



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 25	Instructor Name:	Austen Thelen, Ph D
Course Title & #:	Physical Geography Laboratory: GEOG 111	Email:	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15128	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Canvas	Office #:	203 F
Class Dates:	Jan 2 – Feb 3, 2025	Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Days:	Asynchronous (always available)	Office Phone #:	760-355-6537
Class Times:	Asynchronous (always available)	Emergency Contact:	Elvia M. Camillo, Staff Secretary Behavioral & Social Science Department Imperial Valley College 380E. Aten Rd. Imperial, CA 92251 (760) 355-6144
Units:	1	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous Online

Course Description

GEOG 111 is the laboratory course in Physical Geography. The course provides laboratory exercises in topics covered in GEOG 100, Physical Geography, which covers the Earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere. The laboratory experience includes the observation and interpretation of weather data, statistical analysis of climate data, map analysis and interpretation, analysis of earth materials, along with landform processes, plate tectonics, and biogeography. (CSU, UC)

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

GEOG 100 is a corequisite course for GEOG 111.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain how the Earth's geometry and motions in space affect environmental patterns and processes. (ILO3, ILO5)
2. List, identify, and map the Earth's major physiographic features and climate distributions. (ILO5)
3. Collect and analyze geographic data and produce geographic tables, graphs and maps. (ILO4)

Course Objectives

1. Understand the size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes.
2. Analyze the major atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth's surface environments.
3. Identify global distributions of the world's major climates, ecosystems, and physiographic (landform) features.
4. Develop critical thinking and research skills related to the scientific method, scientific measurement, data analysis



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and practical experience using the tools and concepts of physical geography.

5. Applications and activities related to basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Hess, Darrel Physical Geography Laboratory Manual for McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation (12th Edition). Prentice Hall, 00-21-2013 (Available at the IVC Library)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Class Activity - Laboratory modules

Written Assignment- Written lab reports that correspond with laboratory modules

Quizzes - 1 multiple choice quiz per laboratory module

Skill Demonstration - Creating graphs, charts and maps based on geographic data collection and analysis

Mid-Term/Final Exam(s)

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

8 Lab Modules – 50 points each, 400 points total

Mid-Term Exam – 50 points

Final Exam – 50 Points

Students' Final grades are based on 500 total points, figured by the following breakdown:

450 - 500 points – A.

400 - 449 points – B.

350 - 399 points – C.

300 - 349 points – D.

299 points or fewer – F.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning.

Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not



accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Communication Policies:

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

Primary form of contact = Canvas Inbox

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. Use the **Canvas Inbox**.

2. If you need to send an email, other than with the Canvas Inbox, 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

My office 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 the IVC attendance policies related to enrollment and financial aid. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog 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 Canvas shell within the first 48 hours of the semester. 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 do not plan to drop anyone from the course. 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 the last day of attendance is concerned (financial aid implications), I will count the day you last logged in as your last day of attendance. Please keep in mind that IVC is dealing with a fictitious enrollment scam, targeting financial aid. Therefore, if you are disenrolled from the class in error, at any time, please contact me as soon as possible.

Late Work Policy:

Per the course syllabus, a student’s grade is derived from points earned via the following assessments: Exams, Assignments, Reading Quizzes, and Discussion Posts.

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.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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 Jan 2 - 5	Module 1 – Intro, Units, Map Reading	Exercise 1 Exercise 2 Exercise 4 Read: pp 1-12; 15-25 Module 1 Quiz Module 1 due on Jan 5



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
	Module 2 – The Atmosphere Module 3 – Weather Basics	Exercise 12 Exercise 13 Exercise 15 Exercise 16 Read pp. 71-98 Module 2 Quiz Exercise 18 Exercise 19 Exercise 20 Read pp 105-130 Module 3 Quiz Modules 2&3 due Jan 5
Week 2 Jan 6 – 12	Module 4 – Storms	Exercise 21 Exercise 22 Read pp. 131-144 Module 4 Quiz Module 4 due Jan 12
	Midterm Exam	Mid-Term Exam due Jan 12
Week 3 Jan 13-19	Module 5 – Climate Module 6 – Biogeography	Exercise 23 Exercise 24 Read pp. 145-180 Module 5 Quiz Exercise 26 Read pp. 197-202 Module 6 Quiz Modules 5&6 due Jan 19
Week 4 Jan 20-26	Module 7 – Tectonics	Exercise 33 Exercise 34 Exercise 37 Read pp. 227-260 Module 7 Quiz Module 7 due Jan 26



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 5 Jan 27 – Feb 3	Module 8 – Geomorphology	Exercise 46 part 1 Exercise 47 part 1 Exercise 49 part 1 Read pp. 317-352 Module 8 Quiz Module 8 due Feb 3
	Final Exam	Final Exam due Feb 3

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