Los Angeles Mission College **Section 0288, SPRING 2014**

# PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LAB SYLLABUS

Hello! I'm Dr. Daniel Waktola, your course instructor. Physical Geography Lab 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.

Class Room: CMS 10

Every Wednesdays,
12:10pm –3:15pm

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Office # **240** (West Wing, 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

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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

**SLO 1**. Precisely locate geographic features using analogue and digital techniques (GPS, GIS, and Satellite Imageries.

**SLO 2**. Plot and interpret local and global patterns of atmospheric variables, such as solar radiation, air temperature, air reassure, humidity, precipitation, and evapotranspiration that are acquired from meteorological stations.

**SLO 3**. Measure and interpret the attributes of fluvial, Aeolian, glacial, and coastal processes from topographic maps, aerial photos, and satellite imageries.

## Course Description

Provides hands-on laboratory experience in topics covered in Physical Geography lecture such as feature observation, collection, analysis and display of data related to Earth's energy balance, weather and climate, vegetation, tectonic processes, landforms, and natural hazards. Students use both analogue maps and modern digital media (GIS, GPS, satellite images, and Internet maps).

# 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 2 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 Lab Manuals

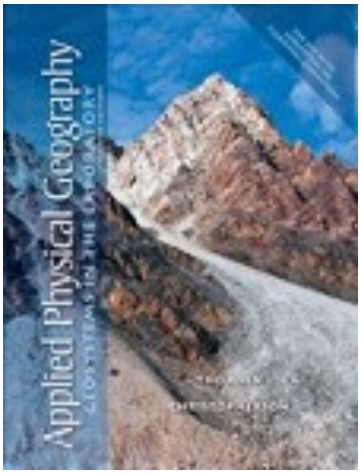
1. **Applied Physical Geography: Laboratory**. Christopherson,

ISBN 978-1-2692-5231-7 Copy-right 13ed,

2. **Encounter Earth: Interactive Geoscience Explorations**. Kluge, S. 2009.

ISBN: 978-0-321-58129-7

Check the bookstore at: http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/

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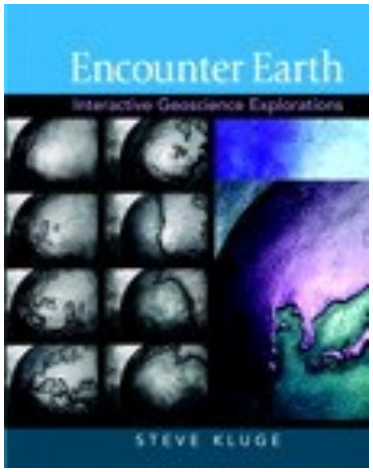


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# Withdrawal

**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 is one Mid Exam and one Final Exam. The format of each exam will be discussed the week prior to the exam. The most important type of the exam is workout questions. In addition, exams may include multiple choice, true-false, and matching.

## Lab Exercises

Lab exercises are to be completed during the lab period and turned in at the end of the lab, while some lab exercises are assigned as homework. Students are expected to remain in lab while working on the lab assignment and studying the material.

# 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.

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. Whenever you write email to me, don't forget to include your full name, class section number.

## Missed Labs

Missed labs must be completed within one week of the date of the assigned lab. For example, if you miss Lab #2, it must be complete prior to Lab #3. Labs completed before the following week's lab will receive full credit for that lab. No credit will be given for labs completed after the one week grace period.

## Grading Policy

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.

- Mid Exam ————- 100 pts
- Lab Exercises (from Lab Manual) —— 110 pts
- Google Exercises ————— 100 pts
- Quizzes, discussions/activities — 40 pts
- Final Exam ————— 150 pts
- **Grand Total ————- 500 pts**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| > 90% | (>360pts) | = A |
| 80 - 89% | (230—359) | = B |
| 70 - 79% | (280 - 329) | = C |
| 55 - 69% | (220—279) | = D |
| < 55% | (<220) | = F |

# Course Outline

| Date | Topic |
|---|---|
| 02/12 | 0. Course Intro, 1. Latitude/Longitude, Time |
| 02/19 | 2. Directions, Compass Reading<br>3. Map Projections. Map Reading and Interpretation |
| 02/26 | 4. Earth-Sun Relations, Insolation, Seasons. |
| 03/05 | 5. Temperature Concepts, 6. Temperature Patterns |
| 03/12 | 7. Air Pressure |
| 03/19 | 8. Atmospheric Humidity |
| 03/26 | 11. Global Climate Systems |
| **04/02** | **Exam Review/Mid Exam (Ex 1-11)** |
| 04/09 | Spring Break |
| 04/16 | 12. Plate Tectonics, Volcanism |
| 04/23 | 14. Contours and Topographic Maps |
| 04/30 | 15. Topographic Analysis of Fluvial Geomorphology |
| 05/07 | 17. Topographic Analysis of Coastal/Arid Geomorphology |
| 05/14 | 18. Topographic Analysis of Karst Geomorphology |
| 05/21 | 21. Introduction to GIS and GPS |
| ***05/28*** | ***Exam Review*** |
| May 30 | Field Visit to Vasquez Rocks |
| **06/04** | **FINAL EXAM (Ex 1-21)** |

## 2 Vital Resources

❖ **The two manuals**:

These manuals helps you to develop map based skills. While the first manual deals with manual techniques; the second manual deals with computer based analysis —mainly using Google Earth.

❖ The course management website (ETUDES). It is located at www.myetudes.org, where you can access lecture notes, quizzes, announcements, and class discussions. The instruction is available at:

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