COURSE SYLLABUS: Physical Geography Online
Geography 140 Spring 2019 Section 04 GE category: B1bNL
Instructor: Dr. Angela Wranic
E mail: angela.wranic@csulb.edu
Office hours: Office hours: MW 4:00-5:30 on campus or by appointment for an online meeting
You are welcome to make an appointment via e mail to see me in person or schedule a meeting via Zoom video conferencing. My physical office is in PH1-215.

Course description: Systematic study of the physical environment with an emphasis on human-environmental interaction and perceptions of environmental hazards and resources.

Introduction
This class is a completely online section of Physical Geography. We do not have any on-campus meetings. This does NOT mean this class will be easier than a regular lecture class. It means that you will need to have enough discipline to study on your own. I will help keep you on schedule by giving weekly quizzes and weekly assignments. A typical week for you will be to reading a chapter in the textbook, viewing the associated multimedia (u tube and animations), taking the associated quiz with each chapter, viewing mini-lectures associated with each chapter, and doing weekly assignments. A typical 3 unit class consists of 3 hours of classtime and 9 hours of homework for a 3 unit class. You can expect to spend the equivalent amount of time for an online course. This means you can expect to spend 12 hours of work each week for this class in order to perform satisfactory in this class. The figure below indicates your weekly routine and associated computer platform and point values. You will have 3 exams this semester which will be taken in the Mastering Geography platform from home or on campus.

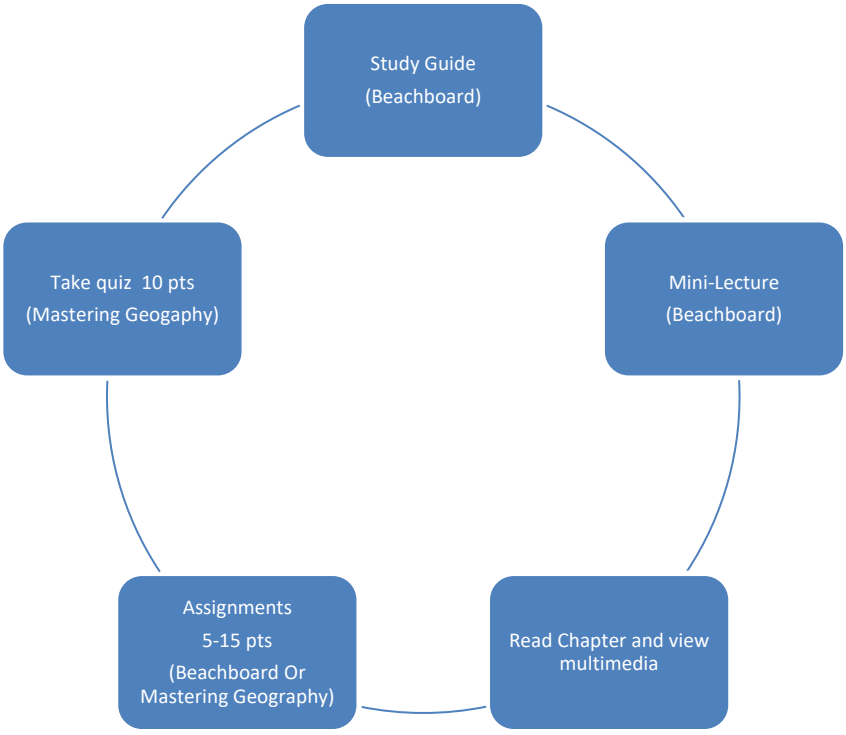

Figure 1: Weekly schedule

A. Computer Requirements and Communication

I will communicate with you through Beachboard and the Mastering Geography system. I will post general information like exam information or answers to questions through Beachboard. I will use Mastering Geography only for items that we do in that system which includes activities, quizzes and exams. Due dates for anything in the Mastering Geography system will only be posted in that system. Your home page there easily updates you on what is due.

I will also use e mail to communicate to you. I use the e mails through Beachboard so make sure that your e mail is current. If Beachboard is not accessible than I will switch to the Mastering Geography system and inform you of the switch via the e mail on file in Mastering Geography so make sure you enter the correct e mail in that system also.

To take this class you should be comfortable using the computer. The basic computer requirements for this class are access to the Internet via a computer (which can be provided on campus if needed) and the Mastering Geography package. If you do not have access at home the Geography lab has open hours that are posted in the lab and also computers are available in the libraries on campus. Assignments will require Flash, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Mastering Geography. Mastering Geography must be purchased along with your textbook. CSULB allows free installation of the Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Flash is available free online. The textbook also requires a QR Reader for animation in your textbook. These are can be obtained free online for phones and computers. The e textbook does not require a QR Reader as you will have the link directly embedded.

In the event of a technical breakdown in Mastering Geography I will notify you via your Beachboard e mail. Assignments would be given an extended due date until the system is back up. If Beachboard suffers from a technical breakdown I will switch material to the Mastering Geography platform.

B. Expected Student Learning Outcomes.

As a result of completing this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the process of the scientific method and explain what role scientific theory plays in science.
- Read and interpret maps and other geographic representations (e.g. map scale, map projections, global grid), geospatial technologies (e.g. remote sensing and geographic information systems), and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information.
- Explain how the geometry of the earth's orbit and rotation produce seasonality on the planet. Describe the energy budget of the earth, including the sources of energy, flow of energywavelength transformations, and how the energy eventually leaves the earth system.
- Describe the basic composition, circulation, and functioning of the atmosphere and their relation to major environmental issues (e.g., ozone depletion, global climate change, and local air pollution) and weather and climate patterns.
- Describe processes involved in common weather phenomena (topic examples include: atmospheric moisture, severe storms, local and global winds, and fogs).
- Locate and identify the characteristics and spatial distribution of major climate and biome types, their geographic distribution, and the general reasons for this distribution.
- Describe the physical processes that create and shape landforms (e.g., plate tectonics and gradation).
- Explain how humans modify the physical and natural environment (e.g. climate, ecosystems, and geologic cycle).

GE Student Learning Outcomes

General Education Student Learning Outcomes relevant to this course are **inquiry and analysis and critical thinking.**

1. MEASURABLE BENCHMARKS FOR INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS SLO: Inquiry is a systematic process of exploring issues, objects or works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgments. Analysis is the process of breaking complex topics or issues into parts to gain a better understanding of them. Inquiry and Analysis skills which are the focus of this course include:

1. **Topic selection** which is the ability to identify a focused and manageable topic that addresses potentially significant yet less-explored aspects of a scientific topic.
2. Exploring **existing knowledge, research, views,** of a scientific topic and synthesizes in-depth information from relevant scientific sources.
3. **Analysis** of scientific information to reveal insightful patterns.
4. Ability to form logical **conclusions** from analysis of scientific evidence.

2. MEASURABLE BENCHMARKS FOR CRITICAL THINKING SLO: Critical thinking is assumed to involve any thought process which goes beyond mere storage of information. Critical thinking skills which are the focus of this course include:

1. **Comprehension** which involves the ability to interpret facts concerning environmental issues and ability to compare and contrast ozone depletion and global climate change in terms of human intervention of earth's natural processes, global effects, and mitigations.
2. **Application** which includes the ability to perform necessary calculation on physical geography data (e.g. performing a simple statistical test on biogeographical, geomorphological, or climatic data and correctly interpreting the results; calculating maps scale conversions; calculating air temperature and relative humidity for a moving parcel of air, knowing only its initial conditions the elevation of the terrain it crosses, and how properly to select and apply the relevant adiabatic lapse rates)and illustration of data via graphs or other geospatial technologies (e.g. construction of graphs from weather and climate data, use of computer programs to construct graphs when that technology is available; interpretation of GIS and remote sensing data to understand the physical processes that shape the earth).
3. **Analysis** which involves the ability to engage in accurate description and classification of physiographic features and processes (e.g. atmospheric circulation, plate tectonics, and gradation) recognize spatial patterns (e.g. climate and biome types, local and global wind patterns).
4. **Synthesis** which involves the creation of a project or research paper.

C. Required Text and Materials:

1. McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation by Darrel Hess. 12th edition by Darrel Hess. Publisher: Pearson
2. Mastering Geography which is the computer component of this text and is necessary for this class.

The bookstore should be selling the textbook with the Mastering Geography codes included (about $156). Alternatively, (and **cheaper)** you can go directly to the website below and buy the e-text which comes with a Mastering Geography computer component. This option is cheaper than the bookstore option although you have to work with an e text. (Approximately $96). Another option is for you to rent a 12th edition textbook ($17 on Amazon) and then buy only the Mastering Geography (approximately $49) component at the Pearson site below.
I do not recommend using a lower version of the textbook such as the 11th edition.

All students must go to the Pearson website and register for the Mastering Geography component as soon as possible. Quizzes and activities which are part of your grade will begin the second week of class. I expect you to be registered by the second week of class in the Mastering Geography system. Follow the hyperlink below or alternatively cut and paste the link into your browser. You will need the class ID specific to this class which is indicated below.

http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/students/get-registered/index.html

CLASS ID: MGEOGWRANIC00820

D.Grading policy:
A total of approximately 535 points are available: 300 for the exams, 100 for quizzes, and 135 for assignments and participation.
Assignments & participation: Generally each week you work on assignments. These vary in point value from 5 to 15 points. You will have one larger project that is worth 40 points.
12 quizzes worth 10 points each. You are allowed to drop two quizzes.
Three exams- There are 3 exams each worth 100 points. The exams may include any of the following: multiple choice questions, true/false, short essay questions. Exams will be taken at home or on campus through Mastering Geography. Exams will be open for 7 days. Exams will be timed so keep this in mind when you are doing the exams.

Your grade is determined by adding the points earned during the course of the semester. The grading scale is:
A=93-100% B=92-85% C=84-77 D =76-70 F<69.
Please take note the grading scale is more stringent than the traditional grading scale as you have open book and Internet exams.

In class and homework assignments
This category contains a total of approximately 135 points. This amount may vary depending if we do more or less assignments. Generally each week you have an assignment due. I will give you a written explanation of what we are doing each week in Beachboard in news. Some assignments may have small lectures associated with them in order to help you with the assignment. The Mastering Geography assignments also give you "hints" for some assignments. Make sure to take advantage of them. These assignments will be from a variety of sources. A good number of the assignments will be done through the Mastering Geography computer package that is bundled with your textbook. Assignments done through Mastering Geography will be graded in that system.I will set due dates in the Mastering Geography system. Assignments will be open for 1 week in the Mastering Geography system. Missed due dates will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. There is no make- up work for these assignments unless you have documentation of a serious condition. It is the responsibility of each student to turn in required assignments on the due date.
Assignments outside of Mastering Geography will be instructor made assignments that I will post on Beachboard. These assignments will be submitted via the dropbox.
Quizzes
Quizzes will be taken in Mastering Geography. You should have covered the material in the study guide and done any associated activities prior to taking the quiz for that chapter. Quizzes are designed to keep you current on your reading and help you prepare for the exams. Some of the questions from the quizzes could appear on your exams. Quizzes will be done at home and open for approximately 7 days. The quizzes are open book but you will have a time limit of 30 minutes. There are no make ups for quizzes although you may drop 2 quizzes during the semester. Although the quizzes close for credit after 7 days, you should still be able to access the quizzes to aide in studying for the exam.
To make sure you have the correct software on your computer for the quizzes make sure you do the introducing mastering geography on your own computer. You should not take the quizzes on your cell phones. If you do not have a computer setup at home you can use the Geography lab (PH1-208) during open hours or computers available at the Campus Library

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and are governed by the policy on cheating and plagiarism (PS85-19). Penalties will range from a grade of zero on the assignment or exam, to a referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible probation, suspension, or expulsion. All work submitted online must be original.

Make up exams are given. I expect you to have a good reason for missing an exam and corresponding written documentation (very sick, religious obligation, problems with work). Your reason will need to be very good since exams are open for 7 days. It is best not to miss exams. If you miss an exam make sure that you e mail me.

E. Collegiate Environment

If you wish to drop the class, you must do so through the Admissions and Records office. You will need to do this before the required semester deadline. **If you are a student with a disability this must be verified by the University and it is your responsibility to notify me in advance of your need of accommodation. Extra time to complete exams and quizzes can be assigned through the Mastering Geography system if you verify your disability with the Disabled Student Services. Office (562) 985-5401 [TTY: (562) 985-5426]**

More information on the geography department and Campus Emergency Procedures are available on the links provided.

Tentative Course Outline and important dates

Please note we skip chapters so make sure you are reading the correct chapter. Dates indicate the beginning date of particular topics/chapters. Assignments, quizzes, and exams are closed 1 week from the beginning date. We are running a Thursday to Thursday schedule (Opening time is at 6:00 A.M. and closing at 11:00 p.m.

Opening Dates	Chapter /Topic
January 24(Week1)	Syllabus and Mastering Geography(Getting Started)
31(Week 2)	Chapter 1-Introduction to Earth
February 7 (Week 3)	2- Portraying Earth
14 (Week 4)	3- Introduction to the Atmosphere& 4-Insolation and Temperature
21 (Week 5)	4-Insolation and Temperature
February 28(Week 6)	**Exam 1 chapters1-4**
March 07 (Week 7)	5-Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
14(Week 8)	8-Climate and Climate Change
21(Week 9)	9- The Hydrosphere
28(Week 10)	10-(only sections on Biogeochemical cycles, and food chains) 11-(only sections Ecosystems and Biomes and The Major Biomes)
April 01	Spring Break
April 11(Week 11)	**Exam 2-chapters 5,8,9,10**
18 (Week 12)	13- Introduction to Landform Study
25 (week 13)	14- Internal Processes
May 2nd (Week 14)	15-Preliminiaries to Erosion: Weathering and Mass Wasting
May 9th (Week 15)	**Exam 3 chapters 13,14,15 (Opens)**
May 16th – Thursday (Week 16) (Exam will close at 11:00 p.m.)	**Exam 3 chapters 13,14,15**