Earthquakes ( <u>video</u> )
11/7	Discussion: Chp 9, Orogeny <b>EXAM 4 (Chps 14, 6, 7)</b>
11/12	Discussion: Chp 9, Orogeny ( <u>video</u> )
11/14	Discussion: Chp 10, Weathering
11/19	Discussion: Chp 10, Weathering ( <u>video</u> )
11/21	Discussion: Chp 22, Astronomy <b>EXAM 5 (Chps 9, 10)</b>
11/26	Discussion: Chp 22, Astronomy ( <u>video</u> - Core Astronomy)
<b>11/27</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BREAK BEGINS: Wed 11/27 through Sun 12/1</b>
12/3	Discussion Chp 23, Planets and Moons ( <u>video</u> - Journey to the Edge of the Universe)
12/5	Discussion: Chp 24, Stars <b>EXAM 6 (Chps 22, 23, 24)</b>
<b>12/9 - 12/12</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM - TBA</b>

## Quotes for Thought...

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. (T. A. Edison)

If I have seen further than others, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants. (Sir Isaac Newton)

Science knows no country because knowledge belongs to humanity and is the torch which illuminates the world. Science is the highest personification of the nation because a nation will remain first which carries furthest the works of rational thought and intelligence. (Louis Pasteur)

It is the teacher's role to provoke students to teach themselves. (Lawrence Sklstad)

The harder I work, the luckier I get! (Lawrence Sklstad)

Ignorance is voluntary bad luck! (Lawrence Sklstad)

Give me a place to stand and I will move the Earth. (Archimedes)

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary people. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary person. (Elbert Hubbard)

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. (Chief Seattle)

In the wildness of the natural world is the preservation of humanity. (H.D. Thoreau)

