

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2017	Instructor Name:	Austen Thelen
Course Title & #:	Physical Geography: GEOG100	Email:	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20548		
Classroom:	Online (Canvas)	Office #:	807 F
Class Dates:	February 13 - June 9	Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays (live) 10:15-11:15; Tuesdays and Thursdays (online) 1:00pm -2:00pm
Class Days:	Every Day	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6537
Class Times:	Always Accessible	Emergency Contact:	Elvia M. Camillo Staff Secretary Behavioral & Social Science Department Imperial Valley College 380E. 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 discussions in each module.

Lectures: Each module contains a lecture presentation in the form of a .pdf document. Additionally, optional video explanations are also available for each lecture.

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.

Discussions: Each module has a discussion board. Students must participate in each discussion in the form of one original post, and one response post per module. Original posts must contain at least 50 words, and response posts must contain 25 words to receive full credit. Discussion posts are due at each module’s due date. Late posts may be considered for partial credit.

Current Event Assignment: 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.

Google Earth Assignments: Students will complete three assignments using the program Google Earth, which is available for download free of charge.

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: 12 quizzes worth 10 points each – 120 points total
- Discussion Boards: 12 discussions worth 10 points each – 120 points total
- 3 Google Earth assignments worth 25 points each – 75 points
- Current Event Assignment: 35 points
- Midterm Exam: 75 points

Final Exam: 75 points

A: 450 – 500 points

B: 400 – 449 points

C: 350 – 399 points

D: 300 – 349 points

F: 299 – points and fewer

Late Work Policy: Any late assignments may be turned in for partial credit before the end of the semester. Late quizzes receive a 2pt deduction. Late discussions will be considered for partial credit. Late labs and current event summaries receive a 5pt deduction. Makeup up exams must be arranged with the instructor, per IVC policies.

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 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.

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.

- **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 provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 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 13 - 18	Syllabus & Introduction	Acquire course materials, become familiar with Canvas and the course, attend optional live orientation
Week 2: February 19 - 26	Module 1: What is geography? Earth Sun Relationship – Seasons and Seasonality – Geographic Grid Maps and Map Projections	Read Chapters 1&2 Module 1 Discussion and Quiz due February 26
Week 3: February 27 - March 5	Module 2: The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature Pressure and Wind	Read Chapters 4&5 Module 2 Discussion and Quiz due March 5

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 4: March 6 – March 12	Module 3: Moisture in the Atmosphere – Hydrology – Adiabatic Processes	Read Chapter 6 Module 3 Discussion and Quiz due March 12
Week 5: March 13 – 19	Module 4: Storms and Atmospheric Disturbances	Read Chapter 7 Module 4 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 1 due March 19
Week 6: March 20 – 26	Module 5: Global Climates and Climate Change	Read Chapter 8 Module 5 Discussion and Quiz due March 26
Week 7: March 27 – April 2	Module 6: The Hydrosphere	Read Chapter 9 Module 6 Discussion and Quiz due April 2
Week 8: April 3 - 9	Review Week	
Week 9: April 10 – April 16	Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam due April 16
Week 10: April 17 – 23	Spring Break	
Week 11: April 24 – 30	Module 7: The Biosphere and Biogeography	Read Chapter 10 Module 7 Discussion, Quiz, and Current Event Assignment due April 30
Week 12: May 1-7	Module 8: Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics	Read Chapters 13&14 Module 8 Discussion and Quiz due May 7
Week 13: May 8 - 14	Module 9: Erosion and Fluvial Dynamics	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Module 9 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 2 due May 14
Week 14: May 15 - 21	Module 10: Arid Lands	Read Chapter 18 Module 10 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 3 due May 21
Week 15: May 22 – May 28	Module: 11 Glaciers and Glaciation	Read Chapter 19 Module 11 Discussion and Quiz due May 28
Week 16: May 29 – June 4	Module 12: Coastal Processes	Read Chapter 20 Module 12 Discussion and Quiz due June 4

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 17: June 5 - 9	Final Exam	Exam due 11:59 pm on June 9 (Note Friday, not Sunday)

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