



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 24	Instructor Name:	Austen Thelen
Course Title & #:	Physical Geography	Email:	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20560		
Classroom:	Canvas	Office #:	203 F
Class Dates:	2/12 – 6/7	Office Hours:	Wednesdays 10:00am-2:00 pm
Class Days:	Every Day	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6537
Class Times:	Always Available (Asynchronous)	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	Class Format:	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 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 (Or Equivalent)
2. "Google Earth Pro" <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

Getting Started with Google Earth assignment worth 25 points each – 25 points

Geography of a Country Report worth 50 points – 50 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

Course Policies

Communication Policies:

I believe that communication between students and their professor, and also among students, is a critical element of learning success. One of the great advantages of taking an online class is that we can engage in communication at times that are convenient for us. That being said, I want to be very clear about our course communication policies.

Primary form of contact = Email

When contacting me, your first action should be to send me an email. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. If you don't see a response, you need to assume that the email did not go through, and you should send it again. Please observe the following two policies when sending me email:

1. Always send me email from your IVC email account. While Canvas has an email function, which I may use to send class-wide emails, please be aware that there are compatibility issues between Canvas and the IVC system, which can affect email replies and forwards. Private emails may get lost in the IVC spam filter.
2. The Subject Line Needs to Include: Your Name, along with the name of this class. Professors get a lot of emails, and I need to be able to prioritize my students. It is very important to let me know who you are and that you are taking this class, so I know the context of your email.

Other Forms of Contact = Telephone

Telephone My telephone number is 760.355.6537. Again, feel free to call any time. This is my office phone, so if I am there, I will answer. You can reach me during office hours, but I tend to be in and out all day.

Online Drop Policy As you may expect, attendance in an online class is a little bit different than in a live section. However, this class observes all of the IVC attendance policies related to enrollment and financial aid.

Please see the following link to the IVC General Catalog if you need to review those policies:

First Day Drops



Because we do not have a firm meeting schedule in online classes, I consider you having attended the first day of class by accessing the Canvas site by within 3 days of the first day of the term. If you do not access the site, or contact me by this time, then unfortunately you might be dropped from the course.

General Drop Policy 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. As far as last day of attendance is concerned (financial aid implications), I will count the day you last submitted an assignment as your last day of attendance, should you fail due to lack of completion.

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 assignments and current event summaries receive a 5pt deduction. Makeup up exams must be arranged with the instructor, per IVC policies.

Exams:

Exams (midterm and final) MUST be taken within their respective availability timeframes to receive credit. Please review the syllabus course road map (last page) for these times.

Assignments and Reading Quizzes:

All assignments and reading quizzes may be completed up until the last day of class to be counted for points in the course. Discussion Forum Posts Activity on the course’s discussion forums must be completed by the end of the semester to be considered for credit.

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.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1: 2/12-2/18	Syllabus & Introduction	Acquire course materials, become familiar with Canvas and the course.
Week 2: 2/19-2/25	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 2/25
Week 3: 2/26-3/3	Module 2: The Atmosphere, Insolation and Temperature Pressure and Wind	Read Chapters 4&5 Module 2 Discussion and Quiz due 3/3
Week 4: 3/4-3/10	Module 3: Moisture in the Atmosphere – Hydrology – Adiabatic Processes	Read Chapter 6 Module 3 Discussion and Quiz due 3/10



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 5: 3/11-3/17	Module 4: Storms and Atmospheric Disturbances	Read Chapter 7 Module 4 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 1 due 3/17
Week 6: 3/18-3/24	Module 5: Global Climates and Climate Change	Read Chapter 8 Module 5 Discussion and Quiz due 3/24
Week 7: 3/25-3/31	Module 6: The Hydrosphere	Read Chapter 9 Module 6 Discussion and Quiz due 3/31
Week 8: 4/1-4/7	Spring Break	
Week 9: 4/8 - 4/14	Midterm Exam	Mid-Term Exam due 4/14
Week 10: 4/15-4/21	Module 7: The Biosphere and Biogeography	Read Chapter 10 Module 7 Discussion, Quiz, and Current Event Assignment due 4/21
Week 11: 4/22-4/28	Module 8: Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics	Read Chapters 13&14 Module 8 Discussion and Quiz due 4/28
Week 12: 4/29-5/5	Module 9: Erosion and Fluvial Dynamics	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Module 9 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 2 due 5/5
Week 13: 5/6-5/12	Module 10: Arid Lands	Read Chapter 18 Module 10 Discussion and Quiz; Google Earth Assignment 3 due 5/12
Week 14: 5/13-5/19	Module 11: Glaciers and Glaciation	Read Chapter 19 Module 11 Discussion, Quiz, and Geography of a Country Report due 5/19
Week 15: 5/20-5/26	Module 12: Coastal Processes	Read Chapter 20 Module 12 Discussion and Quiz due 5/26
Week 16: 5/27-6/2	Review Week	
Week 17: 6/3-6/7	Final Exam	Exam due 11:59 pm on 6/7



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*****Subject to change without prior notice*****