



College of Liberal Arts and Social
Sciences
Geography Program

FAÑOMNĀKAN (SPRING) 2025

PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

GE – 203-01

**Tuesday & Thursdays
(LECTURES)
11:00 AM – 12:20 PM**

**Thursdays (LABS)
8:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

**LOCATION:
ROOM 207**

DR. JOSE EDGARDO L. ABAN

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Office: Room 209

Telephone: (671) 735-2874

Office Hours:

Mondays	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Tuesdays	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Wednesdays	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Principles of Physical Geography! This science course will be using an Earth Systems approach to examine the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. We will be paying particular attention to processes, cycles, and scale and explore exciting topics such as climate, geomorphology, oceanography, freshwater systems, soils, biomes, and plate tectonics.

There is complimentary, compulsory, weekly Physical Geography Laboratory that will be held on Thursdays from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, it is expected that you will be able to

- understand the fundamentals of the major Earth systems and their relationships to each other;
- become familiar with quantitative and spatial reasoning through data analysis;
- Be able to manipulate, plot, and analyze various types of data through the use of tools;
- Become familiar with the scientific method and its importance in physical geography;
- Understand how humans interact and affect Earth systems; and

- Be comfortable using online resources such as UOG Moodle.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES (PLOs) FOR GEOGRAPHY

There are four major learning objectives for the Geography Program. Achieving the GE203 CLOs (see previous section) are direct links to these broader PLOs. Should you decide to minor in Geography, it is expected that you will have fulfilled the following PLOs upon completion of your minor:

1. **Physical Geography**
Explain and analyze knowledge of facts, functions, and processes of complex earth systems, as well as the methods and techniques used to study these systems. (M)
2. **Human Geography**
Specify complex and changing demographic, population, political, economic, cultural and environmental patterns within a global context. (I)
3. **GIS/Mapping**
Understand and apply analytical methods (e.g., map reading, statistics, advanced geospatial technologies) to geospatial phenomena. (I)
4. **Environmental Synthesis**
Synthesize, evaluate and predict changing human and physical interactive Earth patterns in a spatial environmental framework with special emphasis on the Asia Pacific. (R)

*(I) indicates that this course introduces this particular objective.

(R) indicates that this course re-enforces this particular objective.

(M) indicates that this course was specifically designed with this particular objective in mind.

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES (ILOs) of UOG

In addition to the PLOs, the CLOs also support the ILOs of UOG. By the time you graduate, it is expected that you have achieved the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate mastery of critical skills, theories, methodologies, and other content knowledge at a level that will enable them to address fundamental questions in their primary area of study (R)
2. Plan, conduct, and complete a significant research or creative project (I)
3. Exercise oral and written communication skills sufficient to publish and present work in their field; (I)
4. Adhere to the ethical principles of academia and their respective disciplines in course work, fieldwork, and other appropriate situations; and (R)
5. Exemplify, through service, the value of their discipline to the academy and the community at large, interacting productively and professionally with people from diverse backgrounds. (I)

Notes

*(I) indicates that this course introduces this particular objective.

(R) indicates that this course re-enforces this particular objective.

(M) indicates that this course was specifically designed with this particular objective in mind.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Christopherson, RW & Birkeland, GH (2015) *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 9e*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODS

- The course will be delivered face-to-face. However, the following **Online Services** will be utilized and exploited for the delivery of course contents, online discussions and consultations, coordination, as well as the conduct of quizzes (if any) and long exams/finals. As such, students are expected to have access to any of these devices (connected to the

Internet) such as a mobile phone, an Ipad, tablet, or a PC laptop, most specially during scheduled exams. It is important all students must have access to these systems/services for effective delivery of educational content as well as ideal learning experience.

- **UoG Moodle**
- **Google Docs and Google Forms (for quizzes, long exams and Final Exams)**
- **Google Video and/or Youtube**

- **UOG MOODLE**

- All course materials (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides, supplementary readings) will be available on UOG Moodle (<http://moodle.uog.edu>). Therefore you must self register yourself using the key to be given later by email.
- Lecture slides generally get posted in the UoG Course Moodle a few days after the lecture. You will be notified of major announcements, such as changes in the syllabus or class, or extra-credit opportunities through the Moodle forum. **When you register in Moodle, please do so with your official name, as it is listed under Web Advisor.** If you are having problems with your account or with Moodle, please call UOG Moodle Support at (671) 735-2620 or send an email to moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu. You are also expected to monitor our course materials in UOG Moodle
- You will be expected to submit some of the assessments and assignments through Moodle, so start familiarizing yourself with the Web site. Furthermore, if you have questions on the material covered in class or would like to start a forum to discuss a particular topic more in-depth, I encourage you to use Moodle.
- If you are having problems with your account or with Moodle, please call UOG Moodle Support at (671) 735-2620 or send an email to moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu.
- While Moodle is an excellent tool, **please do not use it to communicate** with me. If you would like to contact us, please email me directly. All UOG students are provided with a university email account. You are expected to monitor it. You can forward your official UOG email to a personal account, but please note that UOG will not be responsible for service interruptions or security breaches of other email providers. .

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

All UOG students are provided with a university email account. You are expected to monitor it. You can forward your official UOG email to a personal account, but please note that UOG will not be responsible for service interruptions or security breaches of other email providers. You are also expected to monitor our course materials in UOG Moodle.

CLASS ATTENDANCE RULES ON CONDUCT

Attendance will be monitored and taken at the beginning of every class. Be sure to check in on the designated time of the class. Three “lates” will be one unexcused absence.

Should you have **six unexcused absences, it will be an automatic F**. Excused absences are at the discretion of the professor and usually require proof (e.g., doctor’s note, military orders, jury duty notice). Please notify me of an excused absence prior to class; you will be responsible to make up the work.

If you have an *unexcused* absence for the day of a quiz, assessment, or group work, you will not be allowed to make up the work.

PLAGIARISM

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarized work is an automatic failure. This is an extremely serious offense in higher education. The UOG Student Handbook strictly prohibits plagiarism. If you intentionally or unintentionally fail to give credit for information (in the form of written work, art, music, statistical data) or ideas that are not your own, you are violating the intellectual property rights of the original author. Evidence of plagiarism in any assignment will result in an “F” grade,

and a possible hearing at the Student Discipline Committee. For a clear explanation of plagiarism, watch this video: <http://www.commoncraft.com/video/plagiarism>. You will also have to watch this video during class.

EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

For this course, we will rely heavily on the use of the Android App called **GPS Essentials**. This has been dubbed as the ‘**Swiss Knife**’ of Android Apps for field works, specially for Geology and Geography. You can download the APK from the site below or directly install via Google Play Store.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mictale.gpsessentials&hl=en>

EVALUATIONS

You will be regularly assessed via online reading quizzes, exams, and labs throughout the course in order to measure your comprehension of the material.

Long Exams (4)	40%
Final Exam	10%
Labs (and possible fieldworks with reports)	50%
TOTAL	100%

LATE ASSESSMENTS AND LABS

In general, I do not accept late assignments. Late assignments will be marked as 0 or F. There are no make-up assessments, quizzes, or assignments for unexcused absences. However, I do make exceptions (e.g., death in the family, sickness, natural hazards) on a case-by-case basis.

New Policy:				Log No. 6412
Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percent Grade	Definition	
A+	4.00	98-100%	Outstanding	Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	4.00	93-97%		
A-	3.67	90-92%		
B+	3.33	87-89%	Good	Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	3.00	83-86%		
B-	2.67	80-82%		
C+	2.33	77-79%	Adequate	Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
C	2.00	70-76%		
D	1.00	60-69%	Deficient	Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
F	0.00	<60%	Failure	Inadequate to receive credits.
P			Pass	
I			Incomplete	
NC			No Credit	

The percentage values listed above must be used in every course unless specified otherwise in the official catalog course description.

Current Policy: No policy concerning percentage values of grades.

SCHEDULE

Below is a general outline of the course. A more detailed schedule that would include the laboratory and field works (and dates) will be provided shortly. This may be subject to change.

Time Frame	Topic	Readings
Part 1 - Energy/Atmosphere System		
Week 1	Course Introduction and Orientation.	=
Week 2	Essentials of Geography Solar Energy to Earth & the Seasons	Ch1 Ch2
Week 3	Earth's Modern Atmosphere Atmosphere and Surface Energy Balance	Ch3 Ch4
Week 4	Global Temperatures Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	Ch5 Ch6
Part 2- Water, Weather, & Clim.Sys.		
Week 5	Water & Atmospheric Moisture Weather, Hydrologic Cycle	Ch7 Ch8
Week 6	Water Resources Climate Systems and Climate Change	Ch9 Ch10
Week 7	Climate Change	Ch11
Part 3-The Earth-Atmosphere Interface		
Week 8		
Week 9)	Dynamic Planet Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism	Ch12 Ch13
Week 10	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS & LAB)	
Week 11	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement Fluvial Processes	Ch14 Ch15
Week 12		
Week 13	Oceans, Coastal Processes, and Wind Processes	Ch16
Week 14	Glacial and Periglacial landscapes	Ch17
Week 15	Soils	Ch18
Week 16	Ecosystem Essentials, Terrestrial Biomes	Ch19 Ch20

STUDENT CONDUCT

All UOG students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University of Guam Rules, Regulations and Procedures Manual (available at www.uogonline.com/gateway/forms/rules_regs_proc_man.pdf). I maintain the right to provide a positive learning environment in the physical classroom and online. Some general house rules:

- Respect yourselves and respect each other (in the classroom and online).
- If you are confused or have a question, ask (if you do not want anyone else hearing you, you can do it via Moodle, email, or during office hours).

- Do not cheat. Do not do someone else's homework for them. You are committing a great disservice. Do not let someone else do your homework for you. You are forfeiting an opportunity to learn.

ADA Policy and Commitment to Student Learning

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community free of all forms of discrimination and harassment in all programs, activities, and employment practices as required by Title VII and Title IX and other applicable statutes and policies. If you experience harassment or discrimination, report it immediately to the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office, at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, 671-735-2244 (TTY) or eeoada@triton.uog.edu. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

ADA Accommodation Services— For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a student with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2505.

Physical geography is awesome! Your brains will grow by learning new things! I hope you enjoy this class!