



GEOG1: PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

El Camino College Fall 2009

Geography 1 - Physical Elements

Instructor: Patricia Neumann

Email Address: pneumann@elcamino.edu (This is BEST way to reach me)

Office: NATS 209 Phone: 310-660-3343 (Ask the Natural Science Division secretary to leave a message in my mailbox.)

Fall 2009 Office Hours: As a part-time instructor, I am not given office hours but I am happy to meet with you immediately before or after any of my Mon/Wed classes. Look for me either in the classroom or in NATS 209.

Email if you need to see me but cannot meet at these times. I will try to meet with you another time.

Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the class guidelines, grading policies, and course requirements described in this syllabus. If you have trouble understanding course topics or lecture material, don't hesitate to contact me. Please don't wait until the end of the semester when it may be too late for help!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the Earth's natural features and phenomena, including weather, climate, vegetation, and landforms. Emphasis will be on developing an understanding of the processes that create and control these phenomena and an appreciation for the diversity of the natural world and its relation to human activity.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 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 geography.)
Assessment: A quiz at the beginning and the end of the semester.
- Students recognize and can accurately articulate how their physical environment affects human lives and how human activities affect their physical environment.
Assessment: A written assignment at the end of the semester.
- Students can identify the key elements of the scientific method (hypotheses, tests, observations, conclusions/interpretation of observations) in popular accounts of scientific research in magazines, newspapers, etc.
Assessment: A written assignment at the end of the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Physical Geography (Tom McKnight & Darrell Hess, 9th edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.) Either the "California" or regular edition is OK. The 8th edition is OK too but reading is based on the 9th edition.
Geography 1 Course Notebook (Neumann) available in the ECC Bookstore

Recommended: *Goode's World Atlas* (or a similar recent edition world atlas)

COURSE MATERIALS ON THE WEB:

Course handouts, PowerPoint slide files, chapter vocabulary lists & extra credit opportunities are available online at <http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/pneumann/index.html>. Students who do not have internet access at home can use the computers in the ECC Library (in the basement or near the Periodicals/ Reserve desk).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

READING: Reading the assigned material is critical to your success in this class. Make it a habit to read the assigned pages before coming to class. Both an 8th and 9th edition of the text are available at the ECC Library Reserve Desk but you should purchase your own copy.

EXAMS: There will be 5 exams, each worth 50 points. The lowest exam score will be dropped when computing final grades. The exams are heavily based on lecture material but will also include material from the assigned reading. Exam questions will be a mixture of multiple-choice and short answer/ essay questions. You will need a scantron 882 for each exam (available in the campus bookstore). In addition to the exams, there will be two map tests each worth 10 pts. BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS! If you arrive late, you will not be given extra time to finish.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be three homework assignments plus a three-page typed essay. Each student must turn in his or her own completed assignment at the start of class on the Due Date. Points will be deducted if assignments are late, sloppy or unreadable.

ATTENDANCE:

DON'T MISS CLASS. Students are expected to attend every class. Each student will begin the semester with 20 attendance points. After the first absence, 3 attendance points will be deducted for each additional absence unless it is due to college-authorized activities or a medical emergency that you can document. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check with another student about what you missed and to get notes from a classmate (outside of class time.) **STUDENTS WITH FIVE OR MORE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS REGARDLESS OF HOW WELL THEY ARE DOING.**

LATE ARRIVAL & EARLY DEPARTURE

Plan to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. Students who come and go during lecture time disrupt the entire class. Attendance points will be deducted for both late arrival and early departures. Anticipate parking problems and give yourself ample time to park & walk to class. If you arrive after attendance was taken, it is your responsibility to notify me of your attendance. You need to do this at the end of class *on the day of your tardy*. If you have an ongoing problem arriving on time and staying until the end of class, resolve it or switch classes.

MAKE UP EXAMS:

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero for that exam.

MAKE UP MAP TESTS:

Students can make up missed map tests at the beginning or end of the following class. They must email & make arrangements with me to do that.

DROPS:

I will normally drop students who miss 3 consecutive class meetings or 5 total class meetings. If you want to drop the class, do not rely on me to do this though. Sometimes students stop attending class near the final drop date and instructors don't catch this in time. These students end up with an "F" in the class. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to request a drop. Don't assume you will automatically be dropped for non-attendance. The last day to process a course drop is Nov 20th.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, OR FURNISHING MATERIALS IN ORDER TO ENABLE OTHER STUDENTS TO DO SO WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Such behavior violates Section I.B.1 of El Camino College's Board Policy 5138, Standards of Student Conduct. Anyone caught cheating will receive zero points for that test, exam, or assignment. No exceptions.

ECC MISSION STATEMENT:

El Camino College offers quality, comprehensive educational programs and services to ensure the educational success of students from our diverse community.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

The policy of the El Camino Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment in which no person shall be unlawfully denied full and equal access to, the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to, discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or retaliation in any program or activity that is administered by, funded directly by, or that receives any financial assistance from, the State Chancellor or Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

Students will be notified ahead of time when and if any changes are made to these course requirements or policies.

CLASS CONTACTS:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____

GRADING:

5 Exams @ 50 pts each with lowest score dropped	=	200 pts
Essay Assignment	=	25 pts
3 Homework Assignments @ 15 pts each	=	45 pts
2 Map Tests @ 10 pts each	=	20 pts
Films (Points are for questions on films viewed in class)	=	10 pts
Attendance	=	20 pts
Participation	=	5 pts
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TOTAL POSSIBLE	=	325 pts

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students may earn up to ten points of extra credit toward their grade. Extra credit opportunities will be listed on the course website. Extra credit exercises must be completed and turned in before the date of the final exam. Among the extra credit opportunities will be an instructor-led hike through George F. Canyon in Palos Verdes Peninsula. Dates for the trip are noted in the class schedule. Those dates are tentative and subject to change.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR GRADE:

You are expected to keep track of your own grade. Save ALL your graded exams, map tests, assignments and any extra credit you do until you receive your final grade. This will help you calculate your grade throughout the semester and will prove your claim if there is any difference in the grade you expected and the one you receive. To see how you are doing at anytime during the semester, add up your total points and divide by the total number of points accumulated in class up to that point. This will give you a decimal (like .88). Multiply this by 100 to convert it to a percentage and compare that to those listed in the box below. Scores will generally be posted on the course webpage under a code name for each student.

RECORD YOUR SCORES HERE:

HOMEWORK 1 _____ HOMEWORK 2 _____ HOMEWORK 3 _____

MAP TEST 1 _____ MAP TEST 2 _____

EXAM 1 _____ EXAM 2 _____ EXAM 3 _____ EXAM 4 _____ EXAM 5 _____

ESSAY _____ FILM QUESTIONS _____ EXTRA CREDIT _____

ATTENDANCE: Absences = _____ Tardies = _____

Students are not penalized for their first absence or tardy. Deduct 3 points for each additional unexcused absence and 1 point for each additional tardy. (Early departures are treated as tardies.)

FINAL GRADES:	
293 to 325 pts =	A (90 – 100%)
260 to 292 pts =	B (80 – 89%)
227 to 259 pts =	C (70 – 79%)
195 to 226 pts =	D (60 – 69%)
0 to 194 pts =	F (Less than 60%)

Homework Total: _____/45
Map Test Total: _____/20
Exam Total: _____/200
Essay: _____/25
Film Questions: _____/10
Attendance: _____/20
Extra Credit: _____/10
(Max extra credit =10 pts)

TOTAL POINTS: _____

COURSE SCHEDULE: A schedule of lectures and assignments is found on the following page. Please note that it is tentative and subject to change.

FALL 2009 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Text readings are those that will be covered on these days. Read these chapters
BEFORE class and be familiar with the chapter vocabulary.

Week	Date	Topic	Text Readings
1	Aug 31 Sept 2	Intro to the Earth & Geography Chpt 1: Origin of the Earth, Earth-Sun Relationships	pages 1-21
2	Sept 7 Sept 9	No class (Labor Day Holiday) Chpt 1: Earth-Sun Relationships, Seasons & Time	pages 23-26
3	Sept 14 Sept 16	Chpt 2: Intro to Cartography, GIS & Remote Sensing HWK 1 DUE Chpt 3: Intro to Earth's Atmosphere	pages 29-51 pages 55-72
4	Sept 21 Sept 23	Chpt 4: Insolation & Temperature EXAM 1 (Chpts 1, 2 & 3)	pages 75-104
5	Sept 28 Sept 30	Chpt 4: Insolation & Temperature cont'd Chpt 5: Wind & Global Circulation	pages 107-131
6	Oct 5 Oct 7	Chpt 5: Wind & Global Circulation cont'd HWK 2 DUE Chpt 6: Water & Atmospheric Moisture	pages 141-176 (Skip "Buoyancy of Air" pp 159-162)
7	Oct 12 Oct 14	Chpt 6: Water & Atmospheric Moisture cont'd Chpt 7: Storms & Atmospheric Disturbance	pages 179-208
8	Oct 19 Oct 21	EXAM 2 (Chpts 4, 5, 6, & 7) Map Test 1 (Continents, Oceans, Rivers, Lakes & Seas) Chpts 8, 10 & 11: Global Climates & Biomes	pages 211-247, 289-296, & 331-343 (Pages 313-322 are helpful but optional)
9	Oct 26 Oct 28	Chpts 8, 10 & 11: Global Climates & Biomes (cont'd) Chpt 8: Global Climate Change	pages 247-257
10	Nov 2 Nov 4	HWK 3 DUE Chpt 11: Human Influence on Natural Environments Chpt 9: Underground Water & Chpt 17: Solution Processes & Karst Topography	pages 343-349 pages 280-285 & pages 515-526
11	Nov 9 Nov 11	EXAM 3 (Chpts 8, 9, 10, 11, & 17) ESSAY DUE Chpt 12: Soil & Chpt 13: Intro to Geology	pages 353-368 & pages 387-404 (Skip 390 & 393)
12	Nov 16 Nov 18 (FRI NOV 20 = LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITH A "W")	Chpt 14: Plate Tectonics & Vulcanism Chpt 14: Folding, Faulting & Earthquakes	pages 413-444 pages 444-456
13	Nov 23 Nov 25	Chpt 15: Weathering & Mass Wasting EXAM 4 (Chpts 12, 13, 14 & 15)	pages 459-479
14	Nov 30 Dec 2	Map Test 2 (Rainforests, Mountains, Deserts & Islands) Chpt 16: Erosion & Fluvial Processes Chpt 18: Arid Landforms	pages 481-507 pages 529-552
(SAT & SUN DEC 5 th & 6 th EXTRA CREDIT FIELD TRIP)			
15	Dec 7 Dec 9	Chpt 19: Glacial Modification of Terrain Chpt 19: Glacial Modification of Terrain (cont'd)	pages 555-582
16	Dec 14 Dec 16	Last day to submit extra credit Chpt 20: Coastal Processes & Terrain EXAM 5 (Chpts 16, 18, 19, 20)	pages 589-609 GOOD LUCK!