



GEOGRAPHY 1100 (570)
Fundamentals of Geography
Fall 2026 / Winter 2027

Instructor: Dr. Brennan Vogel
Email: bvogel@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: in-person

Calendar Description:

A systematic descriptive introduction to the diverse elements of landscape including geomorphic, climatic, and biotic elements, human settlement and land-use patterns; cartographic approaches to the analysis of selected processes of landscape change; an introduction to the synthesis of elements and processes in spatial systems models.

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s): Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: GEOGRAPH

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.



Geography 1100

(570)

Fall 2026 / Winter 2027

The Fundamentals of Geography

Course Instructor: Dr. Brennan Vogel BES MA PhD

Email: bvogel@uwo.ca

Office Hours:

By Email Appointment, Online Only

This course offers a systematic introduction to the academic discipline of Geography, including Physical Geography and Human Geography sub-disciplines. The course covers: geomorphic, climatic, and biotic elements; as well as human settlement and land-use patterns; cartographic approaches to the analysis of selected processes of landscape change; and an introduction to the synthesis of Geographic thought processes in spatial systems models of research and analysis.

Prerequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): Geography 1300A/B, 1400F/G

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in this course, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

GEO 1100 (570): The Fundamentals of Geography

GEO 1100 (570) is intended as an introduction to the broad academic discipline known as Geography for a multi-disciplinary audience. GEO 1100 (570) has been designed to combine a diversity of learning activities (e.g. online learning activities done on students' individual, self-led schedule at the time most convenient to the student). GEO 1100 (570) relies on the utilization of the McGraw Hill Connect Learning Management System as well as the OWL Brightspace Learning Management System, complimenting in-class lectures with online learning activities. This course begins May 4 2026 and ends July 24 2026, honouring all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies (<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>).

Throughout GEO 1100 (570), students are encouraged to engage respectfully and connect meaningfully with peers and the instructor. Online course resources and materials allow for ample opportunities to applicably engage in self-led learning. Making the most of the self-led learning opportunities available requires that students take individual responsibility for their own pace of progress. Timely individual completion of online course activities and learning assessments involved with asynchronous learning supports students success in GEO 1100 (570).

On-demand office hours with the instructor are available upon request.

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online

My name is Dr. Brennan Vogel, PhD. I am available to support students during regular working hours Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm ET. Academic consultations and student support are available by appointment, on demand and as necessary. Please contact me by email for an individual appointment at: bvogel@uwo.ca. I will typically respond within 48 hours on weekdays.

Approach:

Overall, this course encourages students to develop greater understanding and appreciation for the Geographical interrelationships between humankind and the global environment, and topical examples and contemporary case studies are used to help illustrate these interrelationships. The objective of the course is to provide students from all backgrounds with an introductory overview of the discipline of Geography and its two main sub-disciplines of Physical Geography and Human Geography. Throughout the course, students have opportunities to independently explore and learn more about the inter-related array of knowledge areas and research sub-topics that coalesce under the broad discipline of Geography. Topics covered in this course include: Geographic approaches to mapping (past and present); physical earth processes, geology and landforms; meteorological phenomena, weather and climate; geographies of human population and migration; cultural and political phenomena; cities and the urban environment; and Geographic approaches to critically understanding the Geography of current social, economic and environmental issues. The course introduces students to the discipline of Geography with attention given to the theoretical and historical foundations of the 'Geographic Worldview' and the two main sub-disciplines - Physical and Human Geography. Students will have opportunities for surveying and exploring various sub-topics of Geography. An introduction to the "spatial tools of the trade" that Geographers and Cartographers use for mapping, considers both historical and technological approaches to navigation, cartographic map-making and modern day geo-spatial analysis. Students will consider cases and examples of selected aspects of the world's Physical Geography, including Landforms, Weather and Climate. Under the broad sub-disciplines of Human Geography, topics explored include: Human Spatial Interaction, Population & Cultural Geography, Urban Planning & Design, Economic Geography, Political Geography and Environmental Studies.

** GEO 1100 (570) seeks to be universally accessible to all students and accommodation needs associated with university undergraduate learning. If you require specific academic accommodations and/or need specific academic supports for online learning, please contact me directly by email at: bvogel@uwo.ca. Please also refer to the Academic Policy Statements and Student Supports section of this Syllabus for further information.*

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students will:

1. Be able to discuss & differentiate between the origins of the discipline of Geography and its two main sub-disciplines
2. Be aware of basic milestones in the development of the discipline of Geography, such as through advances in mapping tools and technologies and understanding of land use changes over time
3. Be able to do basic map interpretation including the use of geographic coordinates, latitude and longitude, scale and legends, as well as knowledge of different types of maps & map projections
4. Have an increased awareness & knowledge of Earth's geographical diversity (both physical and human), achieved through gaining a greater appreciation for the social and physical processes that are active in shaping the world, from the local and regional scale to the national and global level
5. Have been introduced to the concept of "thinking spatially" in relation to current environmental issues and ways of interpreting geographic landscapes through an improved awareness of socio-ecological and geo-political phenomena and the impacts of human activities on the Earth and natural processes
6. Have an expanded geographic vocabulary and knowledge capabilities for expressing critical thoughts and ideas spatially, for example by using maps and other Geographic tools and thought processes to engage in contemporary analyses and critique related to topical subjects and issues

Statement on Course Evaluations & Accommodations:

*Students are individually responsible for all of the organizational and preparation activities required to complete all graded course evaluations and learning activities **on time**. Completing cumulative online reading assignments, participating in online learning activities (including forums), completing online quizzes, as well as completing online assignments are all the student's individual responsibility in the online learning environment. No extensions will be granted, unless under extraordinary circumstances.*

Reasonable accommodations for extensions will be considered by the instructor only when student's provide sufficient advance email notice (>48 hours) and/or verifiable explanations with respect to accommodation requests related to late or incomplete work and/or assignment extension requests, supported by Academic Counselling.

The instructor commits to conducting the course in a manner that maintains an academic atmosphere, that is conducive to learning, and that fosters mutual respect. In return, students are expected to exemplify behaviour that contributes to achieving this shared goal. Students are individually responsible for self-led learning and regular participation in asynchronous course activities as expected. It is the students' responsibility to acquire material and/or information that may have been missed, and/or make accommodations with the Instructor.

Course Materials:

Technical requirements for this course include a stable internet connection and a computer. All course related educational resources and graded activities for this course will primarily be conducted using the 'Introduction to Geography' e-textbook available through McGraw Hill Connect with complimentary foundational resources and online grading and submission of assignments provided through the UWO OWL Brightspace.

OWL Brightspace Learning System

Access: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login?logout=1>

If you are unfamiliar with using UWO OWL Brightspace, introductory instructions for using the platform are provided here: <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/>

McGraw Hill Connect

E-Text: Getis, Getis, Bjelland, and Fellmann, Introduction to Geography, 16th ed., McGraw Hill, 2020

Please note that this textbook is available in a variety of other formats, but this course will be offered using the McGraw Hill Connect Smart Book e-textbook and the supporting, mandatory online learning software. Completing Online Reading Assignments, Quizzes and Online Assignments requires McGraw Hill Connect Smart Book.

Students can purchase the required MHC online textbook and education package for \$99 CAD at the following website:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2026&courses%5B0%5D=570> KC/GEOGENV1100

Course Grading Rubric

Mid-Term Exam & Final Exam / 40%

Students are required to complete a mandatory mid-term exam (10%) and final exam (30%), combined worth 40% of the final grade. Further details regarding the examination format will be shared throughout the course. No extensions will be granted. Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Online Quizzes / 30%

The grading format for this course includes six multiple choice and true and false quizzes to be completed in McGraw Hill Connect (MHC). Complete the MHC time-allocated quizzes (each worth 5%) within the specified time periods to earn grades for this portion of the course. Practice quizzes are available. No extensions will be granted.

Online Assignments / 10%

Students are required to complete two online learning assignments within specified time periods in MHC. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade. No extensions will be granted.

Online Reading Assignments / 10%

Cumulatively monitored and graded student participation in the completion of 13 assigned MHC online chapter readings and the corresponding online learning assessments are required throughout the course. Completion of all of the assigned chapter readings and online learning assessment activities within the specified time periods is required to earn grades for this portion of the course. No extensions will be granted.

Online Participation / 5%

Students are required to complete two online participation activities in OWL within specified time periods. Completion of both forums (2.5% each) is required to be allocated the grade for this portion of the course. No extensions will be granted.

Class Attendance & Participation / 5%

Student attendance will be taken each class. Full attendance and participation in class lectures and activities will result in full grades being allocated for this portion of the course.

Course Syllabus and Scheduling Notes: See McGraw Hill Connect & OWL Brightspace for Online Course Scheduling Notes & Course Calendars.

No extensions or make-ups will be granted for quizzes, online participation activities and assignments, midterm and final exams, and/or reading due dates, *unless under extraordinary circumstances. Concessions and make up dates will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

****** All due date times are 11:59pm in Eastern Daylight Savings Time, All open times are 12:00am in Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

******* OWL Brightspace and McGraw Hill Connect (MHC) provide the online platforms and digital learning apparatus for this course. OWL is used for Graded Participation Activities (Forums) while MHC is used for Practice and Time-Allocated Quizzes, Readings, Online Assignments, Midterm Exam and Final Exam.

******** OWL also provides a regular course site for students' weekly course 'To Do Lists', topic overviews and accompanying slides as well as Gradebook, Announcements and supplementary resources.

Please refer to the OWL Course Site and/or contact bvogel@uwo.ca if you require further clarification or assistance.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	September 1	2	3	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 CHAPTER 1 Classes Begin	10 6:30pm @ KUC	11	12
13	14 CHAPTER 2	15	16	17 6:30pm @ KUC	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 6:30pm @ KUC	25	26
27	28	29	30	October 1 6:30pm @ KUC	QUIZ 1 OPEN	
QUIZ 1 DUE Ch 1 & 2 Readings Due	CHAPTER 3				2	3
4	5	6	7	8 6:30pm @ KUC OWL PARTICIPATION 1 OPENS	9	10
11	12	13	14 Reading Week	15	16	17
18	19 CHAPTER 4 MHC ONLINE ASSIGNMENT #1 OPENS	20	21	22 6:30pm @ KUC	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 6:30pm @ KUC	30	31 Ch 3 & 4 Readings Due
November 1	2	3	4	5	QUIZ 2 OPEN	
	CHAPTER 5				6	7
OWL PARTICIPATION 1 DUE	9	10	11	12 6:30pm @ KUC	13	14
MHC ONLINE ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE						
15	16 CHAPTER 6	17	18	19 6:30pm @ KUC	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 6:30pm @ KUC	27	28
29	30	December 1	2	3 6:30pm @ KUC	4	5
QUIZ 3 DUE Ch 5 & 6 Readings Due						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Classes End				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Dec 11-22: Exam Period (Online Midterm Test - 10%)					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	January 1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	January 1	2
3	4	5	6	7 6:30pm @ KUC	8	9
	Classes Begins					
	CHAPTER 7					
10 MHC ONLINE ASSIGNMENT #2 OPENS	11	12	13	14 6:30pm @ KUC	15	16
17	18 CHAPTER 8	19	20	21 6:30pm @ KUC	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 6:30pm @ KUC	29	30
					QUIZ 4 OPEN	
31 QUIZ 4 DUE	February 1	2	3	4 6:30pm @ KUC	5	6
Ch 7 & 8 Readings Due	CHAPTER 9					
7 MHC ONLINE ASSIGNMENT #2 OWL PARTICIPATION 2 OPENS	8	9	10	11 6:30pm @ KUC	12	13
14	15	16	17 Reading Week	18	19	20
21	22 CHAPTER 10	23	24	25 6:30pm @ KUC	26	27
28 March	1	2	3	4 6:30pm @ KUC	5	6
OWL PARTICIPATION 2 DUE	CHAPTER 11					
7	8	9	10	11 6:30pm @ KUC	12	13
					QUIZ 5 OPEN	
14 QUIZ 5 DUE	15	16	17	18 6:30pm @ KUC	19	20
Ch 9, 10 & 11 Readings Due						
21	22 CHAPTER 12	23	24	25 6:30pm @ KUC	26	27
28	29	30	31	April 1 6:30pm @ KUC	2	3
	CHAPTER 13				QUIZ 6 OPEN	
4 QUIZ 6 DUE	5	6	7	Ch 12 & 13 Readings Due 6:30pm @ KUC	9	10
					Classes End	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	April 12-30 : Exam Period (In-Person Exam - 30%)					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>.

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as re-quiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the “Special Examination” (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a multiple exam situation (i.e., you are scheduled to write more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Social Worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. **Check with you instructor to check**

which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course. Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

7. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

8. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

9. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.