

**Course:** Elements of Physical Geography 1 - **Units:** 3.00 - **Section:** 4912 - **Location:** MSA 302

**Class times:** Thursday – 5:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. **Office Hour:** Thursday - 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

**Course dates:** 8 Thursday Evenings 9/4/2014 - Thursday 10/23/2014 - **Course ends:** Oct. 27th, 2014

**Instructor:** Susan White - **Email:** [susmwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:susmwhite@hotmail.com) or [whitesm@wlac.edu](mailto:whitesm@wlac.edu)

**Text:** Physical Geography, 10th Ed., by Robert F. Gabler, James F. Petersen, & Dorothy Sack  
**ISBN-10:** 111142750X

**Online Etudes Course Log-in:** <http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp> & <http://myetudes.org>

**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 Objectives:

- 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 geography, students will be able to:

- Explain the effect of Earth's tilt on its rotational axis and yearly revolution around the Sun on seasonal day length, sun angle, and insolation.
- Discuss the role of natural atmospheric gases such as Ozone in protecting the biosphere from ultraviolet radiation and of Carbon Dioxide in regulating the Greenhouse Effect.
- Interpret a topographic map for elevation, landforms, and the effect of hydrology on the landscape.
- Create a map of annual precipitation levels for California using a computerized Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) mapping program.

### 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.  
  
-- Identify an example of positive feedback for the *Ballona Creek* watershed.

**Instructional Methods** – This **hybrid online course** is taught using lecture, discussion, class/online assignments, and exams. Course lectures, materials, online assignments, and exam study guides are located on:

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

- Course materials, Online Assignments, 1 Group Biome Project in the Discussions, practice tests, & study guides can be found on the Etudes website.

**Attendance:** This 8-week course includes 3 Exams and 4 Online/Class Assignments. Attending class regularly will aid in your success. If you are absent more than 1 week without contacting me, you may be excluded from this accelerated course. DUE DATES are 2 weeks after Assignment is provided.

**Assignments & Exams:**

Week 2 Quiz	30 Points	15%
Assignments #1 – 3, 4(Group)	<i>15 Pts. Ea.</i> 60 Points	35%
Week 5 Exam	50 Points	25%
Week 8 Final Exam	40 Points	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 Points</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

162 – 180	= A
144 – 161	= B
126 – 143	= C
108 – 125	= D
< 108	= F

**CLASS SCHEDULE – ELEMENTS of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

<i>Class Dates:</i>	<i>Module Topics &amp; Chapters</i>	<i>Assignments &amp; Exams</i>
<b>Week 1</b> 9/4/14	<p><b>Module 1:</b></p> <p>Physical Geography, Location, Regions, Humans &amp; Environment, Earth– Sun Relationship &amp; Maps</p> <p><b>Chapters 1, 2:</b> pages 1-120, Physical Geography: Earth Environment, &amp; Systems, Representations of Earth</p> <p><b>Chapters 3:</b> pages 121-134 - Solar Energy &amp; Earth-Sun Relationships. Insolation, Sun Angle &amp; Latitude, Seasons. Longitude &amp; Time.</p>	<p><b>Assignment #1:</b> 15 Points <i>Absolute Location-Latitude, Longitude, Topo Maps</i></p> <p><b>Due:</b> Thursday, Week 3 - 9/18/14</p>

<p><b>Week 2</b> 9/11/14</p>	<p><b>Atmospheric Properties - Chapter 4:</b> The Atmosphere, Air Temperature, &amp; Earth’s Energy Budget. Lapse rate. Troposphere, Stratosphere, Ionosphere. Solar System, Electromagnetic Spectrum.</p> <p><b>Chapter 5:</b> Atmospheric pressure, lows &amp; highs, global winds &amp; oceanic circulation patterns.</p> <p><b>Chapter 6:</b> Atmospheric moisture, condensation, &amp; precipitation, relative humidity.</p>	<p><b>Quiz 1: 30 Points – In-Class <i>Earth System &amp; Earth Spheres, Environmental feedback cycles, Location, Latitude &amp; Longitude</i></b> Thursday, 9/11/14</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b> 9/18/14</p>	<p><b>Module 2: Weather Systems</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 7:</b> Air Masses: continental, polar &amp; maritime &amp; Weather systems: Fronts &amp; atmospheric disturbances, tornadoes, cyclones, thunderstorms, precipitation, snow, hail, ice storms.</p> <p><b>Chapter 8:</b> Global Climate &amp; Climate Change; glaciations, sea level rise, increase in storm size</p>	<p><b>Finish Assignment #2: 15 Points – <i>Earth-Sun, solar system, atmosphere, lapse rate, relative humidity, &amp; temp. scales</i></b>  <b>Due: Thursday 10/2/14</b></p>
<p><b>Week 4</b> 9/25/14</p>	<p><b>Module 2 cont.: Global Climates</b></p> <p><b>Chapters 9, 10:</b> Low Latitude Climates-Tropical &amp; Sub-Tropical, Mediterranean, Mid-Latitude, Continental warm &amp; cool, &amp; Polar Climates-Highland, Tundra &amp; Ice Cap</p> <p><b>*Begin Assignment 3: 15 Points Due 10/23/14</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm Review Thursday, 9/25/14</b></p>
<p><b>Week 5</b> 10/2/14 <b>MIDTERM – 10/2/14</b></p>	<p><b>Module 3: Chapters 11, 12, - Biomes &amp; Soils</b></p> <p><b>Biogeography:</b> Biomes-global associations of plants/animals</p> <p><b>Soils &amp; Soil Development-Soil Horizons</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm: 50 Points Ch. 1-8 THURSDAY 10/2/14</b> <i>Multiple choice, matching, short answer, &amp; map interpretation</i></p>
<p><b>Week 6</b> 10/9/14</p>	<p><b>Module 3 continued:</b></p> <p><b>Chapters 13, 14, 15: Lithosphere &amp; Hazards</b></p> <p>Earth Structure, Rock Cycle, Lithosphere, Plate Tectonics</p> <p><b>*Begin Assignment #4: Group Biome Projects – 15 Pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Assignment #3: 15 Points Due 10/23/14</b>  <i>Climate &amp; Weather, Landforms</i></p>

<b>Week 7</b> 10/16/14	<b>Module 4: Chapters 16 - 20 –Landforms</b>  Underground water & Karst landforms, Fluvial (flowing water) landforms, Glacial, Aeolian (Wind), & Coastal Landforms & Processes	<i>Assignment #4 - Groups 1-8 - BIOME Projects.</i>  Submit ONLINE <u>no later than</u> Monday 10/27/14
<b>Week 8</b>  10/23/14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final Exam: 40 Pts.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Choice, <i>Chapters 9-20</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Submit Exercise 4 – Group Biome Projects.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final Exam: 40 Pts.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Choice, <i>Chapters 9-20</i></p>

**West Los Angeles College Attendance Policy**

<p style="color: red;">Students are expected to participate in all classes for which they are registered.</p>
Students who are unable to participate in class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from the class.
Instructors may exclude a student from a class whenever a student is not participating on a regular basis.

**Disabled Student Services ---**

If you know or think that you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact **Dr. Duke** 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 below in the Schedule of Classes:**

- [http://www.wlac.edu/scheduleofclass/schedulecalendar.html#fall\\_sess1](http://www.wlac.edu/scheduleofclass/schedulecalendar.html#fall_sess1)

<b>Last day to drop</b> for this class with no fee owed	MON., Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
<b>Last day to drop</b> class without a “W”	MON., Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
<b>Last day to drop</b> class with a “W”.	FRI., Oct. 10th, 2014

**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 only when approved.** Working together on projects, papers, exams, or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually is considered cheating.

**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 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:

<i>Warning</i> - A written notice, given to the student by the instructor.
<i>Removal</i> 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@wlab.edu](mailto:onlinecounseling@wlab.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.

Special needs or circumstances:

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