

GEOGRAPHY 015 - Physical Geography Laboratory

Spring 2015

West Los Angeles College

Instructor: Ilya Neyman

Section #1170

Class meeting: Tuesday 1:00 - 4:15 pm

Room: MSA 302

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Required Text: *Physical Geography Laboratory Manual for McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 11/E*

Authors: Hess & Tasa

ISBN 13: 978-1111572266

Copyright Year: 2013

Publisher: Pearson

Course Description: The Physical Geography Laboratory 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). This 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:

- To develop an understanding of the basic processes related to the planet we call "Earth".
- To expand student's skills in problem solving related to weather and landform development
- To gain knowledge in interpreting maps and diagrams.
- To gain a greater appreciation of physical geography, earth sciences, our planet and life in general.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of a course of study in Physical Geography Lab, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand Earth environments by using scientific methods to interpret Earth-Sun relations & time.
- 2) Understand Earth representations through globes and maps, understanding maps through location, and plotting and interpolation.
- 3) Acquire problem-solving skills, practice math computation, construct graphs, interpret thematic, topographic & weather maps, statistical charts, and analyze spatial data through written lab exercises.
- 4) 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, and hydrology.

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.

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).

Your final course grade will include the successful completion of all labs that are assigned during the course of the semester as well as assessments that will be in the form of a midterm examination and a final examination.

The weight of total assignments for this course include:

Laboratory work:	50%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%

As this is a lab course a significant portion of your grade is determined by your efforts at doing the lab assignments. The midterm and final are intended to test your overall knowledge of the concepts you will be learning about and being involved with throughout the semester.

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. Daily attendance in the class is important and necessary for in-class assignments and for your comprehensive learning experience. Late arrival may result in being excluded from the day's assignment 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.