



Basic Course Information

Semester:	SPRING 2022	Instructor Name:	Curtis Blondell
Course Title & #:	Geography 100	Email:	curtis.blondell@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20826	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Canvas (online)	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	February 14 – June 10	Office Hours:	I will respond to emails within 48 hours
Class Days:	Completely ONLINE (optional Zoom meets available)	Office Phone #:	Elvia Camillo, staff secretary: (760) 355-6144. Email preferred (see above)
Class Times:	Always accessible	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	Class Format:	Canvas Online

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)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

There are no prerequisites, nor corequisites for GEOG 100.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

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)

Analyze current spatial geographic events using the Five Themes of Geography (ILO1, IOL2, IOL4)

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. McKnight’s Physical Geography. Hess, Darrel (2017). 12th Edition. Pearson ISBN 9780134195421
(NOTE: a used copy that is a previous edition is acceptable. Also, while the “California” edition is preferred, it is not mandatory. Please keep in mind that should you purchase an earlier edition, some page numbers referenced in the course may be different).
2. [Zoom](#) for online portions (optional).
3. ~~“Google Earth Pro”~~ <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

In this course, we might utilize several methods of instruction, including lectures, the textbook, multi-media presentations, current events research and discussion, along with discussions in each module.

Lectures: Each module contains an optional 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 12th (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, approved by the instructor, and complete a college-level paper of two pages minimum that relates to course topics.

Geography of a Country Report: A two-page report that summarizes physical and human aspects of a country.

Climate Assessment Essay: A short essay that allows the student to demonstrate the concepts learned from discussions on Changes in Climate lecture and express their opinion regarding a changing climate.



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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

COURSE GRADING

A: 460 – 500 points

B: 420 – 459 points

C: 380 – 419 points

D: 340 – 379 points

F: 339 – points and fewer

Reading Quizzes: 12 quizzes worth 10 points each – 120 points total

Discussion Boards: 12 discussions worth 10 points each – 120 points total

Geography of a Country Report – 35 points

A two-page report that summarizes physical and human aspects of a country.

Climate Assessment Essay – 25 points

A short essay that critically expresses what the student has learned regarding climate change.

Current Event Assignment: 50 points

Each student must select several articles covering one event, approved by the instructor, and complete a college-level paper of two pages minimum that relates to course topics.

Midterm Exam: 75 points (mostly multiple choice but may include short essay answers)

Final Exam: 75 points (mostly multiple choice but may include short essay answers)

Extra Credit: Offered only at the instructor's discretion, typically on exams.

Late Work Policy: Any late assignments may be turned in for partial credit before the end of the semester. Late quizzes receive a minimum 2-point deduction. Late discussions will receive 2-point deduction per the grading matrix for the individual discussions. If the assignment is more than two weeks late, 25% of the points will be deducted. Makeup up exams must be arranged with the instructor, per IVC policies.

First Week Guidelines: During the first week of this course, you are required to participate in online discussion sessions or you may be dropped from the course.

- Please post your introduction, respond to at least two classmates, then complete any activities required for Module 0.

- These activities are important so you won't be dropped from the course for non-participation during this first week.
- If you have any challenges with these tasks during the first week, please notify me as soon as possible so we can get you started.
- Other than “First Day Drops,” please know that I will NOT drop you from the class. Disenrollment from this course is solely the responsibility of each student. I will assume that you intend to complete the course if you do not drop on your own.

Course 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, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

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.

Other Course Information

This course requires significant time dedication as students will be working individually. Optional lecture videos have been created. However, students must be proactive in reaching out for assistance from the instructor. This can be done by emailing the instructor and arranging a Zoom consultation if necessary.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.



The following is subject to change

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 February 14 – February 19	Module 0: Syllabus & Introduction Begin Module 1: What is Geography?	Acquire course materials, become familiar with Canvas and the course. Begin reading Chapter 1
Week 2 February 22 – February 26	Continue Module 1: Earth-Sun Relationships – Seasons and Seasonality –Maps and Map Projections	Continue Chapter 1, Read Chapter 2 Module 1 Discussion and Quiz due February 26 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 3 February 28 – March 5	Begin Module 2: The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature-Pressure and Wind	Read Chapters 3, 4 & 5.
Week 4 March 7 – March 12	Continue Module 2: The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature-Pressure and Wind	Read Chapters 3, 4 & 5. Module 2 Discussion and Quiz due March 12 at 11:59 p.m. Begin Geography of a Country Report Due April 2 – Refer to sample paper in module
Week 5 March 14 – March 19	Module 3: Moisture in the Atmosphere – Adiabatic Processes	Read Chapter 6 Module 3 Discussion and Quiz due March 19 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6 March 21 – March 26	Module 4: Atmospheric Disturbances and Storms	Read Chapter 7 Module 4 Discussion and Quiz due March 26 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7 March 28 – April 2	Module 5: Global Climates and Climate Change Geography of a Country Report Due April 2	Read Chapter 8 Module 5 Discussion and Quiz due April 2 at 11:59 p.m. Begin Climate Assessment Essay
Week 8 April 4 – April 9	Module 6: The Hydrosphere	Read Chapter 9 Module 6 Discussion, Quiz due April 9 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 9 April 11 – April 16	Midterm Exam Climate Assessment Essay due April 16	Due Saturday, April 16 at 11:59 p.m. Climate Assessment Essay due April 16 at 11:59 p.m.



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
April 18 – April 23	SPRING BREAK	Enjoy!
Week 10 April 25 – April 30	Module 7: The Biosphere and Biogeography Begin Current Event Assignment (due May 14) Consult Instructor before beginning! See template in module before writing your paper.	Read Chapter 10 Module 7 Discussion, Quiz due April 30 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 11 May 2 – May 7	Module 8: Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics	Read Chapters 13 & 14 Module 8 Discussion and Quiz due May 7 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 12 May 9 – May 14	Module 9: Erosion and Fluvial Dynamics Current Event Assignment due May 14	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Module 9 Discussion and Quiz due May 14 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13 May 16 – May 21	Module 10: Arid Lands	Read Chapter 18 Module 10 Discussion and Quiz due May 21 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 15 May 23 - 28	Module 11: Glaciers and Glaciation	Read Chapter 19 Module 11 Discussion and Quiz due May 28 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 16 May 31 – June 4	Module 12: Coastal Processes	Read Chapter 20 Module 12 Discussion and Quiz due June 4 at 11:59 p.m.
June 6 – June 10	FINAL EXAM	Final Exam due Friday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Subject to change without prior notice