PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (Geography 1)
COURSE SYLLABUS

Lecture Room: CMS 028; Time: TTh 9:05-10:30am
Office Location CMS 240 *(Inside Physical Science Dept)*
Email: waktoldk@lamission.edu; Tel: (818) 833 3408
Consultation Hours: TTh 10:45-11:15; MW 9:30-10:30; M 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces the students to the essentials of Physical Geography. It stresses the importance of physical geography as an integrative discipline, and shows how its three major perspectives (spatial science, systems, and environmental science) foster our understanding of the physical world around us. The focus is on the ever changing interrelationships among the earth system's major spheres (the atmosphere, the lithosphere, the hydrosphere, and the biosphere). The focus will be on the relationships of, the ever changing land forms, the atmosphere, weather and climate, the natural vegetation, and human activities where they interface with the human environment. Students will learn how modern maps are produced from various sources (GPS, air photos, satellite imageries, statistical documents, and field observation), supported by modern tools (digital image processing and GIS), and interpret the spatial patterns of physical variables.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

SLO1: Locate and critically analyze important natural features around the world and in the local area, using digital maps, graphs, satellite imageries, and GIS;

SLO2: Demonstrate knowledge of Earth's planetary configuration, motions, and cycles; relate these to Earth's surface cycles (such as seasons and natural planetary climate change) and its energy balance;

SLO3: Explain the processes operating within and between Earth's natural systems and cycles in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere (*such as weather systems, ocean currents, earthquakes, river dynamics, volcanoes, etc.*); relate these forces and processes to the distinctive landforms and environments of Earth;

SLO4: Examine the interactions between Earth's systems and the human realm.

Course Materials

- Required Text: Fundamentals of Physical Geography, 9th Ed., Peterson, Sack, & Gabler.
- Any World Atlas.
- Scantron: # 883-E (About 4)

Class Policies

You are responsible for your education, and my role is only to help you. By your enrollment in this class, I expect that you are willing to assume all responsibilities for successful completion of the course and are willing to abide by the policies that are set forth:

- Class time will be spent in discussion and lecture. It is expected that every student will participate and will not disturb the class with unnecessary talking.
- When you come to class, it is expected that you arrive on time, and that you will stay for the entire class period.
- Arriving late for class is disruptive for everyone, and habitual tardiness may result in exclusion from class.
- iPod and other headsets may not be worn in class. Cellular phones are to be turned off.

Preparation

You are expected to invest a minimum of two hours in preparation for every hour of class time: text readings, review of class notes, mapping assignments, etc. For this three-hour class, this means 6 hours outside of class.

Attendance

Attendance is your responsibility. Students are expected to be present at every class meeting (attendance rosters are maintained). This is a survey course and failure to attend class will result in your missing valuable information and material. All students are solely responsible for material missed as a result of absences. In other words, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from your classmates! Each student should have the name, phone number, and e-mail address of several other students in the class. If you are absent, you should contact them to obtain information about what you missed and any assignments that may have been given. Absences in excess of 3 may result in exclusion from class. Medical appointments, work, job interviews, child care responsibilities, etc., should be arranged so as not to occur during class time.

Withdrawals

Non-attendance does not constitute withdrawal. It is your responsibility to drop. I will exclude only "no-shows" up through "census week." You must be aware of the dates pertaining to withdrawals (see college catalogue and schedule of classes). You may drop the class any time through the last date to drop via the Admissions Office, on-line, or by phone. If you stop attending class without filing an official drop card with Admissions and Records by the scheduled deadline, you will receive a grade of **Fail**.

Getting Help:

If you are having difficulty with the concepts presented in class, I will be happy to help you. Please see me after class or during the office hours if you are having problems. You may call me at my office telephone or contact me through e-mail. Getting help early in the semester will ensure a more successful course grade.

Course Requirements

Exams: There are three (3) exams in this course covering material presented up to the week preceding the exam and one (1) final exam, which is cumulative. The format of each exam will be discussed the week prior to the exam. The fourth exam will be the final exam given during finals week. Exams may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short essay questions. **No make-ups** will be given for missed exams. If you miss one exam (except the final), points will be assigned based on 85% of the highest exam score during the semester. Any additional missed exam will receive zero points. **The final exam must be taken; a missed final will receive zero points.**

Academic Integrity Policy: Cheating is unacceptable behavior for college students, and this class is no exception. If you are part of a cheating incident (either by giving or receiving assistance on an exam, or through plagiarism—submitting anyone else's work as your own), you will receive a score of zero (with possible failure of the course), and recommended for disciplinary actions.

Assignments: There will be several assignments. The submission dates will be announced in class. Late submission, for whatever reason, will be penalized severely. All written work, except for that done in class, must be word-processed. No exceptions!

Grading Policies: Grades are totaled from exams, quizzes, and assignments. A portion of your grade is based on class participation; excessive absences will have a negative effect on your grade.

- Three Exams (15% each) → 45%
- Quizzes, Assignments and Attendance→ 30%
- Final Exam → 25%
- Total → 100%

Course Grading

> 90% = A;
80 - 89% = B;
70 - 79% = C;
55 - 69% = D;
< 55% = F.

Course Outline (*Subject to Change*)

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading (pages)
1	Aug 28 (T)	Course Intro: Syllabus, Policies	
	Aug 30 (Th)	Phy. Geog: Concepts & Perspectives	Ch. 1 (1-20)
2	Sep 4 (T)	Locating Places on Earth, Measurement of Time	Ch. 2 (21-28)
	Sep 6 (Th)	Mapping Technology, Map Projections	Ch. 2 (29-47)
***	*Sept 9*	*Drop Deadline #1 – Last Day to Drop Classes Without "W"*	
3	Sep 11 (T)	Earth–Sun Relationship: Rotation, Revolution	Ch. 3 (48-55)
	Sep 13 (Th)	The Atmosphere	Ch. 3 (55-61)
4	Sep 18 (T)	Exercises and Test Review	Ch. 1-3
	Sep 20 (Th)	EXAM I	Ch. 1, 2, 3
5	Sep 25 (T)	Solar Energy and Its Global Pattern	Ch. 3 (61-63)
	Sep 27 (Th)	Atmospheric Temperature	Ch. 3 (63-74)
6	Oct 2 (T)	Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	Ch. 4 (75-98)
	Oct 4 (Th)	Atmospheric Moisture and Hydrologic Cycle	Ch. 5 (99-122)
7	Oct 9 (T)	Air Masses and Atmospheric Disturbances	Ch. 6 (123-145)
	Oct 11 (Th)	Climate Regions and Biogeography	Ch. 7 (146-181) & 9 (210-223)
8	Oct 16 (T)	Global Warming and Climate Change	Ch. 8 (198-208)
	Oct 18 (Th)	Exercises and Test Review	Ch. 3-9
9	Oct 23 **(T)**	EXAM II	Ch. 3-9
	Oct 25 (Th)	Earths Structure & Materials	Ch. 10 (238-249)
10	Oct 30 (T)	Plate Tectonic Processes	Ch. 10 (250-262)
	Nov 1 (Th)	Volcanic Activities and Landforms	Ch. 11 (263-278)
11	Nov 6 (T)	Earthquakes and Landforms	Ch. 11 (279-286)
	Nov 8 (Th)	Weathering and Mass Wasting	Ch. 11 (288-309)
12	Nov 13 (T)	Exercises and Test Review	Ch. 10-11
	Nov 15 (Th)	EXAM III	Ch. 10-11
***	*Nov 18*	*Drop Deadline #2 – Last Day to Drop Classes With a "W"*	
13	Nov 20 (T)	Soil Development, Distribution and Erosion	Ch. 9 (224-236) Ch. 12 (309)
***	*Nov 22*	*Holliday*	*Thanks Giving*
14	Nov 27 (T)	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	Ch. 14 (330-356)
	Nov 29 (Th)	Karst Landforms & Arid Landforms	Ch. 13 (331-228) & 15 (358-380)
15	Dec 4 (T)	Glacial & Coastal Processes and Landforms	Ch. 16 (382-404) & 17 (406-428)
	Dec 6 (Th)	Exercises and Exam Review	Ch. 1-17
16	Dec 11 (T)	FINAL EXAM (10:00 AM-12:00 PM)	Ch. 1-17

NB: Field Trip to Vasquez Rock Natural Area would be scheduled soon.