Los Angeles Mission College

Section 0287, Spring

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS (*tentative*)

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, analyze, and appreciate 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 outcome. I set high standard and convey 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
MW 10:35—12:00

Office # **240** *(Inside Physical Sci. Dept)*.

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.

Email me at
waktoldk@lamission.edu

Office Tel (818) 833 3408

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.
- iPod and other headsets may not be worn in class. Cellular phones are to be turned off.

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 several other students in the class.
- 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 W/ Etext Access Card Pkg, 7/E Christopherson ISBN 978-0-321-80331-3 (This is a loose-Leaf with Access Card). Or

Mastering Geo. W/Etext Access CardChristophersonISBN 978-0-321-84346-3Copyright 13Publisher PhEdition 7Binding Board (This is the Access code card only—and you need to buy the book

Check the 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.

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, 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 point.**

Assignments

There will be several assignments. 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!

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
- 12 Textbook Reviews (textbook) —— 200 pts
- 12 Map exercise/ discussions/activities 200 pts
- Final Project (paper + poster) ——- 100 pts
- Final Exam ————— 200 pts

- **Grand Total** ————- 1000 pts

Grading ⇨

> 90%	= A
80 - 89%	= B
70 - 79%	= C
55 - 69%	= D
< 55%	= 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 (with possible failure of the course), and recommended for disciplinary actions.

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Feb 4 (M)	Course Intro: Syllabus, Policies	
	Feb 6 (W)	Earth Systems Concepts	Chapter 1
2	Feb 11 (M)	Remote Sensing and GIS	
	Feb 13 (W)	Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	Chapter 2
***	Feb 18	***Drop Deadline #1 – Last Day to Drop Classes Without "W"***	
3	Feb 18 (M)	Presidents Day	
	Feb 20 (W)	Solar Energy, Seasons and the Atmosphere	
4	Feb 25 (M)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	Chapter 3
	Feb 27 (W)	Atmospheric Energy & Global Temperatures	
5	**Mar 4 (M)**	EXAM 1	
	Mar 6 (W)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	Chapter 4
6	Mar 11 (M)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	
	Mar 13 (W)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	Chapter 5
7	Mar 18 (M)	Atmospheric Water and Weather	
	Mar 20 (W)	Climate Systems and Climate Change	Chapter 7
8	Mar 25 (M)	Climate Systems and Climate Change	
	Mar 27 (W)	EXAM 2	
9	April 1 (M)	**SPRING BREAK**	
	April 3 (W)	**SPRING BREAK**	
10	April 8 (M)	Water Resources	Chapter 6
	April 10 (W)	The Dynamic Planet	Chapter 8
11	April 15 (M)	The Dynamic Planet	
	April 17 (W)	Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism	Chapter 9
12	April 22 (M)	Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanism	
	April 24 (W)	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement	Chapter 10
13	April 29 (M)	Weathering, Karst Landscapes, and Mass Movement	
	May 1 (W)	EXAM 3	
***	May 3	***Drop Deadline #2 – Drop Classes With a "W"***	
14	May 6 (M)	River Systems and Landforms	Chapter 11
	May 8 (W)	River Systems and Landforms	
15	May 13 (M)	Oceans, Coastal Systems, and Wind Processes	Chapter 12
	May 15 (W)	Oceans, Coastal Systems, and Wind Processes	
16	May 20 (M)	Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Chapter 13
	May 22 (W)	General Revision	
	May 29	**FINAL EXAM (10am– 12:00pm)**	**Ch. 1-13**

Resources

Please bookmark www.mygeoscienceplace.com **The Class ID will be posted**

Learning Resource Center: http://lamission.edu/learningcenter/

Library Research Paper Guides:

Los Angeles Geographical Society:

We are on http://www.facebook.com/groups/LAMC.Geography1.SP2013/

Our class has a course management website (ETUDES). It is where the hybrid component of the class will take place. It is also where you can access your lecture note, weekly quizzes and class discussions. To login, go to https://myetudes.org/portal.