

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2015	Instructor Name:	Austen Thelen
Course Title & #:	Physical Geography: GEOG 100	Email:	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20548		
Classroom:	212	Office #:	1604A
Class Dates:	February 16 - June 10, 2016	Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30 - 5 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 - 9:30 am
Class Days:	Mondays	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6537
Class Times:	6:30-9:40pm	Emergency Contact:	Elvia M. Camillo Staff Secretary Behavioral & Social Science Department Imperial Valley College 380 E. Aten Rd. Imperial, CA 92251 760.355.6144
Units:	3		

Course Description

An introduction to the physical characteristics of the earth. Topics include: climate, land forms, natural vegetation, and the water and mineral resources of the earth. (CSU,UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate your understanding of geographic patterns of a specific locale by analyzing the flora, fauna, and weather patterns in relation to its physical setting. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Analyze current spatial geographic events using the Five Themes of Geography. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
3. Explain Plate Tectonics and how it has influenced landform formation. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to

1. Explain seasonal, latitudinal, and elevation-based climatic variation.
2. Understand the relationships between weather, climate, water, soils, vegetation, and landforms.
3. Visually recognize physical landforms and understand their importance to settlement patterns and land use.
4. Be able to explain Plate Tectonics and how it has influenced landform formation.
5. Discuss the erosional and depositional forces at play in landform modification.
6. Understand and apply the Five Themes of Geography.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1. Hess, Darrel (2013) McKnight's Physical Geography Third California Edition. Pearson ISBN 1269144375
2. "Google Earth" <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

In this course, we will utilize several methods of instruction, including lectures, the textbook, multi-media presentations, lab assignments (Google Earth), current events research and discussion, along with an in-class group project activity.

Lectures: Typical class meetings will consist of lectures, usually in the form of power point presentations. Students should attend all lectures having completed the assigned reading material on the given lecture topic. Students should take notes on the lectures.

Textbook: All assigned readings from this course come from McKnight's Physical Geography Third California Edition, the required text. Students should read the assigned material before lectures related to the topics covered in the various reading assignments. Students must complete reading quizzes, covering the assigned readings, before each quiz's posted due date. The quizzes are taken online, via Blackboard.

Multi-Media Presentations: Videos and films will appear from time to time throughout the course. Publically available video content (Youtube videos for example) may also be assigned for viewing in lectures, or outside of class.

Lab Assignments: Students will complete three lab assignments using the program Google Earth, which is available for download free of charge (see the above link).

Current Events Research and Discussion: Each student must select one news article, or several news articles covering one event, that he or she finds relevant to one of the topics covered during the course of this semester. Instructions for completing current event assignments can be found on Blackboard.

Group (Individual) In-Class Project: Students will be divided into groups to complete a project, covering the topics of "Climate," and "Landscape." Students may complete this project in groups of 5 or fewer, any may choose to complete the project alone. Instructions for completing the project are available on Blackboard.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Reading Quizzes: 10 quizzes worth 10 points each – 100 points

Midterm Exam: 75 points

Lab Assignments: 3 Google Earth assignments worth 25 points each – 75 points

Current Event Assignment: 25 points

Group (Individual) In-Class Project: 50 points

Final Exam: 75 points

Student's final grades are based on 400 total points, figured by the following breakdown:

- 360-400 points – A
- 320-359 points – B
- 280-319 points – C
- 240-279 points – D
- 239 points for fewer – F

Attendance

All students are responsible for maintaining their own enrollment status. Changes in status, drops for example, will not automatically be conducted by the instructor. Should circumstances merit prolonged periods of absence for any given student, he or she should notify the instructor regarding his or her intentions regarding course completion. Prolonged absences will not automatically result in a “drop” from the course.

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
- This course will require students to communicate using Blackboard. When doing so, please be respectful. Consider a good piece of advice regarding netiquette: if you wouldn’t say it out loud, don’t write it... think before you press submit (send)!

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **[Blackboard Support Site](#)**. The Blackboard Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **[Learning Services](#)**. There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **[Library Services](#)**. There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the [Disabled Student Programs and Services](#) (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- [Student Health Center](#). A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- [Mental Health Counseling Services](#). Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 February 22	Syllabus & Introduction: What is geography? Earth Sun Relationship – Seasons and Seasonality – Geographic Grid Maps and Map Projections	Read Chapters 1& 2 Reading Quiz 1 due 2/26
Week 2 February 29	The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature Pressure and Wind	Read Chapter 4 and 5 Reading Quiz 2 due 3/4
Week 3 March 7	Moisture in the Atmosphere – Hydrology – Adiabatic Processes	Read Chapter 6 Reading Quiz 3 due 3/11 Lab 1 due 3/11
Week 4 March 14	Storms and Atmospheric Disturbances	Read Chapter 7 Reading Quiz 4 due 3/18
Week 5	Global Climates and Climate Change	Read Chapter 8

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Physical Geography GEOG 100

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
March 21		Reading Quiz 5 due 3/25
Week 6 March 28	Spring Break, No Class	
Week 7 April 4	Review and Mid-term Exam	Mid-term Exam April 6
Week 8 April 11	The Hydrosphere Soils	Read Chapter 9 Reading Quiz 6 due 4/15 Current Event Summary due 4/15
Week 9 April 18	The Biosphere	Read Chapter 10 Reading Quiz 7 due 4/22 Lab 2 due 4/22
Week 10 April 25	Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics	Read Chapters 13 and 14 Reading Quiz 8 due 4/29
Week 11 May 2	Erosion and Fluvial Dynamics	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Reading Quiz 9 due 5/6
Week 12 May 9	Arid Lands	Read Chapter 18 Reading Quiz 10 due 5/13
Week 13 May 16	Glaciers and Glaciation Coastal Processes	Read Chapter 19 and 20
Week 14 May 23	Map Activity	Read Chapter 20 Lab 3 Due 5/27 Map Due 5/23, at the end of class
Week 15 May 30	No Class	
Week 16 June 6	Final Exam Review Final Exam	Final Exam June 6

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****