

GEOGRAPHY 001 – Physical Geography

Fall 2014

West Los Angeles College

Instructor: Ilya Neyman

Section #4166

Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday 5:10 PM - 6:35 PM

Room: MSA 302

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Required Text: *Physical Geography 10th Edition*

Author: Petersen, Sack, Gabler

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Course Description: Geography 001 is a spatial study of the Earth's dynamic physical systems and processes. Topics include Earth-sun geometry, weather, climate, water, landforms, soil, and the biosphere. Emphasis is on the interrelationships among environmental and human systems and processes and their resulting patterns and distributions. Tools of geographic inquiry are also briefly covered; they may include: maps, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

The Geography 001 course introduces students to fundamental and advanced geographic and scientific principles that make up our understanding of the Earth's physical systems and processes. These processes such as weather, climate, landforms etc. are not "random" as is popularly but mistakenly believed, but rather part of a systematic and orderly system, orchestrated with pinpoint precision and part of a cause and effect relationship. The aim of this course is to give the students a greater appreciation of the world around us as part of the inter-connectedness and unity spanning multiple disciplines of the Earth-atmosphere-people and environment interaction.

Course Objectives: By the conclusion of this course, you will hopefully be much more familiar with the world around you and describe the major interactions between earth's natural systems and why this is relevant to humans.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of a course of study in physical geography students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the salient features of the basic concepts of geography. This includes the ability to recall the definitions of the specialized vocabulary of geography.
- 2) Recognize and accurately articulate how their environment affects humans' lives and how human activities affect their environment.
- 3) Identify the key elements of the scientific method in popular accounts of scientific research in magazines, newspapers, etc.
- 4) Understand how the basic interactions between the sun and the earth's subsystems of the lithosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere affect such things as climate, seasonal changes, and hydrology.

Course Requirements: Daily attendance in the class is mandatory and roll may be taken at any time during each class session.

Drop Policy: If a student wishes to drop the class *the student alone is responsible* for notifying the Office of Admissions and Records of their withdrawal as soon as possible. Failure to do so may lead to a permanent F on your academic record. Drops must be done by the 2nd class meeting without a W. Drops conducted afterward may result in a W.

Peer Contact Phone Numbers and Email Addresses: If you miss a class it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and get copies of the notes from your peers. It may be a good idea to exchange contact information with at least one other student.

West Los Angeles College Student Learning Resources: West Los Angeles College offers many excellent services such as counseling, tutoring, financial aid, etc. Please make use of these services by applying at the appropriate office. If you are having difficulty with this course, you should contact the instructor either in class or by email and/or visit the Heldman Learning Resource at <http://www.wlac.edu/library/> or call (310) 287-4408.

Disabled Student Resources: It is the policy of West Los Angeles Community College to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement – such as time-limited exams or the use of inaccessible web content – please contact the Disabled Students Programs and Services at (310) 287-4450 in the Student Services Building (SSB 320) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Grading System: Traditional grading (>90%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, <60%=F). Test, project and take-home paper due dates will be announced during the course of the semester.

In-class assignments/participation/attendance	10% total
Homework	10% total
Take-home paper (2)	10% each
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

Schedule of Topics:

During the month of September we will cover:	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
During the month of October we will cover:	Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Paper #1 Midterm Exam
During the month of November we will cover:	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
During the month of December we will cover:	Chapter 18, 19, 20 Paper #2 Final Exam

Attendance: Attendance in each and every class meeting is required. It is your key to success in any course you take. You are expected to arrive on time for every class. Late arrival may result in being excluded from the day's assignment or quiz and may result in a grade of zero for that day. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor **immediately** if you miss a class meeting due to an emergency or illness. Don't count on any make-up assignments unless the instructor has been previously notified. **Remember: Email is the best form of communication.**

Classroom Procedures and Conduct: All regular College rules will apply to this course at all times. All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be turned off or on a non-disruptive setting. **Personal laptops or tablets are not required for this course**, however, they may be used to take notes.

The personal behavior and ethical conduct of each student impacts, positively or negatively, on the climate and reputation of the entire institution. Thus is it imperative that each student act at all times with integrity and with respect toward all members of the campus community. The College assumes that all students will conduct themselves as mature, responsible, and law-abiding citizens who comply with College policies and regulations. Inappropriate conduct by students or by applicants for admission is subject to discipline as provided in Sections 41301 and 41302 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations.

Remember: This College fosters a respectful and professional learning environment. Please be courteous to your fellow classmates at all times.

Academic Dishonesty Statement: Cheating of any kind and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing in any form, that student will receive a failing grade in the course and be reported to the College for appropriate disciplinary action.

Policy on Religious Holidays and Examinations: In the event that a class, activity or exam is scheduled during a religious holiday students should make alternate requests to the instructor as soon as possible, or immediately after an examination date is announced, explaining the situation and requesting a rescheduling or make-up assignment.

It is the responsibility of the student to read and adhere to this syllabus and all written guidance provided by the Instructor.