

# PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY 12 SELF-PACED ONLINE

Instructor: Mr. Stanley Lau  
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Instructor Schedule: Monday & Wednesday, 4:00pm - 9:00pm  
Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00am - 2:00pm

CLOC Learning Centre Hours:

Monday – Friday, 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Monday – Thursday, 4:00pm - 9:00pm  
The Learning Centre is closed all statutory and school holidays

## Introduction

Physical Geography 12 is a comprehensive course that covers a wide-ranging group of topics from a variety of disciplines within geography.

The following big ideas are emphasized:

- Incorporating data from a variety of sources allows us to better understand our globally connected world.
- Natural processes have an impact on the landscape and human settlement.
- Interactions between human activities and the atmosphere affect local and global weather and climate.

## Curricular Competencies:

In Physical Geography 12, students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Use geographic inquiry processes and geographic literacy skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data and ideas from a variety of sources and spatial/temporal scales; and communicate findings and decisions (evidence and interpretation)
- Assess the significance of places by identifying the physical and/or human features that characterize them (sense of place)
- Assess the interpretations of geographic evidence after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence and interpretation)
- Draw conclusions about the variation and distribution of geographic phenomena over time and space (patterns and trends)
- Evaluate how particular geographic actions or events affect human practices or outcomes (geographical value judgments)
- Evaluate features or aspects of geographic phenomena or locations to explain what makes them worthy of attention or recognition (geographical importance)
- Identify and assess how human and environmental factors and events influence each other (interactions and associations)
- Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial actions in the past and/or present, and determine whether we have a responsibility to respond (geographical value judgments)

## Content:

In Physical Geography 12, Students are expected to know the following:

- structure of, feedback within, and equilibrium of natural systems
- distinguishing features of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere
- connections and interactions between the spheres
- features and processes of plate tectonics and their effects on human and natural systems
- features and processes of gradation and their effects on human and natural systems
- natural disasters and their effects on human and natural systems
- features and processes of Sun–Earth interactions and resulting patterns of climate, landscapes, and ecosystems
- climate, weather, and interactions between humans and the atmosphere
- characteristics of global biomes, including climate, soil, and vegetation
- features and processes of the anthroposphere and their effects on natural systems
- natural resources and sustainability

## Learning Resources:

### Required Texts

*Planet Earth: A Physical Geography*, Birchall/McCutcheon

*Understanding Our Environment*, Second Edition, Dunlop/Jackson

### Course Moodle Site:

<http://sd43.bcln.ca/course/view.php?id=931>

The above site serves as the key place to obtain your coursework. There are also additional links, videos, and presentations available to aid you in your coursework.

### Unit Overviews:

For each unit, a “Unit Overview” is provided which specifically lays out the required reading, assignments, quizzes, exams and other learning materials required to complete each unit. You must always consult the Unit Overview when starting a new unit.

### Assignments:

Some assignments are “optional”; it is highly suggested that you attempt these optional assignments for your own preparation and review of the course work so that you are better prepared for the unit quizzes and exams. The “optional” assignments are **not for marks** and are **not to be submitted**. Some of these optional assignments will give you an idea of the type of written response questions you may encounter on the unit exams and final exam.

Other assignments are required; these assignments will need to be completed and submitted to the instructor for grading. Please follow the specific instructions provided in the “Unit Overviews” and Moodle site as some assignments will be done directly via the course Moodle site while others will need to be printed out and submitted in-person or via email.

### Quizzes:

Most quizzes consist of 10-15 multiple choice and/or matching questions. These quizzes are done online at CLOC under the supervision of our teachers. The quizzes are timed so that you get 1 minute per question. So, a quiz with 10 questions will have a time limit of 10 minutes. You are welcome to come in to write multiple quizzes at the same time to reduce the number of trips you make to CLOC. The quizzes are each only worth 1% of the course. There are **NO REWRITES**.

## Exams

Each unit has an exam that will be written at CLOC under the supervision of our teachers. These exams will consist of both multiple choice and written response questions. The multiple choice questions will be similar to the ones from the quizzes. The written questions may be similar to the assignment questions (both optional and required) that you had in the unit. That is why it is worth taking a look at the optional assignments, even though they are not for marks. The time limit for unit exams is 90 minutes.

### Final exam

At the end of the course, you will have a final exam that covers all 5 units for the course. The Final will be written at CLOC under the supervision of our teachers. The exam will consist of both multiple choice and written response questions. The time limit for Final exam is 120 minutes.

### Grading Scale

|    |            |
|----|------------|
| A  | 86% - 100% |
| B  | 73% – 85%  |
| C+ | 67% – 72%  |
| C  | 60% – 66%  |
| C- | 50% – 59%  |
| F  | below 49%  |

### Evaluation:

Evaluation in Physical Geography 12 will include 5 unit tests, assignments, quizzes and a final exam. There is **NO REWRITES** for the unit tests, quizzes, assignments or final exam. Refer to the “Score Report” for the weighting of each assessment.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- Students are expected to complete this course within a 10-month period. Students may be withdrawn for inactivity at any time if satisfactory progress is not made.
- Students are expected to complete 5% of course material within the first month after registration.
- A final mark will be assigned to all students who complete at least 65% of the course requirements exclusive of the comprehensive final exam.