

WLAC SYLLABUS – GEOG 001 – WINTER 2015

Course: Elements of Physical Geography 1 **Units:** 3.00 **Section:** 1166 **Location:** MSA 302

Class times: M, T, W, & Th. – 8:00 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. **Office Hour:** M-Th - 10:35 – 10:50 a.m.

Course dates: Monday 1/5/2015- Thursday 2/5/2015 **Course ends:** February 8th, 2015

Instructor: Susan White **Email:** susmwhite@hotmail.com or whitesm@wlac.edu

Text: Physical Geography, 10th Ed., by Robert F. Gabler, James F. Petersen, & Dorothy Sack
ISBN-10: 111142750X **WLAC Online Bookstore:** <http://onlinebookstore.wlac.edu/>

Course Description: This course is a systematic study of the elements of the physical environment (e.g. weather, climate, landforms, water, soil and vegetation), and an analysis of their interrelationships and patterns of world distribution. (UC:CSU) **Transfer:** 3.0 Units

Course Objective:

- Demonstrate 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, ecosystems, landscape evolution, and hydrology.

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

- 1) **Explain the patterns, processes and distributions of the Earth's subsystems of the hydrosphere, biosphere, lithosphere and atmosphere.** *Students will interpret maps illustrating the global distribution of climate types and explain the role of climatic controls.*
- 2) **Describe and articulate other vital geography processes and systems (Earth-Sun Relations, longitude and latitude, seasons).** *Students will calculate noon solar angle using latitude and seasonal tilt of Earth's axis in relation to its yearly revolution around the Sun.*
- 3) **Understand our place in the universe and about the origin of Earth.** *Students will relate the evolution of the atmosphere to Earth's planetary history.*

Institutional Learning Objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
- **Understand the scientific process and steps of the scientific method.** *Students will devise a scientific experiment using the steps of the scientific method to evaluate observations of Earth systems and the human-environment interaction.*

Instructional Methods – This course is taught using lecture, discussion, class exercises, and exams. An online course companion using the Etudes learning platform is provided for course

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materials, lectures, exercises, and exam study guides:

Etudes Course companion log-in: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp> & <http://myetudes.org>

West Los Angeles College Attendance Policy

- **Students are expected to participate in all classes for which they are registered.**
- Instructors may exclude a student from a class whenever a student is not participating on a regular basis.

Assignments & Exams:

Week 1 Quiz	30 Points	17%
Assignment #1	10 Points	11%
Midterm Exam	45 Points	30%
Assignment #2/3	20 Points	22%
Final Exam	45 Points	30%
Total	150 Points	100%

Grading Scale:

162– 180	= A 90-100%
144 – 161	= B 80-89%
126 – 143	= C 70-79%
108 – 125	= D 60-69%
< 108	= F <60%

Class Schedule – Elements of Physical Geography

Class Dates:	Topics & Chapters	Assignments & Exams
Week 1- M-Th. 1/5/15- 1/8/15	Geography, Location, Regions, Humans & Environment, Earth – Sun Relationship & Representations of Earth-Maps Chapters 1, 2: pages 1-120, Physical Geography: Earth Environment, & Systems, Representations of Earth – Elements of Maps Chapters 3: pages 121-134 - Solar Energy & Earth-Sun Relationships. Insolation, Sun Angle & Latitude, Seasons. Longitude & Time – Using Globes	Quiz 1: 30 Points Thursday, 1/9/14 Ch. 1-2 terms, concepts, & map elements
Week 2- M-Th 1/12/15-	Atmospheric Properties Chapter 4: The Atmosphere, Temperature, & Earth's Energy Budget. Lapse rate. Troposphere,	Exercise 1: 20 Points Due Wk. 3: Tuesday

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<p>1/15/15</p>	<p>Stratosphere, Ionosphere</p> <p>Chapter 5: Atmospheric pressure, lows & highs, global winds & circulation patterns.</p> <p>Chapter 6: Humidity, condensation, & precipitation, relative humidity</p>	<p>1/20/14</p>
<p>Week 3-</p> <p>No Class. Monday 1/19/15 M.L.K. Jr. Holiday</p> <p>T-Th</p> <p>1/20/15-1/22/15</p>	<p>Weather Systems & Global Climates</p> <p>Chapter 7: Air Masses: continental, polar & maritime & Weather systems: Fronts & atmospheric disturbances, tornadoes, cyclones, thunderstorms, precipitation, snow, hail, ice storms.</p> <p>Chapter 8: Global Climate & Climate Change; glaciations, sea level rise, increase in storm size</p> <p>Chapters 9, 10: Low Latitude Climates-Tropical & Sub-Tropical, Mediterranean, Mid-Latitude, Continental warm & cool, & Polar Climates-Highland, Tundra & Ice cap</p>	<p>Start Assignments #2/3: 20/20 Points - Computer Lab Th. 1/26/14</p> <p>Due Wk. 5: Monday 2/3/14</p> <p>Midterm Review Tuesday, 1/20/15</p> <p>Midterm: 45 Points Ch. 3 – 6 THURSDAY 1/22/15</p>
<p>Week 4- M-Th</p> <p>1/26/15-1/29/15</p>	<p>Biomes & Soils, Earth Materials & Processes, & Volcanism & Earthquakes</p> <p>Ch. 11-12: Biogeography: Biomes-global associations of plants/animals, Soils & Soil Development</p> <p>Ch. 13-15: Earth Materials & Plate Tectonics</p>	<p>Continue Assignment 3 – Biome - Groups #1-7 PowerPoint presentations.</p> <p>Submit Monday, Feb. 2nd, 2015</p>
<p>Week 5- M-Th</p> <p>2/2/15 - 2/5/15</p>	<p align="center"><i>FINAL EXAM WEEK.</i></p> <p>Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 – Earth Landforms</p> <p>Underground water & Karst landforms, Fluvial Processes, Glacial, Aeolian (Wind), & Coastal Landforms & Processes</p>	<p>Final Exam: 45 Pts.</p> <p>Multiple Choice, 1 Short essay.</p> <p><i>Chapters 7 - 20- Thursday, 2/5/14</i></p>

Disabled Student Services

If you know or think that you have any learning or physical disabilities, **please contact Dr. Duke**

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in the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Office in the Student Services Building Room 320 or at (310) 287-4423. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations, such as additional testing time, or a note taker. If you require an accommodation for this class, please speak with me.

Dropping the course

According to college policy, you will be excluded for non-participation or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so using the Student Information System at <http://www.laccd.edu> and keep the confirmation code. Pay attention to drop dates in the [Schedule of Classes](#).

- The last day to drop for this class with **no fee owed** is **Wed. Jan. 7th, 2015.**
- The last to drop **without a "W"** is **Wed., Jan. 7th, 2015.**
- File "Pass No-Pass" is **Wed., Jan. 7th, 2015.**
- The last day to **drop with a "W"** is **Friday, Jan. 30th, 2015**

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor may assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. Before a substandard grade is issued the instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity:

Cheating. Using any materials or devices or strategies which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, but is not limited to, copying content from the Web, textbooks or other sources, buying content, reusing materials produced in other courses, or any other system of inappropriate "help". Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.

Collaboration. Working together on projects, papers, exams, or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.

Plagiarism. Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

Standards of Student Conduct

The West LA College faculty, staff and administrators are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and will not tolerate any disruptive behavior in or outside of the classroom

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or any academic dishonesty. **These standards apply to all students.**

Disruptive, disrespectful, or obstructive behavior will be dealt with in accordance with the LACCD Standard of Student conduct. Disciplinary action can be taken if student behavior interferes with instruction. Please refer to the Schedule of Classes.

- **Warning** - A written notice, given to the student by the instructor.
- **Removal** from the class by the college.

Instructional Support and Monitoring

- **For assistance with research projects**, visit the Library on the second floor of the HLRC or access Library resources online at <http://www.wlac.edu/library/index.html>
- **Monitor your academic progress online at:** <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp> by clicking on the DegreeWorks icon, or contact an Online Counselor at onlinecounseling@wlac.edu

Student Acknowledgment

(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

List any special needs or circumstances for this course during Winter 2015:
