# GEOG109 Physical Geography: Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere

# **Course Handout 2019**

### Overview

Nau mai ki GEOG109 – welcome to the course. GEOG109 explores environmental process theory as well as the technical skills needed to monitor and model environmental change. We examine the forces that control Earth systems, with case studies selected from some or all of three main sub-systems: the atmosphere and climate, the oceans and their coastal fringes, and terrestrial landscapes such as mountains and rivers. The course will deepen understanding of these subsystems as a framework for building science-informed environmental approaches.

This year’s lecture contributors are this year’s course lecture contributors are:

* Dr Deirdre Hart (coastal scientist and course coordinator);
* Prof. Colin Ballantyne (geomorphologist);
* Assoc. Prof. Peyman Zawar-Reza (climate scientist); and
* Dr Seb Pitman (coastal geomorphologist).

Please read this handout carefully as it will help to ensure that you succeed in the course. It contains basic information about how the course is structured, taught and assessed, what you are expected to do, and when you need to do it (see summary in Table 1). If you have any problems or difficulties in the course, see your lab teaching assistants, lecturers or the GEOG109 coordinator.

GEOG109 is one of three complementary courses for Geography 100-level, each providing you with a good insight into the space and place based analysis approaches that are a hallmark of UC Geography. The level coordinator for GEOG100 is: Dr Heather Purdie: [Heather.Purdie@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:Heather.Purdie@canterbury.ac.nz).

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of GEOG109, students should:

* be able to define the extent and nature of atmospheric, coastal and selected terrestrial environments;
* have an understanding of the key forces that shape these environments and of the time and space scales over which they evolve;
* be able to explain the occurrence of the main features of these environments (e.g. why certain landforms or circulation systems occur where and when they do);
* have an appreciation, from global to catchment scales, of the role of humans as agents of Earth system change;
* be able to explain the main features of physical-human system interactions; and
* have practiced a set of web, spreadsheet, lab and intellectual skills needed to explore atmospheric, ocean and terrestrial system patterns, including their influence on biological and geomorphic evolution and in climate and weather.

### Course requirements

You must complete all of the course requirements to be eligible to pass. That is, to be eligible to be credited with a pass in GEOG109, you must meet the following course requirements:

* **participate satisfactorily in lab classes;**
* **participate satisfactorily in course online quizzes;**
* **submit an essay assignment; and**
* **pass the final exam.**

Table 1. GEOG109 Course Timetable 2019\*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course week number | Week start date | Lec B Mon | Lec A Wed | Lec C Thurs | Lab | Internal Assessment |  |
|  |
| 1 | 18-Feb | Introduction (DH+ all) | **Topic 1: Ocean to Earth (DH)** |  | no lab |  |  |
| 2 | 25-Feb |  |  |  | Lab 1 (DH) |  |  |
| 3 | 4-Mar |  |  |  | Lab 2 (DH) | Quiz 1 (DH) |  |
| 4 | 11-Mar | **Topic 2: Earth’s geomorphology (CB)** |  |  | no lab |  |  |
| 5 | 18-Mar |  |  |  | Lab 3 (CB) |  |  |
| 6 | 25-Mar |  |  |  | Lab 4 (CB) | Quiz 2 (CB) |  |
| 7 | 1-Apr | **Topic 3: Atmosphere (PZ)** |  |  | no lab | Essay due |  |
|  |  |  | Term Break |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | 29-Apr |  |  |  | Lab 5 (PZ) |  |  |
| 9 | 6-May |  |  | **Topic 4: Beaches & coastal processes (SP)** | Lab 6 (PZ) | Quiz 3 (PZ) |  |
| 10 | 13-May |  |  |  | Lab 7 (SP) |  |  |
| 11 | 20-May |  |  |  | Lab 8 (SP) | Quiz 4 (SP) |  |
| 12 | 27-May |  | Wrap-up (DH+ all) | no lec | no lab | Quiz 5 (all) |  |

\*Lecturers key: DH, Deirdre Hart; CB, Colin Ballantyne; PZ, Peyman Zawar-Reza; SP, Seb Pitman.

\*\*CIS (online course information system for some lab venue info): http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo/GetCourseDetails.aspx?course=GEOG109&occurrence=19S1(C)&year=2019

\*Labs – in the physical laboratory room ER164 you need to wear covered footwear and leave all food in your bag, as it is not safe to consume it in the physical lab. Water bottles are permitted in this space.

### Course structure and delivery

GEOG109 is structured into several blocks (Table 1), each with associated lectures, labs and assessment items. From this page you can find the GEOG109 Course Information Page (CIS) with details of lectures and venues:

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo/GetCourses.aspx?orgunitcode=GEOG&year=2019>

Most lectures are face-to-face in lecture theatres. Please check the web for up-to-date lecture times/venues – **but refer to Table 1 for lab weeks and venues**. You are also expected to familiarise yourself with the Moodle LEARN software, our web-based course system (see assistance information on last page of this handout) as this is how you can submit essay assignments, check grades, and obtain lab and lecture information. It is important that you log in and start working with the course LEARN pages from the first week of teaching onwards.

### Workload, including reading

You are expected to spend about ten hours of your working week on this course (averaged over the semester). These hours should be planned as follows:

* 3 hours each week on lectures;
* 2 hours in selected weeks in labs; and
* 5+ hours self-directed time for readings**,** online quizzes, working on assignments, preparing for class, and reviewing notes.

You are expected to read and analyse specific chapters of this year’s course text: You are expected to read and analyse specific chapters of this year’s course text: Holden, J. (Ed.). (2017). *An introduction to physical geography and the environment*. (4th edition), Pearson Education, United Kingdom.

This text is available in the UC Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, at the UBS bookshop, and can be purchased as an ebook online from: <http://www.pearsoned.co.nz/9781292083575>. Additional readings will be linked to some lectures, labs and assignments on the course *Moodle Learn* pages (i.e. online). You are expected to read any set reading(s) for the lecture each week – each lecturer will let you know when best to do this (before or after the lecture or lab) in class and/or via the week’s Learn page.

You are also expected to consult the library electronic databases widely (e.g. Scopus or Web of Science) for journal articles and other literature for course assignments. Please do not simply rely on Google or Google Scholar searches for research materials (to find out why, do a web search to find out about your ‘filter bubble’).

### Assessment

Make sure that you fulfil the course requirements (see earlier) - if you don’t complete these then, even if you get over 50% in assessment, you cannot pass the course. Assessment is spread over both terms and requires you to start working from the first week. Formal assessment for the course is as follows/ as outlined in Table 2:

* 30% literature essay assignment;
* 30% online quizzes (your best 4 out of 5 online quizzes: based on labs, readings and lectures); and
* 40% end of course exam (2 hour).

See Table 1 for weeks when internal assessment is due, and see Learn for due dates and online submission links.

### Missed quizzes

If you miss a quiz for reasons of *accident, illness or bereavement*, please email the course coordinator the details of the missed quiz number (e.g. 1 to 5) and quiz date, and attach to this email some official evidence of the accident, illness or bereavement for our records. If your reason is approved by the Department, this will enable the course coordinator to give you an averaged result for this quiz at the end of the course. If you miss a quiz due to a different reason (e.g. not meeting the deadline on time, workload pressures etc.), please do not email asking for allowances to be made or an average grade to be awarded – allowances are only made for the 3 reasons given above under Geography policy so any such request will unfortunately have to be declined. Quizzes are never re-opened for individuals in GEOG109. But not to worry as in GEOG109, your quiz grade is the average of your top 4 out of 5 quizzes – so if you only mistakenly miss one quiz then it shouldn’t be a problem for your final grade.

### Essay assignment

You will be given separate guidelines for the essay assignment set during this course, including practical guidance on how to go about researching your topic and writing it up. In addition, you should consult the UC Academic Skills Centre online essay writing webpage: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/asc/services/resources/>. Also, see the library search and skills workshop links: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/library/>, and <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/asc/services/workshops/>. For exams, see: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/library/search-our-collections/exam-papers/>.

The GEOG109 internal assignment, a literature based essay, must be submitted in the form of a Microsoft Word file, online via Learn (which processes assignments through the copying checking software programme *Turnitin*). Please follow the electronic submission guidelines online carefully as allowances are generally not made for failed submissions. Also, consider computer network failures – don’t plan on submitting your assignment at the last minute. You may wish to submit written assignments early to take advantage of the *Turnitin* option for an initial originality report, polishing your work and resubmitting it by the due date. Note that *Turnitin* requires between 1 and 24 hours to provide an originality report so submit a few days before your due date to allow time for the report to be generated, for you to make any changes, and to resubmit your final polished version.

Assessment is marked by a combination of Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs) and lecturers using the standard grading system detailed in the UC Geography Undergraduate Handout. Essay marks are given for content, understanding of the topic, quality of your argument, and your research skills as demonstrated via appropriate use of relevant, quality (e.g. peer reviewed journal articles) reference material. Your essay assignment marks will also reflect the clarity of structure of your work, grammar, spelling and correct use of references as cited in the main essay body and in ‘References’ at the end. If you feel your work has not been marked fairly, or if you would like further explanation of the mark, see your STA, or the course co-ordinator. She may arrange for a third party to reassess it.

### Labs

Labs form an essential and examinable part of GEOG109. Everyone is allocated to one of the timetabled lab streams as part of the enrolment process - please check the web for the most up to date times and venues for your stream. At the beginning of the course you need to check your enrolment information (or the GEOG109 Learn pages) for your allocated lab stream: this lab should reflect your availability. You can change labs only with good reason: see Kathy Hogarth (Administrator on Level 5 of the Geography Building) to change labs if necessary. Please complete Table 2 with the details relevant toyou during your first lab.

Table 2. My GEOG109 lab details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lab time and day: |  |
| Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) name:  (in charge of your lab and essay marking) |  |
| STA contact and details and office hours: |  |
| Teaching Assistant (TA) name(s): |  |

It is sometimes possible as a one-off to attend another lab class if you miss your own. For example if you are unwell and miss your Monday lab, but you are better by Wednesday, then please do go along to any remaining lab of the week you can attend and talk with your own STA as well as with the STA whose lab you go to for that occasion, to make sure that your attendance record is correctly by both on Learn. Do this in the week that you swap labs so that records are up to date as it can be tricky to prove that you attended another lab many months down the track.

You should attend your lab class at the specified time during the lab weeks outlined in Table 1 (except in extraordinary circumstances, such as illness) – there will be no labs held during the unmarked weeks. The Table 1 labs are essential components of the course since you need them for completing the course assignments and learning towards the quizzes and exam. Make sure your lab attendance record is correct on Learn as the course progresses, or talk to your STA earlier rather than later if you think a mistake has been made.

The purpose of the lab programme is to provide opportunity to explore course themes in more detail, and to gain practice in using geographical vocabulary, skills, techniques and gear. The lab programme requires a mix of group and individual in-lab work and pre-lab preparation. Satisfactory completion of labs is recorded on the central record on Learn by your STA. No previous technical background is assumed but those who wish to extend their learning beyond the labs can do so using resources throughout the Geography and GEOG109 web pages.

Each lab stream is the responsibility of a STA (generally graduate research students) and Teaching Assistant (TA, generally experienced Honours or Masters students). STAs keep office hours and you should discuss any problems related to labs with them. A list of STAs and email contacts will be published on Learn. If you have a problem that your STA cannot help with, they may refer you to the course or 100-level coordinator.

For any web-based labs, you need to complete the first, web part in your own time *before* the scheduled lab time. If you have difficulty completing the lab, a STA will be able to assist as indicated in the lab handout. After successfully completing the web part of the lab, you will then have exercises and debrief discussion and marking session in your usual lab class. Your web-based lab work should be shown to your STA, who will mark it, and record that you have completed the exercise so that your attendance record is complete. Please remember that you cannot pass GEOG109 without satisfactory lab attendance.

### UC Geography Undergraduate Handbook

This course handout is designed to be read in conjunction with the Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury (UC) Geography Undergraduate Handbook: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/media/documents/oexp-science/geography/GEOG2018\_Undergrad\_HBK.pdf. The Geography Handbook contains vital information applicable to all undergraduate geography courses, which you are expected to read carefully. An edited extract of some key information from the Undergraduate Handbook is included, for convenience, at the end of this course handout.

Course coordinator’s message

We hope that you enjoy GEOG109 and look forward to getting to know you throughout this course. Please ask questions in class, talk to your lecturers before and after class about our lecture content or the course, and generally interact with staff so that you get the most out of the GEOG109 experience and we are able to respond to your areas of interest in our teaching (face-to-face at either end of lectures is ideal for a fast answer where possible - you will need to be patient with us via email as we manage a term-time ‘onslaught’ of around 200 emails per day).

Ngā mihi,

Dr Deirdre Hart

[deirdre.hart@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:deirdre.hart@canterbury.ac.nz)

Undergraduate Course Information

# Course resources

Most information for Geography courses, including handouts and a host of resources, are supplied through LEARN and via email. You should regularly look at the specific course LEARN homepage and check your University email. If you have problems with your account or web access, contact Paul Bealing, [paul.bealing@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:paul.bealing@canterbury.ac.nz)

# Want your best grades?

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/asc/> We HIGHLY recommend you use the UC Academic Skills Centre Pokapū Pūkenga Ako, free to all UC students and including online resources, short courses, and individual 50-minute or drop-in 5-min appointments for help improving assignments. Every student should consider using the Academic Skills Centre. Note that 50-min appointments fill up fast around due dates.

# Disability or medical condition?

Students with a disability or medical condition are advised to contact the Disability Support Service, especially if you intend to participate in labs or field trips: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/.

Behaviour

UC promotes a world class learning environment, where students are free to pursue academic interests in an environment that balances individual rights and collective responsibilities. Please familiarise yourself with the UC Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/ucpolicylibrary/GetPolicy.aspx?file=Student-Code-Of-Conduct.pdf>

All members of the UC community are bound by the laws of New Zealand. Any actual or suspected breach of law will be referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation. UC regards harassment of any kind, whether on or off campus, as unacceptable. UC reserves the right to take action to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of harassment and to prosecute offenders: see the Harassment Policy via the policy library link: [www.canterbury.ac.nz/ucpolicy](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/ucpolicy). Please note that such behaviour can ultimately result in perpetrators being expelled/ trespassed.

The University has several other key policies and procedures that apply to staff and students, available via the UC Policy Library.

# Course feedback, issues

Class reps are student representatives who provide an important link between classes and lecturers by acting as a liaison. Class reps are the first point of contact for help resolving class issues at a low level, helping to avoid bigger problems later on. Class reps also provide the UCSA with student views and help them keep in touch with issues and concerns. We ask for reps at the start of a course - if you are considering the role, note that it makes for a nice addition to your CV.

If you would like further explanation of an assessment mark received, see your marker first. If you feel that your work has not been marked fairly, see the course coordinator who may have the work reassessed. If there is a problem relating to the course, attempt first to resolve it by discussion with your lecturer (possibly via the class rep). If there is no resolution, see the course coordinator. Should there still remain issues, you can approach the Head of Department, or seek advice from the University Grievance Advisor, or the UCSA.

# Grading

A uniform grading scheme is used in Geography:

A+ Exceptional, superb! 90-100%

A Excellent 85-89%

A- Very good 80-84% B+ Good 75-79%

B Competent 70-74%

B- OK 65-69%

C+ Satisfactory 60-64%

C Pass 55-59%

C- Very marginal pass 50-54%

D Fail 40-49%

E Pretty awful! 0-39%

# Special consideration

For assessment items worth ≥10%, you may apply for special consideration if your performance is affected by extenuating circumstances beyond your control (e.g. illness, injury, bereavement or another critical circumstance). Applications are made via http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/. Prior to applying for such consideration, check with your course coordinator in case other options are more appropriate (e.g. an extension).

# Extensions and late work

Extensions are given in exceptional circumstances of illness, accident or bereavement (not for workload issues). Use the official ‘Extension Request’ form available from level 5 in the Geography Department, and take it to a course coordinator. Only course coordinators can give extensions. Major coursework work (≥10%) handed in late without an extension is subject to the following penalties: up to 1 week late = 2 grade penalty (e.g. A to B+); more than 1 week late but before coursework handback = 4 grade penalty (e.g. A to B-); after course-work handback = 8 grade penalty (e.g. A to D). In many courses, all assessment must be completed, however late, as a requirement to pass the course.

# Dishonest and improper practices

Every year several students fail Geography courses due to dishonest or improper practices. These include, but are not limited to, copying other students’ work, copying or not correctly citing, quoting and/or referencing web or literature sources, plagiarism, sharing UC login details, and bringing notes into a closed-book exam. Please note that in many courses, assignments are processed through the plagiarism checking tool Turnitin ([http://turnitin.](http://turnitin/) com/) to check for copying within years, with previous years, across published and online literature and information sources, and to store work for comparison with future courses. For hard copy assignment submissions, Geography has an assignment cover sheet requiring you to read and sign an honesty declaration. Equivalent declarations are included with a tick box in online submissions.

Students are offered help in 100-level courses to understand what plagiarism and other types of inappropriate academic practice are, and how to avoid them. A useful guide can be found at: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/library/support/citations-and-referencing/. Ultimately it is YOUR responsibility to make sure you know what dishonest academic practices are and to avoid them. Do not share electronic copies of individual course work with other students – if you do and this work is submitted in part or whole by another, then you will face consequences, alongside the copier of your material. If someone needs help, provide verbal advice – do not share your files.

If your assignment contains problematic material, you will be invited to meet with the HOD and course coordinator to explain. If you choose not to meet, or cannot offer acceptable explanation, then you may receive a zero grade or be referred to a UC Proctor for investigation (this happens to someone every year!). Your UC grades may be withheld until the case is resolved. If you are found guilty of any kind of dishonest academic practice, your details will be recorded on the university’s dishonest practice register for 10 years.

# Useful links

Online resources: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/asc/services/resources/> and http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/library/support/

Academic Integrity Guidelines: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about/governance/ucpolicy/

Academic Integrity/ Breach of Instructions Regs: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general-regulations/academic-integrity-and-breach-of-instruction-regulations/