

Basic Course Information

Semester	Fall 2014	Instructor's Name	Austen Thelen
Course Title & #	Physical Geography: GEOG 100	Instructor's Email	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #	10676		
Room	212	Office	1604 A
Class Dates	August 18 – December 13, 2014	Office Hours	Mondays: 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Tuesdays: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Wednesdays: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Thursdays: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Class Days	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Office Phone #	760.355.6537
Class Times	8:35 am – 10:00 am	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	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, IOL2, IOL4)
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 a group project/presentation.

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. Template slides for organized note-taking are available on the course Blackboard page.

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. Beginning in week 6, portions of class will be dedicated to discussing current event articles selected by students. A grading rubric for the current events research and discussion assignment is available on Blackboard.

Group (Individual) Climate Project: Students will be divided into groups to complete a project, covering the topic of "Climate." Students may complete this project in groups of 5 or fewer, any may choose to complete the project alone. Instructions for completing the project, along with a grading, rubric are available on Blackboard.

Student Note Sharing: Although not a requirement for the course, students are encouraged to copy their lecture notes and post them under the "Forums" section in Blackboard. Taking good notes is an important skill to master in college, and comparing what others take away from lectures can be an excellent way to learn the material. Also, if a student prefers to take notes in Spanish, or another language, he or she should feel free to post his or her notes as well, as both the student and other speakers of said language will likely benefit.

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.

Late Assignments Policy: All late assignments may be submitted and considered for up to 70 percent credit before the day of the final exam.

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 Events Assignment: 25 points

Group (Individual) Climate 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

- 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 should be turned off and put away during class, unless being used for note taking purposes. The instructor reserves the right to ban electronic devices if they become a distraction or jeopardize other students' right to learn. If a student needs to take a phone call, he or she should quietly leave the classroom.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Students should comply with IVC food/drink policies as directed.
- 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.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present 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 correctly 'cite a source', 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or 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 School 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) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help

- **Blackboard** support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- **Learning Labs:** There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library).
- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning 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. If you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations, the DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Readings/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 August 19, 21	Syllabus & Introduction: What is geography? Earth Sun Relationship – Seasons and Seasonality – Geographic Grid	Read Chapter 1 Lab Assignment 1 – due 10/1
Week 2 August 26, 28	Maps and Map Projections The United States Public Land Survey (USPLS)	Read Chapter 2 Reading Quiz – due 8/28
Week 3 September 2, 4	The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature Pressure and Wind	Read Chapters 4 and 5 Reading Quiz – due 9/4
Week 4 September 9, 11	Moisture in the Atmosphere – Hydrology – Adiabatic Processes	Read Chapter 6 Reading Quiz – due 9/11

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Week 5 September 16, 18	Storms and Atmospheric Disturbances	Read Chapter 7 Reading Quiz – due 9/16
Week 6 September 23, 25	Global Climates and Climate Change	Read Chapter 8 Reading Quiz-due 9/25 Begin Group Project
Week 7 September 30, October 2	Mid-Semester Review Session Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam 10/2
Week 8 October 7, 9	The Hydrosphere Current Events Discussion	Read Chapter 9 Current Event Summary – due 10/6 Reading Quiz – due 10/7
Week 9 October 14, 16	The Biosphere Current Events Discussion	Read Chapter 10 Reading Quiz – due 10/16
Week 10 October 21, 23	Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics	Read Chapters 13 and 14 Reading Quiz – due 10/23
Week 11 October 28, 30	Erosion and Fluvial Dynamics	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Reading Quiz – due 10/30 Lab Assignment 2 – due 11/20
Week 12 November 4, 6	Arid Lands	Read Chapter 18 Reading Quiz – due November 6
Week 13 November 11, 13	No class on November 11 – Veterans Day Glaciers and Glaciation	Read Chapter 19
Week 14 November 18, 20	Coastal Processes	Read Chapter 20 Lab Assignment 3 – due 11/20
Week 15 December 2, 4	Project Presentations Course Recap	Project Write-Up - due 12/1
Week 16 December 9, 11	Final Review Final Exam	Final Exam – 12/11