

Physical Elements of Geography – B1

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Fall 2017 BC Delano Campus – Delano Science and Technology Center – Room 1105

THURSDAY 6:00-9:10pm Office Hours: Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm

Welcome to Physical Geography, the study of the earth and its processes, and the beginning of all sciences. During this course, you will learn about climates, landforms, plate tectonics, the oceans, and the natural environment, among many other topics – including our local area. Being a good geographer means being observant to what is around you.

The textbook is **Geosystems**, 9th edition, by Chrisopherson and Birkeland, and you will be required to read and answer questions from it. You are also required to have a world atlas of your choice (either Goode's or Hammond's is recommended). Some short assignments will be given which will require you to do research at either the library, the internet, or the local community.

Attendance is required. If you miss three class sessions, you may either be dropped or fail this course.

Please refrain from using your cell phone at all during class time. If this becomes a problem, you may be asked to leave, which will count towards your attendance.

Disabilities: If you have a disability, please inform me so we can make accommodations. Also, contact the Disabilities Office at (661) 720-2000.

If you would like extra help with this course, do not delay because BC has, not just one but, four ways that you can get the support you need to be successful in any class on campus:

- * The Writing Center (CSS-133) provides one-on-one assistance with a degreed professional so that you can improve your skills in reading and writing in all classes for all purposes.
 - * The Math Hub (MS-113) offers drop-in, one-on-one tutoring with math consultants to help you crunch those numbers.
 - * The Tutoring Center (CSS-203) trains students who have been successful in various subjects to be your tutor, sitting down with you one-on-one to encourage and guide you in a specific course.
 - * SI (Supplemental Instruction) (CSS-193) represents small group learning in which you participate in weekly study groups for a certain course led by competent students (known as SI Leaders).
- Don't be afraid to ask for help! Make the choice early on in this class to try one or more of the above free services.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain how hydrological, tectonic, erosional, and atmospheric processes, as well as Earth-Sun relationships, are interconnected and together shape the physical environment.
2. Summarize the conditions that cause natural hazards such as floods, storms, earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, and coastal erosion AND explain the impacts of those hazards on humans.
3. Analyze how humans impact the natural environment and research such local environmental issues as drought, flash floods, air pollution, ground water pollution and over-drawing, earthquakes, and environmental planning.
4. Analyze and draw conclusions from the analysis of graphs, geographic diagrams, statistics, and maps.
5. Create diagrams that explain and demonstrate various Earth Science processes like the rock cycle, tectonic cycle, and the hydrologic cycle.

Student Learning Outcomes

These are similar to the learning objectives and will be assessed through student participation in lectures and discussions, participation in activities, and the completion of assigned homework and tests.

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the earth as an open physical system where all elements interact with one another.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how the earth's atmosphere, geology and biological processes shape the earth's surface.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the earth's size, orientation and revolution in space.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the global distribution of Earth's weather, climate, and landform features.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method as it applies to real world geographic problems.

Course Schedule (The following is approximate and may be subject to change)

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Reading Assignments</u>	<u>Assessments</u>	<u>Homework</u>
Week 1 / Aug 24	Chap 1: Essentials of Geography Chap 2: Solar Energy & Earth Seasons		
Week 2 / Sept 7	Chap 3: Earth's Atmosphere Chap 4: Atmosphere/Surface Energy	Quiz Chap 1-3	
Week 3 / Sept 14	Chap 5: Global Temperatures Chap 6: Atmospheric/Oceanic Circulations	Quiz Chap 4-6	Sun Angle Problems
Week 4 / Sept 21	Chap 7: Water/Atmospheric Moisture	Unit 1 Test (Chap 1-6)	
Week 5 / Sept 28	Chap 8: Weather Chap 9: Water Resources		
Week 6 / Oct 5	Chap 10: Global Climate Systems Chap 11: Climate Change	Quiz Chap 7-10	Video Report
Week 7 / Oct 12	Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam	
Week 8 / Oct 19	Chap 12: Dynamic Planet Chap 13: Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanism		
Week 9 / Oct 26	Chap 14: Weathering/Landscapes/Mass Movements	Quiz Chap 11-12	Volcano Research
Week 10 / Nov 2	Chap 15: River Systems Chap 16: Oceans, Coastal Systems, and Wind Processes	Quiz Chap 13-14	
Week 11 / Nov 9	Chap 17: Glacial & Periglacial Landscapes	Quiz Chap 15-17	
Week 12 / Nov 16	Chap 18: Geography of Soils Chap 19: Ecosystem Essentials	Unit Test 3 (Chap 12-17)	Research Report
Week 13 / Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day (No School)		
Week 14 / Nov 30	Chap 20: Terrestrial Biomes Course Review	Quiz Chap 18-20	Biome Project
Week 15 / Dec 7	<u>Final Exam (Units 3 & 4: Chap 12-20)</u>	Final Exam	

Grades

Grades will be based on a percentage scale: 90% or higher = A, 80%-89% = B, 70%-79% = C, 60%-69% = D, and 59% and below = F.

Unit Exams	2 x 50 =	100
Mid-term/Final Exams	2 x100=	200
Quizzes	7 x 15 =	105
Research Report	1 x 25 =	25
Video Report	1 x 25 =	25
Internet Assignments (Sun Angle/Biome/Volcano)	3 x 15 =	45

Total Points = 500

Withdrawal Deadlines:

Last day to drop without a W on your record:

September 5, 2017

Census Date:

September 5, 2017