

San Diego Mesa College - Spring 2016
CRN#68144

Course: Geography 101, Physical Geography, 3 units

Instructor: Dr. Christa K. Farano

Class Meeting Times: MW 9:35- 11:00; SB114

Office Hrs: M/W 9:00- 9:30 AM; W 1:20-2:20 PM; SB115A

Mailbox: SB305H

Required Text: Elemental Geosystems, 8th ed.

Email: cfarano@sdccd.edu (include full name, class day/meet time in message if you want a response)

Website: <http://homework.sdmesa.edu/cfarano>

Course Description:

This course examines the major world patterns of the physical environment. The course covers the fundamental information and processes dealing with the earth's atmosphere, climate, landforms, natural vegetation, water, and soils, along with the appropriate use of maps and charts. This course is of interest to anyone seeking an understanding of the Earth's physical processes and mechanisms or social sciences majors. Students successfully completing Geography 101 will satisfy the physical science requirement (together with the 1-unit lab) at most four-year colleges. Equivalents: U.C. - Geo 1, SDSU – Geo 101.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking: Think critically in reading, writing, and/or speaking about topics in Physical Geography, thereby identifying problems, theses, arguments, evidence and conclusions.
2. Communication: Write or speak about topics in Physical Geography, thereby addressing problems, formulating theses, making arguments, analyzing and weighing evidence, and deriving conclusions.
3. Personal Actions and Civic Responsibilities: Demonstrate an ability to understand one's role in society, take responsibility for one's own actions, and make ethical decisions in complex situations.
4. Global Awareness: Articulate similarities and contrasts among cultures, times, and environments, demonstrating an understanding of cultural pluralism.

Learning Objectives include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Arrange the major components of the Earth's atmosphere in an organized, hierarchical manner and assess how the various forces create the global atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns.
2. Analyze the importance of the hydrologic cycle as it relates to groundwater and surface water.
3. Identify patterns of the Earth's climate, vegetation, soils, landforms, and water.
4. Explain the forces operating within the Earth's interior and evaluate how these forces have shaped and continue to shape the Earth's surface features.
5. Distinguish between landforms shaped by eolian, glacial and coastal processes.

Required Materials:

1. Elemental Geosystems 8th Ed; Christopherson.
2. Download "Physical Geography" handouts on my website: <http://homework.sdmesa.edu/cfarano>.
3. Four new scantron sheets (Form No. 882-ES), available at bookstore.
4. Several #2 pencils with new erasers.

Recommended Materials:

1. Any current World Atlas

Grading Policy:

All students will receive a letter grade unless prior arrangements for credit/no credit have been made. There will be no "incompletes." Grading will be based on a point system as described below:

Total possible points: Approximately 250 points (3 exams @ 65 pts each, 4 in-class assignments @ 5 pts each, 5 floating points, and two homework assignment worth up to 15 points apiece). Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

90% of total points = A

80-89% of total points = B

70-79% of total points = C

66-69% of total points = D

Less than 60% of total points = F

METHODS OF EVALUATION**1. Exams – up to 195 points**

There will be four (4) examinations worth 65 points each. The lowest test score will be dropped, and will not be factored into the final grade. Tests will primarily be primarily objective and include a map identification component. Exam questions may be drawn from readings in the textbook, lecture materials (including handouts or other supplements – please be sure to bring the handouts with you to class), homework assignments, in-class activities, and films.

THERE WILL BE NO TEST MAKE-UPS. If you miss an exam due to an emergency and/or planned absence, I will automatically drop the missed exam for you. The purpose of dropping one exam is to accommodate those who are victims of an unexpected emergency/absence. Most students take all four exams and drop the lowest of the four exams they prepared for and completed on test days.

The map identification part of your exam will correspond with the maps that are on my website. You will be tested on map guide #1 for test #1, map guide #2 for test #2, map guide #3 for test #3 and guide #4 for final.

2. In-Class Assignments – (4 or 5 assignments) up to 25 points

Up to 4 assignments (5 pts each) will be completed in class during the semester. These assignments are collaborative, due at the end of the same class period in which they are assigned, and cannot be made up. Remaining "floating" points will be awarded for impromptu assignments and cannot be made up.

3. Required Homework Assignments (2 assignments) – up to 30 points

- **Map Packet - up to 15 points - due IN CLASS on Monday, March 21- date of exam 2**

Completion of a map packet which includes a subset of features from all world regions. One map guide will be on each exam. Two-point deduction per class period if submitted late. Grading rubric: 1-point deduction (out of 15 total points) for every five features missing. Coloring map is optional, but neatness is essential. If the map is excessively sloppy, in the opinion of the instructor, a point will be deducted. Four map guides are on my website. The entire map packet – all FOUR guides (10 pages total) is due on March 21, 2016.

- **Discovering Urban/Physical Landscape Using Public Transit – up to 15 points – due IN CLASS on Monday, May 16– one class meeting before final exam**

Completion of a ten page pre-assembled fieldtrip that will shed new light on the uniqueness of San Diego's physical setting. This exercise is an easy, fun way to learn geography, and will take approximately a half day to complete. It addresses many of the themes learned in the classroom including water conservation, biogeography, resource issues, climate, and also requires the student to look at the connection between the natural and built environment. **You must include a picture of yourself at no fewer than THREE of the trolley stations AND include your original ticket stub or a copy of your transit pass. Assignment MUST BE TYPED OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Activity posted on my website. TWO-POINT deduction per class if late.

Accommodation:

Students with physical or learning disabilities will be accommodated with lecture/test materials by mutual agreement between individual students and the instructor. Please present any relevant paperwork at the beginning of the course.

Tentative Lecture Schedule and Related Reading Assignments from Christopherson

TOPIC	CHAPTER(S)	DATE
UNIT 1: Energy Atmosphere System		
Essentials of Geography - Introduction	1	Week 1; 2
Solar Energy, Seasons, Atmosphere	2	Week 2
Atmospheric Energy; Global Temperatures	3	Week 3
Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations	4	Week 3; 4
TEST 1 – Monday, February 22		Week 5
UNIT 2: Water, Weather, and Climate Systems; Biogeography		
Atmospheric Water and Weather	5	Week 5; 6
Global Water Resources	6	Week 6
Climate Systems and Change	7	Week 7
Ecosystem Essentials	16	Week 7; 8
Terrestrial Biomes	17	Week 8
TEST 2 – Monday, March 21 – <u>Homework #1 due – (ENTIRE MAP PACKET -10 pgs)</u>		Week 9
SPRING BREAK MARCH 28-APRIL 1		
UNIT 3: Geomorphology		
Thy Dynamic Planet	9	Week 9; 10
Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes	10	Week 10; 11
Weathering, Karst Landscapes, Mass Wasting	11	Week 12
TEST 3 – Monday, April 25		Week 13
UNIT 4: Geomorphology contd.		
River Systems and Landforms	12	Week 13; 14
Oceans, Coastal, Deserts, Wind	13	Week 14; 15
Glaciers	14 <u>Hmwk #2 –Trolley, 5/16</u>	Week 16
FINAL EXAM Wednesday, May 18 – <u>Extra Credit due</u>		Week 16

Holidays for this class: 2/15; 3/28; 3/30

Attendance Policy/ Adding and Dropping:

You are expected to attend all classes regularly. If you are absent from a class, it is **your** responsibility, not the instructor's, to obtain missing notes, handouts, & assignments from a fellow classmate. Do not expect the instructor to make special copies of the notes, or supply you with missed handouts, or hold a special session for missed classes.

Please pay particular attention to the following:

- 1) Students are responsible for dropping or withdrawing from classes in which he/she is no longer attending.
- 2) Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline will receive an evaluative letter grade (April 8).
- 3) It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences (February 5)
- 4) According to the San Diego Mesa College Faculty and Staff Handbook, "any student absent from the first class meeting shall be dropped by the instructor."
- 5) Also, students who miss the second class meeting will be dropped, unless previous arrangements have been approved by the instructor.

EXTRA CREDIT – You may accumulate up to 15 points in any combination

1. Class Field Trip – FREE- will be held the second or third weekend in March- leave Sat/Sun morning open if you wish to attend--- 3 hours meet time) – 5 points

I will be leading a half-day field trip to the Mission Trails Regional Park (approx. 3 hours) to look at local biogeography, geology and climatic principles. I will give you in-class handouts to assist you with plant identification in the field. We will look at three distinct plant communities: California Coastal Sage Scrub, Mixed Chaparral, and Oak Woodland. Numerous wildlife species also nest at this location sometime during the year. Please bring your binoculars and wear comfortable clothing for a non-strenuous hike. I will hand out a more detailed itinerary as we get closer to the date of the trip. Students in attendance for duration of activity will be given 5 points. There is nothing to download, fill out or submit for activity- attendance only.

SIX other extra credit opportunities (below) are on my website under "Fieldtrip" heading:

These are due IN CLASS on the last day of class, Wednesday, May 18.

DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR RECEIPT AND A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AT VENUE.

IF YOU DO NOT INCLUDE A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AT VENUE; NO CREDIT WILL BE ASSIGNED.

- Desert Tower – 10 points - \$2.00 (tell them you are a geo student on a fieldtrip)
- Point Cabrillo National Monument – 5 points – FREE April 16-24 - Natl Park Week
- UCSD Climate Change/Biogeography at Birch Aquarium– 5 points - \$12w/ student ID
- Water Conservation Garden – 5 points - FREE
- Ituri Rainforest Biome – 5 points - \$25 student semester pass
- Coast to Cactus- SD Natural History Museum – 5 points – FREE on first Tuesday of every month

AGAIN, YOU MAY ACCUMULATE 15 POINTS TOTAL EXTRA CREDIT IN ANY COMBINATION. IF YOU EXCEED 15 POINTS, THE EXCESS POINTS WILL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD YOUR GRADE.

NOTE: This is a tentative syllabus; the content is subject to change by the instructor as the course progresses, and as is necessary and appropriate.