Los Angeles Mission College

Section 0271, Fall 2013

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

Hello! I'm Dr. Daniel Waktola, your course instructor. Physical Geography is an exiting course and I'm confident that by the time you complete this course you would have the interest and appreciation towards your physical environment-both on maps and direct observations. Your exposure to modern technologies and different learning styles would enable you meet the expected learning outcomes. I set high standard to this course and have strong trust in your ability to master the subject matter. I have passion not only for guiding you through the learning process, but also for the material I present.

Class Room: CMS 28

T Th 8:55 —10:20 am

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Office # **240** *(West Wind, Upper Level, Inside Physical Sci. Dept)*.

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You can drop by

MW 9:30-10:30am;
TTh 10:45-11:15am;
M 5:00 – 6:30 pm.
T 5:00 – 6:30 pm.

Or, by appointment.

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Email me at
waktoldk@lamission.edu

Call me at
(818) 833 3408

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If geography is prose, maps are iconography.
Lennart Meri

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to:

SLO 1. Locate and critically analyze important natural features around the world and in the local area, using digital maps, graphs, satellite imageries, and GIS,

SLO 2. 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.

SLO 3. Explain the processes operating within and between Earth's natural systems and cycles in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere; relate these forces and processes to the distinctive landforms and environments of Earth.

SLO 4. Examine the interactions between Earth's systems and the human realm

Course Description

Physical Geography explores the earth's ever-changing physical system, including human activities where they interface with the environment. Emphasis is given to earth-sun relationships, atmosphere-hydrosphere interactions, lithospheric processes, integration of climate, soils and biomes and their spatial patterns. Students interpret the spatial patterns using maps produced from Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS), and satellite imagery.

Class Policies

- 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,
- You should stay for the entire class period.
- Arriving late for class is disruptive for everyone, and habitual tardiness may result in exclusion from class.
- There is no Extra Credit for this course.
- iPod and other headsets may not be worn in class. Cellular phones are to be turned off.
- If you are planning to use laptop or tables during lecture hour, (1) you should refrain from browsing unrelated websites, and (2) you should sit in the front row of the classroom.

Attendance

- Attendance is your responsibility.
- You are expected to be present at every class meeting
- Attendance rosters are always maintained.
- Failure to attend class will result in your missing valuable information and material.
- You are solely responsible for material missed as a result of absences.
- Each student should have the name, phone number, and e-mail address of at least three classmates.
- 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.**

Required Textbook

Elemental Geosystems, Bks Alacarte With E-text Access Card Pkg, 7th ed Christopherson ISBN 978-0-321-80331-3 (This is a loose-Leaf with Access Card). Or

Mastering Geo. With E-text Access Card Christopherson ISBN 978-0-321-84346-3. Copyright 13 Publisher PhEdition 7Binding Board (This is only Access code and e-book only)

Check the Mission's Bookstore at: http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/

One of the two (*with access key*)

Withdrawal

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**.

Exams

There are three (3) exams in this course covering material presented up to the week preceding the exam and one 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, and matching.

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 point.**

Quizzes may be administered at the beginning or end of the class. Students missing a quiz will earn a zero. Quizzes may not be excused unless you provide an acceptable reason such as illness (from a physician or student health service).

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 or email me. Getting help early in the semester will ensure a more successful course grade. When emailing me, don't forget to include your full name, course name, and section number.

Course Evaluation

Grades are totaled from exams, quizzes, and assignments. A portion of your grade is based on class participation The submission dates will be announced in class. Late submission, for whatever reason, will be penalized. All written work, except for that done in class, must be word-processed. No exceptions!

- 3 Tests ————- 300 pts
- Homework (in each chapter) 200 pts
- Final Project and Class Activities 150 pts
- Final Exam ————— 150 pts

- **Grand Total** ————- 800 pts

Grading

> 720%	= A
640 - 719%	= B
560– 639%	= C
440 - 559%	= D
< 440%	= F

Academic Integrity Policy

- Cheating is unacceptable behavior for college students.
- 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 and recommended for disciplinary actions.

Everything has to do with geography
Judy Martz

Course Outline

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Aug 27 (T)	Course Intro: Syllabus, Policies	
	Aug 29 (Th)	Earth Systems Concepts	Ch 1
2	Sept 3 (T)	Remote Sensing and GIS	
	Sept 5 (Th)	Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	Ch 2
***	Sept 8	***Last Day to Drop Classes Without "W"***	
3	Sept 10 (T)	Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	
	Sept 12 (Th)	Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	
4	Sept 17 (T)	*Test Review*	
	Sept 19 (Th)	**EXAM 1**	**1-3**
5	Sept 24 (T)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	Ch 4
	Sept 26 (Th)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	
6	Oct 1 (T)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	Ch 4
	Oct 3 (Th)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	
7	Oct 8 (T)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Ch 5
	Oct 10 (Th)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	
8	Oct 15 (T)	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Ch 7
	Oct 17(Th)	Climate Systems and Climate Change	
9	Oct 22 (T)	**EXAM 2**	**4-7**
	Oct 24 (Th)	The Dynamic Planet	Ch 8
10	Oct 29 (T)	The Dynamic Planet	
	Oct 31 (Th)	Tectonics	Ch 9
11	Nov 5 (T)	Earthquakes and Volcanism	
	Nov 7 (Th)	Weathering	Ch 10
12	Nov 12**(T)**	**EXAM 3**	
	Nov 14 (Th)	Karst Landscapes and Mass Movement	
***	Nov 17	***Drop Classes With "W"***	
13	Nov 19 (T)	River Systems and Landforms	Ch 11
	Nov 21 (Th)	River Systems and Landforms	
14	Nov 26 (T)	Oceans, Coastal Systems	Ch 12
***	**Nov 28 (Th)**	**Thanksgiving**	
15	Dec 3 (T)	Wind Processes	Ch 12
	Dec 5 (Th)	*Exam Review*	
	Dec 10	**FINAL EXAM (10am– 12:00pm)**	1-12

3 Vital Resources

1. Textbook: Mastering Geography

2. ETUDES

3. Facebook

1. In Mastering Geography (Accessed by the Textbook code), you'll use the course ID: MGEOGWAKTOLA34458 .

☞ This resource helps you to do homework for each chapter. Besides, it gives you access to various resources: e-book, animations, chapter reviews, and quizzes.

☞ Our class has a course management website (ETUDES). It is where the hybrid component of the class will take place. Moodle also help you access your lecture note, weekly quizzes, and class discussions. The instruction is available at:

http://missiononline.pbworks.com/w/page/61823645/etudes-help

3. **Facebook** at:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/MissionGeog0271Fall13/

☞ ... it is for the exchange of general information