Geography 106: Physical Geography Laboratory Syllabus
Spring 2012, v. 1.1, 6 January
Dr. J.S. Kite, Lab Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>251 Brooks Hall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor (= TA)</td>
<td>Ben Sawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>232 Brooks Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bsawyer1@mix.wvu.edu">bsawyer1@mix.wvu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sections Taught</td>
<td>002 – W 4:30-6:20pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>006 – W 1:30-3:20pm</td>
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<td>007 – R 9:30-11:20am</td>
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<td>011 – R 2:30-4:20pm</td>
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Lab Manual (may not have any answers written in the book):

Text Book (required for GEOG 107, which is a GEOG 106 pre- or co-requisite):

or

***Bring the Lab Book and textbook to each lab***

***Students are responsible for any changes announced in class***

Class Description: Geography 106 is the lab companion to Geography 107: Physical Geography lecture. Both classes deal with the world we live in, and how it works. The lab will study the world from a broad perspective, examining each of the four global environmental spheres (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere), with a special emphasis on how these environmental spheres are interrelated. Students will explore atmospheric circulation and how ocean patterns determine climate patterns, and in turn, how climate patterns determine vegetation, and then how climate and vegetation influence soils. Our world is an interconnected web!

The class goals are to develop sophisticated sets of skills, including map reading and interpretation, graphical data manipulation and analysis, and biogeography data. The class will also help you develop a deeper appreciation of aspects our physical environment that play important roles in everyone's life, including weather, climate, and "natural" vegetation. The
ultimate goal of Geography 106 is to enable you to become a better citizen of a delicately balanced planet.

Geography 106 will reinforce concepts covered in the lectures and exercises in the lecture course (107). Concurrent registration in both classes is strongly recommended, but not required. Geography 106 may be taken after Geography 107 is completed, but may not be taken by students who have never enrolled in Geography 107 or an equivalent class at another university.

The format for Geography 106 will be standardized for all sections. Lecturing will be held to a minimum, so students will be expected to complete assigned readings before coming to lab each week. Students should consider these readings to be a serious responsibility that must be met every week. The lab schedule will not permit in-class time for students who fail to do the assigned readings beforehand. Lab activities will focus on problem solving, usually using “real world” environmental data from selected case studies in the earth sciences, many of them from within the Appalachian region. Web-based resources and conventional maps will be used extensively.

**General Education Curriculum:** Completion of Geography 106 and 107 fulfills the "Lab" requirement for WVU General Education Curriculum (GEC) Objective 2: Basic Mathematical Skills and Scientific Inquiry (Group B). Required quantitative skills do not exceed basic algebra and geometry, but the lab will require critical spatial reasoning and analysis of data tables, graphs, and many different types of maps.

Alternately, Geography 106 and 107 may be used to fulfill the "Additional Course from Groups A, B, or C" Requirement in Objective 2 or GEC Objective 4: Issues of Contemporary Society. Many topics in the course are related to human interaction with the environment and problems associated with global change and resource depletion.

**Grades** will be determined from short-answer dominated tests (50%), announced and unannounced quizzes (20%), and attendance, participation, and graded in-class exercises (30% total). Students will have to work to earn good grades in the class. Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, lab exercises must be completed each lab period before students leave lab. Late work is unacceptable. A standard 10 point scale will be used, although tests may be "curved", if they are especially difficult. The last lab test will be given during the last scheduled class, which typically falls during "dead week." Labs do NOT meet during exam week.

**Attendance is required.** If you miss a class, generally, you will have to complete the exercise on your own time. However, you will not be given credit of class attendance. The individual attention and assistance available in the lab section may not be reproducible outside of your scheduled section, but you are encouraged to ask for assistance during TA office hours, provided you already have made a good faith effort to complete the exercise on your own.
Missing a test or quiz is strongly discouraged. If you must miss a test or quiz for a valid reason, contact the instructor (TA) as soon as possible, preferably before the missed class. If allowed, make-up tests or quizzes may be in essay format. It is your responsibility to promptly explain the reason for your absence, and arrange and complete each make-up exam or quiz. **EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND LABS MUST BE MADE-UP WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS OF ABSENCE.** Successive absences, especially without contacting the instructor, may forfeit any make-up options.

**Academic Dishonesty and Ethics:**

**EVERYONE in this class is required to read and adhere to this pledge when taking tests:**

I adhere to all of the guidelines regarding academic dishonesty (cheating) in the WVU University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. I have read and understand these guidelines. I have not given or received help from anyone (besides lab instructors or proctors) during this test. I have not seen any form of this year's test. I have not used a cheat sheet, crib note, textbook, study guide, cell phone, radio, dictionary, digital device, or other aid while taking this test, unless explicitly permitted in writing by the instructor. I have not copied answers from another student's test or answer sheet, nor will I knowingly allow another student to copy from my test or answer sheet. I do not know of any other student who has given or received help during this test. I will report as soon as possible any suspicious, dishonest, or unethical conduct related to this test to a proctor, a teaching assistant, the lab director, or the head of the Department of Geology and Geography. I understand that this class has "zero-tolerance" for academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will be fully pursued by the staff and members the department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and WVU. Penalties may include assignment of a grade of "unforgivable F", or worse. Theft of tests or unauthorized intrusion into computer accounts or files may be pursued through criminal codes. **Your name on a test shows that you agree to follow these rules.**

Anyone turning in a quiz must turn in the results their own work. Quizzes require class attendance, and turning in a quiz bearing the name of someone who is not in the class is dishonest conduct. Some quizzes allow collaboration with other students or friends; in these cases, each student is held to a standard in which each individual must significantly and meaningfully participate in group efforts that yield answers to the quiz questions.

**Disability Statement:** If you are a person with a disability and anticipate any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise your lab instructor early in the semester and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

**Social Justice Statement:** West Virginia University is committed to social justice. We support that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, military or veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Suggestions as to how to further a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.