Los Angeles Mission College

Section 0286, Spring 2014

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 great 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.

Class Room: CMS 28

T Th 8:55AM—10:20AM

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Office # **240** *(West Wing, Upper Level, Inside Physical Sci. Department)*.

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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 using analogue maps, digital maps, and satellite imageries.

SLO 2. Demonstrate knowledge of Earth's planetary configuration and relate these to Earth's surface cycles, such as seasons and climate change.

SLO 3. Explain the processes operating within and between Earth's systems and relate these forces and processes to the distinctive landforms 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 lecture and discussion. It is expected that every student will participate in the discussion and will not disturb the class.
- Attendance rosters are always maintained, and absences in excess of 3 may result in exclusion from class.
- Failure to attend class will result in your missing valuable information and material. Besides, missing classes would lead to missed class activity points.
- As you are solely responsible for material missed as a result of absences, it would be your responsibility to acquire all the missed information from your classmates. Therefore, it is necessary to have the name, phone number, or e-mail address of three classmates.
- **Medical appointments, work, job interviews, child care responsibilities, etc., should be arranged so as not to occur during class time.**
- Arriving late for class is disruptive for everyone, and habitual tardiness may result in exclusion from class.
- Students are required to stay for the entire class period.
- There is no Extra Credit for this course. Therefore, you need to carefully
- Headsets should not be worn in class. Cellular phones should be turned off.
- If you are planning to use laptop or tables during lecture hours, you should meet two requirements:
    1. You should refrain from browsing unrelated websites, and
    2. You should sit either in the front or second rows of the classroom seats.

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**.

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.

Exams

There are three (3) tests covering material presented up to the week preceding the exam and one final exam, which is cumulative. The format of each test will be discussed prior to the test. The Final Exam will be given during the last day of the class. Tests/ Exams may include Multiple Choice, True-False, matching and Short Answers.

No make-ups will be given for missed tests. If you miss one test, points will be assigned based on 85% of the highest test score during the semester. Any additional missed exam will receive zero points. **The final exam must be taken on the designated day; 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).

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) 100 pts
- Term Paper 100 pts
- Class Attendance and Activities 75 pts
- Online Quiz 25 pts
- Final Exam ————— 200 pts

- **Grand Total** ——————- 800 pts

Grading

> 720pts	= A
640 - 719pts	= B
560– 639pts	= C
440 - 559pts	= D
< 440pts	= 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 (*Subject to change*)

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Feb 11 (T)	Course Intro: Syllabus, Policies	
	Feb 13 (TH)	Earth Systems Concepts	Chapter 1
2	Feb 18 (T)	Remote Sensing and GIS	
	Feb 20 (TH)	Solar Energy and Seasons	Chapter 2
***	*Feb 23*	***Drop Classes Without Receiving a "W"***	
3	Feb 25 (T)	The Atmosphere	
	Feb 27 (TH)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	Chapter 3
4	Mar 4 (T)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	
	Mar 6 (TH)	**Review for Exam 1**	
5	**Mar 11 (T)**	**EXAM 1**	**Ch 1-3**
	Mar 13 (TH)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	Chapter 4
6	Mar 18 (T)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	
	Mar 20 (TH)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5
7	Mar 25 (T)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	
	Mar 27 (TH)	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Chapter 7
8	**April 1 (T)**	**Review for Exam 2**	
	April 3 (TH)	**EXAM 2**	**Ch 4, 5, 7**
9	April 8 & 10	**SPRING BREAK**	
10	April 15 (T)	The Dynamic Planet	Chapter 8
	April 17 (TH)	The Dynamic Planet	
11	April 22 (T)	Tectonics	
	April 24 (TH)	Earthquakes and Volcanism	Chapter 9
12	**April 29 (T)**	**Review for Exam 3**	
	May 1 (TH)	**EXAM 3**	**Ch 8 - 9**
***	*May 11*	***Drop Classes With a "W"***	
13	May 6 (T)	Weathering and Karst Topography	Chapter 10
	May 8 (TH)	Mass Movement	
14	May 13 (T)	River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11
	May 15 (TH)	River Systems and Landforms	
15	May 20 (T)	Oceans, Coastal Systems	Chapter 12
	May 22 (T)	Wind Processes	
16	**May 27 (T)**	**Holiday (Non Instructional Day)**	
	May 29	**General Revision**	
	May 30	**Field Visit to Vasquez Rocks**	
17	**June 3 (T)**	**FINAL EXAM (10am– 12:00pm)**	**Ch. 1-12**

Course Resources

1. Mastering Geography—Accessed by a purchased code. The course ID is: **GEOGWAKTOLASPRING14**.

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

Go to: www.masteringgeography.com to get registered and enroll in the class using the code you purchased, and instructors ID.

2. Our class has a course management website called ETUDES (www.myetudes.org). Etudes helps you access lecture notes, take quizzes and upload project paper, participate in discussions, and chat with your classmates. You can get detailed information about it at:

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