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# PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



El Camino College

Geography 1 - Physical Geography

Fall, 2009

Instructor Matt Ebner

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**Course Objective:** Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the world's natural features and phenomena, including weather, climate, vegetation, and landforms.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	9/3	Introduction to Course; Introduction to the Earth
2	9/10	The Earth (continued); Atmosphere
3	9/17	<b>Quiz #1:</b> Earth's Energy Balance
4	9/24	<b>Test #1:</b> Air Temperature
5	10/1	Winds and Global Circulation
6	10/8	<b>Quiz #2:</b> Atmospheric Moisture & Precipitation
7	10/15	<b>Test #2:</b> Global Climates & Environments
8	10/22	Global Climates & Environments
9	10/29	<b>Quiz #3:</b> Soils & Anatomy of the Earth
10	11/5	<b>Test #3:</b> Plate Tectonics
11	11/12	Volcanoes and Earthquakes
12	11/19	<b>Quiz #4:</b> Weathering and Mass Movement
13	11/26	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
14	12/3	Landforms Made by Running Water
15	12/10	<b>Quiz #5:</b> Landforms Made by Wind & Glaciers
16	12/17	<b>Final Exam</b>

**Required Text:** Earth; (DK; Editor-in-Chief James F. Luhr), 2007.  
Goodes World Atlas (Rand McNally), Any Edition  
Physical Geography Course Notebook (Ebner)

<b>Grading:</b>	3 Tests	@ 50 points each	=	150 points
	Final Exam		=	100 points
	5 quizzes	@ 10 points each	=	50 points
	6 Assignments	@ 6 points each	=	30 points
	<u>Attendance</u>		=	<u>20 points</u>
	<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>		=	<b>350 points</b>

**Tests:** Heavily based on lecture material, but also on the readings indicated on the study guides. You must buy a scantron 882 for each test (available at the campus bookstore). Most of the test questions will be multiple-choice, but there will also be a few short answer questions.

**Final Exam:** The final only covers material after Test #3. It is not a comprehensive exam.

**Make-Up Policy:** If you are absent for a test, you must take the make-up sometime before the next class you attend. Call or email me to make arrangements. The make-up is different (no scantron questions) and more difficult than the test given in class.

There are no make-ups for missed quizzes. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a zero, but after quiz #5 your lowest quiz score will be raised to match your second lowest score.

**Assignments:** There will be 6 homework assignments during the semester. You may work with 1 or 2 classmates on these assignments if you'd like, but each student must turn in his/her own completed assignment at the start of class on the due date. Do these assignments before the due date—don't scramble for answers from classmates 5 minutes before it's due! I reserve the right to reject late assignments. If accepted, late assignments will lose points.

Assignments will usually be graded as follows, assuming there are 25 questions:

- 6 points = everything was perfect
- 5 points = 1-2 mistakes out of 25
- 4 points = 3-8 mistakes
- 3 points = 9-12 mistakes
- 2 points = 13-16 mistakes
- 1 point = 17 or more mistakes
- 0 points = too late or not done at all

The maximum number of points you can earn for all of the assignments is 30.

**Attendance:** Each student begins the semester with 20 points for attendance. With the first absence, nothing happens to that point total. After 1 absence, however, 7 points are deducted for each subsequent absence unless it is college-authorized (field trip for another class, for example) or a documented medical emergency. You are expected to be punctual as tardiness disrupts the class. Three tardies will count as an absence.

**Drops:** I normally drop a student who is absent for 3 consecutive or 4 total class meetings. If you want to drop a class, it is your responsibility to drop it instead of relying on the instructor to do so.

**Your Progress:** You should keep track of all the points that you earn during the course.

Homeworks:       $\frac{\quad}{\#1} /5 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#2} /5 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#3} /5 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#4} /5 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#5} /5 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#6} /5$

Quizzes:         $\frac{\quad}{\#1} /10 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#2} /10 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#3} /10 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#4} /10 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#5} /10$

Tests:             $\frac{\quad}{\#1} /50 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#2} /50 \quad \frac{\quad}{\#3} /50$

Attendance (keep track of your absences here) \_\_\_\_\_

Final Exam      =      \_\_\_\_\_ /100

At any point of the semester, you can determine your current grade by adding the points you have earned, then dividing by the number of points possible up to that day. This will give you a decimal (like .88). Drop the decimal to convert to a percentage (88%) and refer to the chart below to see the grade category for your percentage.

<b><u>Final Grades:</u></b>	A	=	315-350 (90-100%)
	B	=	280-314 (80-89.9%)
	C	=	227-279 (65-79.9%)
	D	=	192-226 (55-64.9%)
	F	=	0-191 (0-54.9%)

**Students with Disabilities, including Learning Disabilities**

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. If you suspect, or are unsure if, you have a learning disability you are strongly encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus as soon as possible for testing, to better ensure any needed accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. If you have a documented or suspected disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES - Upon completing this Physical Geography class, students should be able to:**

1. Explain basic characteristics of the earth such as size, shape, meridians and parallels, longitude and latitude, time zones, earth-sun relationships and seasons, and the atmosphere.
2. Compare and contrast the basic elements of weather and climate such as air temperature, air pressure, winds, clouds and precipitation, air masses and storms.
3. Explain the interrelationships among the climate, natural vegetation, and soil of many natural environments.
4. Compare and contrast the major rock classes of the earth's crust, plate tectonics, volcanism and tectonic activity (and related landforms), and weathering and mass movements.
5. Evaluate the erosional agents (water, ice, waves, and wind) and resulting landforms.
6. Prepare and analyze maps and graphs.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME for Physical Geography**

Students can identify the salient features of the basic concepts of physical geography. (This includes the ability to recall the definitions of the specialized vocabulary of physical geography.)

**CLASSROOM POLICIES & SUGGESTIONS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES FOR A GOOD GRADE**

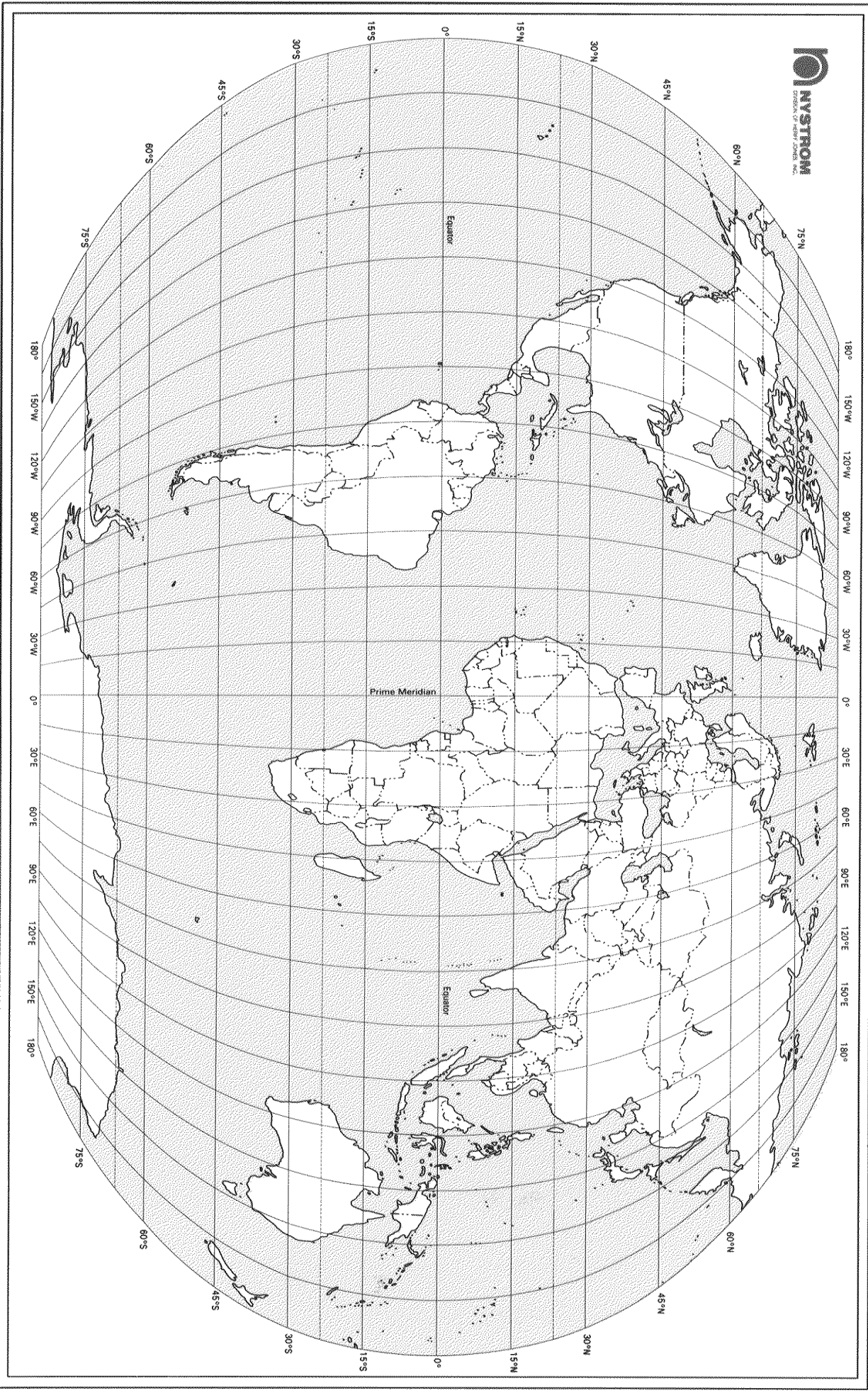
1. Attend every class and be on time. Unfortunately I only teach this one section of Physical Geography this semester
2. Bring your course notebook (with the PowerPoint pictures) to every class. Go through the PowerPoint slide shows on the website ([www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner)) before we cover a region in class.
3. Review your notes after class within 24 hours of class time. If you get to class early, review your notes to remind yourself what topic we are on.
4. Do your homework before the last minute. Plan to finish your work at least 24 hours before it is due. Late assignments will result in a lower grade, and the later you turn it in, the greater is the point reduction.
5. During class time you should be focused on Geography. Do not chat. Do not read other materials. Do not eat or drink in class, unless it is something that is totally quiet and odorless. Do not sleep in class. You might feel embarrassed if I have to wake you in front of your classmates. **NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS!**
6. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in being given a failing grade for the work or for the entire course. Plagiarism is using someone else's work and claiming it as your own. That is unfair and unacceptable. Do your own work; write in your own words. Students are expected to be honest in this class.

Refer to an atlas to find the following locations.

Label them on the world map and study their locations.

You will be quizzed on these locations and you will be hearing about these places during this course.

Continents & Countries	Islands	Bodies of Water	Mountains
<b><i>United States</i></b>			
Alaska Arizona California Florida Los Angeles Minnesota Nevada New England (region) New Mexico North Dakota Oregon Texas Washington	Hawaii Puerto Rico	Great Lakes Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Pacific Ocean Atlantic Ocean	Rocky Mountains Sierra Nevada
<b><i>North America</i></b>			
Canada Central America (region) Guatemala Mexico	Cuba Jamaica Martinique	Caribbean Sea	
<b><i>South America</i></b>			
Argentina Brazil Chile Ecuador Peru Uruguay		Amazon River	Andes
<b><i>Africa</i></b>			
Algeria Botswana Congo Egypt Ethiopia Kenya Namibia South Africa	Madagascar	Congo River Red Sea	
<b><i>Europe</i></b>			
Finland France Greece Italy Norway Siberia, Eastern Russia Slovenia Sweden	Britain Iceland Ireland Greenland	Mediterranean Sea	Alps
<b><i>Asia</i></b>			
Bangladesh China India Indonesia Japan Mongolia Nepal Pakistan Philippines Saudi Arabia	Sri Lanka	Aral Sea Indian Ocean	Himalayas
<b><i>Southern Lands</i></b>			
Australia New Zealand Antarctica	Tasmania		



**WORLD**