

Geography 7, Spring, 2009

Geography of California

M 6-9:10 pm

Web: www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner

Instructor: Matt Ebiner

Office & Phone: NATS 211; (310) 660-3593 x3369

Office Hours: MW 11-11:45, MW 5-6 pm; Th 12-1 p

Email: mebiner@elcamino.edu

Course Description: This course studies California's diverse landforms, climates, ecology, regions, cities, economic activities and cultures.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	2/16	Holiday – President's Day
2	2/23	Introduction to California; Population; Climate
3	3/2	Climate; Vegetation & Wildlife
4	3/9	Test #1; Water Supply; Historical Geography
5	3/16	Historical Geography; Northeast California
6	3/23	Test #2; Sierra Nevada
7	3/30	Sierra Nevada & Trans-Sierra
8	4/6	Test #3; Southern Cascades
	4/13	Holiday - Spring Break
9	4/20	Northwest California & Bay Area
10	4/27	Test #4; Central Coast
11	5/4	Newspaper Assignment Due; Central Valley
12	5/11	Test #5; Colorado Desert
13	5/18	Field Trip Write-Up Due; Mojave Desert
14	5/25	Holiday – Memorial Day
15	6/1	Southern California
16	6/8	Final Exam - 6-8 pm (Deserts & Southern California)

Required Text: California, 5th Edition (2004), Peters, Kendall Hunt Publishing
California Geography Notebook, 2009 edition, Ebiner
California Road Map (from AAA or any bookstore)

Grading:	5 Tests @ 50 points	=	250 points
	Final Exam	=	75 points
	Field Trip or Project	=	75 points
	Newspaper Assignment	=	25 points
	Attendance	=	20 points
	<u>Classroom Participation</u>	=	5 points
	Total Possible	=	450 points

Tests & Make-Ups

If you are absent for a test, you cannot take a make-up unless you make prior arrangements. I have the final say on whether a make-up will be permitted. If given, the make-up will be different from the test given in class (not scantron). If you cannot or do not take the test or the make-up, you will receive a score equal to your lowest score on the other 4 tests. If you take all 5 tests, your second lowest score will replace your lowest score.

Attendance

Each student begins the semester with 20 points for attendance. If you are absent once or not at all, you will receive all 20 points. After one absence, 7 points are deducted per absence. **If you miss half a class you will lose 3 points. Three tardies will count as one absence.**

Self-Guided Field Trip of Los Angeles

You must take a driving/walking tour of Los Angeles. There is a separate sheet of instructions for this, but you will stop and experience several key areas of the city: Little Tokyo, Hollywood Boulevard, The Sunset Strip, Melrose, Beverly Hills, Westwood, Santa Monica, and Venice Beach.

This is assigned because California is a phenomenal place and very fun, worthwhile, and rewarding to experience personally. Our state has some of the most spectacular and beautiful scenery to be found anywhere in the world, with contrasting landscapes and fascinating cultural variety as well. This field trip/project will help you see part of our state and will probably be the most memorable part of the course.

You will take photos and write notes of the different places you visit. Your write-up will consist of the photos and a typed, insightful description of the different places you visit. This write-up should be compiled nicely with a cover page or binder.

There is an expense incurred in doing either of these options, for printing your photos and for parking fees. You can take digital photos and you can turn in your report as a PowerPoint presentation or Word document on CD. If you do so, make sure the file size is not too large. Even if you use digital photos, you must also print out your report and photos and turn that in.

Self-Guided Field Trip Due Date: Monday, May 18, 2009. Late write-ups lose 5 points each weekday. If you turn it in late when I am not on campus (e.g., Tuesday afternoon) bring it to the Natural Sciences Division Office (LS-101) and give it to the secretary. She will put it in my mailbox.

Tracking Your Progress:

You should keep track of all the points you earn during the course:

Exam #1 =	____/50	Field Trip or Project	=	____/75
Exam #2 =	____/50	Articles Assignment	=	____/25
Exam #3 =	____/50	Attendance (keep track of your absences)	=	_____
Exam #4 =	____/50			
Exam #5 =	____/50			
Final Exam =	____/75			

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 make the number a percentage (88%) and refer to the chart below to see the grade category your percentage falls into.

<u>Final Grades:</u>	A	=	405-450 (90-100%)
	B	=	360-404 (80-89.9%)
	C	=	292-359 (65-79.9%)
	D	=	247-291 (55-64.9%)
	F	=	0-246 (0-54.9%)

Course Objectives for Geography 7 (California Geography)

1. Develop a mental map of California with the basic place names of cities and natural features.
2. Compare and contrast the densely populated regions of California and explain the relationship between population distribution and natural environment.
3. Explain the processes which influence California's climate patterns, and distinguish the climatic variations within the state.
4. Describe the biomes of California and recognize these in photos or outdoors.
5. Compare and contrast California's major water features and evaluate the supplies to estimate potential problems in the future.
6. Discuss the historical periods of California's development and compare and contrast each period's effects on the current geographical characteristics of California (ethnicity, economy, city locations).
7. Compare and contrast the geographical regions of California and inspect the relationships between natural environment, urbanization, and economy.
8. Inventory the unique qualities of California's protected areas (national parks, state parks and reserves) and assess the problems faced by these areas.
9. Assess the contemporary challenges faced by the people and environments of California and propose plans for addressing these challenges.

Classroom Policies & Suggestions to Maximize your Chances for a Good Grade

1. Attend every class and be on time.
2. Bring your course notebook to every class.
3. Use the website for this course (www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner). Go through the PowerPoint slide shows for a lecture before we cover it in class.
4. Review your notes after class within 24 hours of class time. If you get to class early, review your notes to remind yourself what we topic we are on.
5. Label and study the maps from the back of your course notebook. Do not just label the locations, but also try to write your notes onto the map. Use colors to make your map easier to read.
6. Do your work 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. Turning in late assignments sometimes causes a student to fall just short of earning their desired grade.
7. During class time you should be focused on Geography. Do not chat with classmates. Do not read the newspaper or books for other classes. Do not eat or drink in class, unless it is something that is totally quiet and odorless.
8. Turn off cell phones before coming to class. No text messaging during class.
9. Do not sleep in class. You might feel embarrassed if I have to wake you in front of your classmates.
10. 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, and write in your own words. Students are expected to be honest and honorable in this class.

Read the Los Angeles Times during the semester on a regular basis in search of good news articles related to California Geography. You must find one article in each of the 4 categories listed below (4 articles total).

- The best articles to choose are newsfeature articles that focus on a story, not simply the news of the previous day. The California Section is the best section for articles. The best articles have photos and a map, and are related to topics covered in class. **Do not select articles that focus on politics, sports, crime, or travel.** A letter to the editor or an opinion piece is not a news article. **Articles have to be from February 17, 2009 or later.**
- **Minimum length of the article is 900 words (at least half the size of an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper, not counting headline, photos, diagrams).** You may print your articles from www.latimes.com

Categories of articles (find one article in each category)

1) **Environmental Geography**

(about California's environment or some human-environment interaction occurring in California; articles about current weather are usually not good for this assignment)

Examples: "All Shook Up: Swarm of Quakes at Mammoth"
"Hot? Compared to Death Valley, It's Mild"

2) **Regional Geography** (about a region or city of California, but do not pick an article about a city in Los Angeles County)

Examples: "The Crush of the 1990s Grape Rush" (about California's expanding wine areas)
"Town That Hated Steinbeck Torn on How to Honor Him" (about Salinas)

3) **Population Geography** (news about migration, ethnicity, or population growth)

Examples: "A Positive Immigrant Portrait" (L.A. County's Salvadorans and Guatemalans)
"County's Population Growth Smallest in More Than 20 Years"
"Hmong Seek Better Life in Exodus From State"

4) **Economic Geography** (news about economic activities in the state, such as industry, farming,...)

Look at the Business section (usually section C). Do not select an article that discusses just one company; try to find one about an economic activity, like those below.

Examples: "With Aerospace Ailing, Hollywood Looks to be Region's New Top Gun"
"This Ship Has Come In" (Long Beach Harbor as Nation's New #1 Port)
"The Well Runs Dry" (about the decline of Orange County's oil industry)

You will turn in:

1. a total of 4 articles; make sure that each article is geographical, i.e. that the article discusses a place or phenomenon that can be mapped. Number each article.
2. a 2-3 paragraph, **typed** summary (minimum 200 words) of each article with the article neatly attached. Your summary must relate the information to what we covered in class or what the text says. If you refer to the text, make sure you give the page number. Paste the article to paper or carefully fold it. Put all your writing, articles, and map in a flat folder (not a 3-ring binder) or staple it all together. Begin each summary on a new page.
3. A California map labeled with each important place or area mentioned in the articles. Identify each location by article number and name of the place (#1 – Death Valley, then point to that location on the map)
4. Compile everything in this order: Write-up #1, Article #1, Write-up #2, Article #2.... Write-Up #4, Article #4, Map.
5. Below you will see the proper format for each write-up, how to identify the article by title, etc. and how the write-up should begin. Remember that you will write at least 200 words to summarize each article. To get a word count when you are using Microsoft Word you can highlight your summary, then go to Tools, then Word Count. Your Word Count must only count the words in the summary, not in the title, date, and heading. If you clip the article from the newspaper you do not have to list the number of words in the article.

Article #1 – Environmental Geography

"Hot? Compared to Death Valley, It's Mild", L.A. Times, August 9, 1998. Article = 1913 words; Summary = 343 words

In class we learned that Death Valley is the hottest place in America. This article discusses the climate of Death Valley, and how people adapt to the harsh conditions there...

Grading Rationale (6 points possible for each article, plus one bonus point for turning it in on time):

- ✓ Quality of the article 3 = excellent; 2 = good; 1 = fair; 0 = inappropriate
- ✓ Summary 2 = good; 1 = fair; 0 = poor
- ✓ Map Labeling 1 = accurately labeled; 0 = not labeled or inaccurate
- ✓ Bonus +½ point for each article clipped from the LA Times newspaper (rather than online)
- ✓ Improper Format -2 points for not following the required format listed above (#5) and in the box above
- ✓ Late Penalty -2 points every day that it is late

Geography 7
Instructor Matt Ebiner
Extra Credit Museum Visit

For 5 extra credit points, go to one of the following museums in Southern California to experience a part of L.A.'s cultural greatness. Write 1-2 pages about what you found especially interesting and memorable at the museum. Attach your ticket stub to your report. **Due Date: Monday, June 1, 2009.**

Since schedules change, you should confirm the operating hours of the museum you plan to visit

Autry Museum of Western Heritage (Griffith Park, T-Sa 10-5)
California African-American Museum (Exposition Park; Tu-Su 10-5)
California Museum of Science and Industry (Exposition Park, daily 10-5)
Fowler Museum of Cultural History, UCLA (Westwood; Wed-Sun 12-5; free on Thur)
George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries (Mid-Wilshire District; Tu-Su 10-5)
Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens (San Marino; free first Thur of month)
J. Paul Getty Museum (Brentwood; free, but must have parking reservation; (310) 440-7300)
Japanese-American National Museum (Little Tokyo; Tu-Su 10-5; Th 10-8)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Mid-Wilshire District; Tu-Th 10-5; Fr 10-9; Sa-Su 11-6)
Museum of Contemporary Art (Downtown L.A.; Tu-Su 11-5)
Museum of Flying (Santa Monica Airport; Tu-Su 10-5)
Museum of Miniatures (Mid-Wilshire District; (Tu-Sa 10-5; Su 11-5)
Museum of Tolerance (Pico Blvd, Los Angeles; Mo-Th 10-4; Fr 10-1, Su 11-5)
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Exposition Park; Tu-Su 10-5)
Norton Simon Museum (Pasadena; Th-Su 10-6)
Pacific-Asia Museum (Pasadena; We-Su 10-5; free 3rd Saturday of the month)
Petersen Automotive Museum (Mid-Wilshire District; Tu-Su 10-6)
Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Birthplace (Yorba Linda)
Skirball (Jewish) Cultural Center and Museum (Brentwood; Tu-We 10-4; Th 10-9; Fr 10-4; Sa-Su 12-5)
Southwest Museum (Highland Park; Tu-Su 11-5)