



PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

Hello and welcome! I'm Dr. Daniel Waktola, your course instructor, who is ready to help you understand the fundamental knowledge and skills of Physical Geography. With your curiosity, participation, and steady effort, I'm confident that you would exceed the learning outcomes of the course.



Class Room: CMS 28

MW 10:35 am —12:00 pm

Office # **240** (*West Wind,
Upper Level, Inside Physi-
cal Sci. Dept.*).

You can drop by

MW 10:00-10:30 am;

TTh 10:00-10:30 am;

M 6:00 – 6:30 pm.

T 6:00 – 6:30 pm.

Or, by appointment.

Email me at

waktoldk@lamission.edu

Call me at

(818) 833 3408

*If geography is prose, maps
are iconography.
Lennart Meri*

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to:

SLO 1. Locate and critically analyze important natural features using analogue maps, digital maps, and satellite imageries.

SLO 2. Demonstrate knowledge of Earth's planetary configuration and relate these to Earth's surface cycles, such as seasons and climate change.

SLO 3. Explain the processes operating within and between Earth's systems and relate these forces and processes to the distinctive land-forms of Earth.

SLO 4. Examine the interactions between Earth's systems and the human realm.

Course Description

Physical Geography explores the earth's ever-changing physical system, including human activities where they interface with the environment. Emphasis is given to earth-sun relationships, atmosphere-hydrosphere interactions, lithospheric processes, integration of climate, soils and biomes and their spatial patterns. Students interpret the spatial patterns using maps produced from Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS), and satellite imagery.

Class Policies

- Class time will be spent in lecture and discussion. It is expected that every student will participate in the discussion and will not disturb the class.
- ♦ Attendance rosters are always maintained, and absences in excess of 3 may result in exclusion from class.
- ♦ Every class attendance and class activity has a designated point. Every missed class, for whatever reason, leads to a score of 0.
- ♦ Failure to attend class will result in your missing valuable information and material. Besides, missing classes would lead to missed class activity points.
- ♦ If you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire all the missed information from your classmates. Therefore, it is very important to have the name, phone, or e-mail addresses of three classmates.
- **Medical appointments, work, job interviews, child care responsibilities, etc., should be arranged so as not to occur during class time.**
- Arriving late for class is disruptive for everyone, and habitual tardiness may result in exclusion from class.
- Students are required to stay for the entire class period.
- Headsets should not be worn in class. Cellular phones should be turned off.
- If you are interested to use laptop or tablets during lecture hours, it shouldn't distract you from pay attention to the class activity. Repeated distraction may lead to banning you from those gadgets in the class. Specifically, you should:
 1. Refrain from browsing unrelated websites, and
 2. Sit either in the front or second rows of the classroom seats.



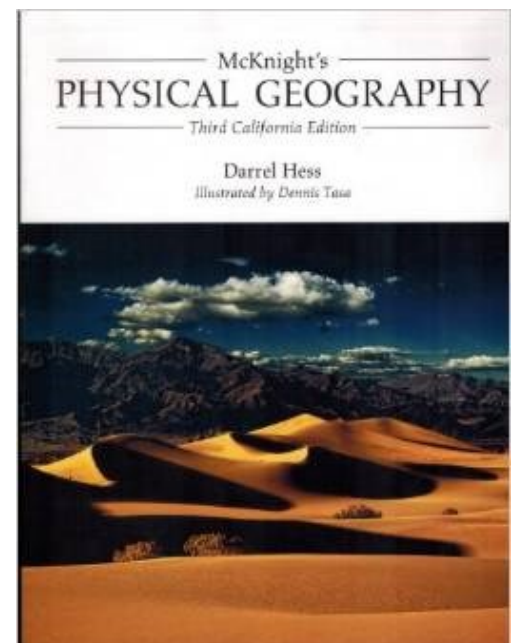
Required Textbook

McKnight's Physical Geography. California Edition 3rd California Edition **Hess**, ISBN: 1-269-14437-5. This is a bundled book with Access Card (which is a must!).

Course ID: MGEOGSPRINGMW160335

Check the Mission's Bookstore at:
<http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/>

NB: One can't pass this course without buying this textbook and completing the chapter homeworks.



Withdrawal

Non-attendance does not constitute withdrawal. It is your responsibility to drop. I will exclude only “no-shows” up through “census week.” You must be aware of the dates pertaining to withdrawals (see college catalogue and schedule of classes). You may drop the class any time through the last date to drop via the Admissions Office, on-line, or by phone. If you stop attending class without filing an official drop card with Admissions and Records by the scheduled deadline, you will receive a grade of **Fail**.



If you are having difficulty with the concepts presented in class, I will be happy to help you.

Please see me after class or during the office hours if you are having problems. You may call or email me. Getting help early in the semester will ensure a more successful course grade. When emailing me, don't forget to include your full name, course name, and section number.

Exams

There are two (2) mid exams in this course covering material presented up to the week preceding the exam. The format of each exam will be discussed the week prior to the exams. Exams may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short answers

In addition, there would be two quizzes for each chapter: The first one is posted on the website of the textbook (www.masteringgeography.com, which requires access code) and the second one is posted in the Etudes (www.myetudes.org)

NB:

- **No make-ups** will be given for missed exams. If you miss one of the exams (except the final), points will be assigned based on 85% of the highest exam score during the semester. Any additional missed exam will receive zero points.
- One can't pass the course without completing the online quizzes! If you fail to take the quizzes you will receive a grade of “Incomplete” (“I”).

Academic Integrity Policy

- ♦ Cheating is unacceptable behavior for college students.
- ♦ If you are part of a cheating incident (either by giving or receiving assistance on an exam, or through plagiarism—submitting anyone else's work as your own), you will receive a score of zero and recommended for disciplinary actions.

Course Evaluation

Grades are totaled from exams, quizzes, homeworks, and assignments. A portion of your grade is based on class participation. Late submission, for whatever reason, will be penalized.

• 2 Exams	200 pts
• Mastering Geography Home Works	110 pts
• Chapter Quizzes / Tests	120 pts
• Term Paper	50 pts
• Class Activities + Attendance	50 pts
• Assignment s	40 pts
• Final Exam	130 pts

Grand Total 700 pts

Grading

> 616 pts	= A
546 - 615 pts	= B
476 - 545 pts	= C
350 - 475 pts	= D
< 350 pts	= F

Everything has to do with geography
Judy Martz

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Feb 8 (M)	Course Intro: Syllabus, Policies	
	Feb 10(W)	Introduction to Physical Geography	Ch. 1
2	Feb 15 (M)	HOLLIDAY (PRESIDENTS'S DAY)	
	Feb 17 (W)	Earth and Solar System	
***	Feb 21	Drop Classes Without "W"	
3	Feb 22(M)	Earth Sun Relations, Time	
	Feb 24 (W)	Portraying Earth	Ch. 2
4	Feb 29 (M)	Scale, Projections, GPS, Remote Sensing, GIS	
	March 2 (W)	The Atmosphere	Ch. 3
5	March 7 (M)	Weather and Climate & Exam Review	
	Mar 9 (W)	Test 1	Ch. 1-3
6	Mar 14 (M)	Insolation and Temperature	Ch. 4
	Mar 16 (W)	Solar Energy, Warming/Cooling, Radiation Budget, Temperature Distribution	
7	Mar 21 (M)	Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	Ch. 5
	Mar 23 (W)	Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	
8	Mar 28 (M)	Library Orientation	
9	April 4 & 6	SPRING BREAK	
10	April 11 (M)	Atmospheric Moisture	Ch. 6
	April 13 (W)	Atmospheric Moisture	
10	April 18 (M)	Atmospheric Disturbances	Ch. 7
	April 20 (W)	Air Masses, Fronts, Cyclones, Hurricanes, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes	
***	April 21	Last Day to Drop Classes With "W"	
11	April 25 (M)	Climate and Climate Change & Test Review	Ch. 8
	April 27 (W)	Test 2	Ch. 4-8
12	May 2 (M)	Landform Study	Ch. 13
	May 4 (W)	Landform Study	Ch. 13
13	May 9 (M)	Tectonic Processes	Ch. 14
	May 11 (W)	Tectonic Processes	
14	May 16 (M)	Weathering	Ch. 15
	May 18 (W)	Fluvial Processes	Ch. 16
	May 21 (S)	Field Trip to Vasquez Rocks	9:00 am – 12:00
15	May 23 (M)	Topography of Arid Processes	Ch. 18
	May 25 (W)	Final Exam Review	Ch. 13-18
	June 1	FINAL EXAM (10am– 12:00pm)	Ch. 13-18

Course Resources

1. **Mastering Geography**—Accessed by a purchased code. The course ID is: **MGEOGSPRINGMW160335**

☞ This resource helps you to do home works for each chapter. Besides, it gives you access to various resources: e-book, animations, chapter reviews, and quizzes.

Go to: www.masteringgeography.com to get registered and enroll in the class using the code you purchased, and instructors ID.

☞ Failure to complete the activities on MasteringGeog leads to a grade of "I" ("incomplete").



2. **ETUDES** (www.myetudes.org). It is a course management website which helps you to access lecture notes, take quizzes and upload your assignments, participate in discussions, and chat with your classmates. Detailed information at:

<http://missiononline.pbworks.com/w/page/61823645/etudes-help>

