# GEOGRAPHY 101L

# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE Fall, 2015

## TH 2:30-05:40 PM; RM SB115 CHRISTA FARANO, MA Office SB115A cfarano@sdccd.edu

### COURSE TITLE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY – CRN#55068

**Description**

Practical observations and applications of the geography grid, atlases, topographic maps, weather and climate, natural vegetation, soils, and landforms. Exercises designed to supplement Geography 101.

**Corequisite:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in GEOG 101.

**Textbooks:**

*Required*: 1) Physical Geography Lab Manual; 11th Ed by Darrell Hess; Prentice Hall Inc.;

*Strongly Recommended*: 2) any Physical Geography textbook.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete GEOG 101L will be able to:

1. Think critically in reading, writing, and/or speaking about topics in Physical Geography,

thereby identifying problems, theses, arguments, evidence and conclusions

2. Write or speak about topics in Physical Geography, thereby addressing problems, formulating

theses, making arguments, analyzing and weighing evidence, and deriving conclusions.

3. 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. Articulate similarities and contrasts among cultures, times, and environments, demonstrating

an understanding of cultural pluralism.

5. Demonstrate an ability to understand applications and implications of technology and to use

technology in ways appropriate to the situation. This outcome includes information

competency skills.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

* 12 laboratory exercises worth 5 points each, due at the end of each lab session (60 points).
* 7 unannounced closed book quizzes on the assigned readings, each worth 2 points (14 points).
* 3 exams worth 15 points each (45 points). The exams are open note, open book!

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A 119-107 total points required

89-80% = B 106-95 total points required

79-70% = C 94-83 total points required

69-60% = D 82-71 total points required

<60% = F <71 points

Grading Inquiries

All grade inquiries must be submitted in writing within 4 weeks of receiving the grade. The inquiry must be presented with the original assignment and you must include the following information:

a. Your name and the date when you are making this inquiry;

b. The date when the grade was returned to you;

c. The test, lab, or quiz number;

d. Problem number and exact wording of the problem;

e. A complete description of a correct answer to the problem and the source(s) or this information;

f. A clear explanation of why you think points were deducted; and

g. A clear explanation of why you think you deserve more credit based on your original answer in comparison with the correct answer.

However, if the instructor has made a simple math error in tabulating your grade total, you do not need to fill out the inquiry. Simply point the error out to the instructor.

Lab Exercise/Quiz/Test Make-Ups

There will be no makeups allowed of any laboratory exercise, quiz or exam, however the final lab, or “replacement lab” completion is voluntary and can replace lowest lab score.

Laboratory Exercises:

Besides correctness and accuracy, labs & exams will also be graded on legibility, neatness & cleanliness. Any lab or exam, which in the opinion of the instructor is sloppy, dirty or illegible, will be reduced by 1 point. Therefore, all labs and exams are to be neatly printed in pencil rather than written in script and/or with a pen. Lab exercises must be submitted in ***numerical order***. If there are one or more pages out of order, a point will be subtracted from that lab exercise.

**ALL** marked laboratory exercises, quizzes and exams are to be saved in the order given and placed in a folder; they should be brought to each lab class. Periodically, the instructor may collect the binders/folders in order to examine them for completeness. Students may use previous lab work to help them during class, so don't forget your stuff!

**ALL** binders/folders are to be returned to the instructor on the last day of class. If the laboratory exercises, quizzes & exams are not returned to the instructor by the last day of class, or if any of the contents are missing, the student’s final grade will be lowered by one full grade, so please, hang on to all your returned assignments! All lab courses in geography require all materials to be submitted at the end of the semester and have identical or very similar policies regarding lab work, absences and grading.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Brief lecture/introduction of each lab and open discussion of material. Please note: this class is VERY different from a typical lecture class. Most of the course consists of collaborative work between students as well as individual computations. The instructor acts as a “facilitator” as opposed to a lecturer.

**Required Supplies:**

Several No. 2 pencils 3 feet of string

*Supplies and textbooks* *must be brought to each class session*; otherwise the student may be excused from that class meeting since he/she won't be able to complete the exercise...so again, remember to bring your lab stuff to each class, especially your lab book!

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all classes. According to the Mesa College catalog, page 43:

1. “Any student accumulating absences that exceed 6% of total class hours…may be dropped by instructor.” For this class, one absence is 6.67%.
2. “All rosters shall be cleared of inactive enrollment…absences in excess of 12% of the total class hours." For this class, two absences are 13.3%.
3. “It is the student’s responsibility to drop by the withdrawal deadline….”
4. “Tardiness and leaving class early may be treated in the same manner as an absence.”

Therefore, any student with more than one absence will be dropped by the instructor. If you miss a lab class, you will receive a zero for the day's assignment/s. Labs are only accepted during the class in which they are assigned. THERE ARE NO TEST MAKEUPS, so plan to be in class on test days. Likewise, students who miss the first class will also be dropped. Their seat may be given away to wait-listed students. In a nutshell, it is expected that you will plan to attend EVERY class period.

Many students find this course quite difficult because it is taught differently from a normal lecture course. In addition, it requires a major time commitment, especially with respect to preparation prior to each lab meeting. It is the student’s responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending. It is the instructor’s discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline (February 5) due to excessive absences.Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class.

**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. ESL and International students who wish to use paper dictionaries may do so only after the instructor has examined it. Computerized language translators are not allowed.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to be honest and ethical at all times in their pursuit of academic goals. Students who are found in violation of district *Procedure 3100.3, Honest Academic Conduct*, will receive an F grade on the assignment in question and may be referred for disciplinary action in accordance with *Procedure 3100.2, Student Disciplinary Procedures*.

**Instructor Contact:**

Office: Instructor will be available to meet with individual students before and after class (and often during class depending on what the needs and circumstances are).

Mailbox: K108B

email: cfarano@sdccd.edu (in the subject line, please tell me what class you are in, include time and school)

**Projected Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| Week and Date of Class Meeting | **Topic** |
| 1/28/15 | Conversions, Location & Time – Ex\* 1,2,3 |
| 2/4/15 | Scales & Projections – Ex 4, 5 |
| 2/11/15 | Earth-Sun Relationships & Solar Angle – Ex 14, 15, handout |
| 2/18/15 | Isopleths & Insolation - Ex 6, 16 |
| **2/25/15** | **Exam #1** |
| 3/4/15 | Temperature & Pressure – Ex 17, 18 |
| 3/11/15 | Wind & Humidity – Ex 19, 20 |
| 3/18/15 | Adiabatic Processes & Stability – Ex 21, 22 |
| 3/25/15 | Cyclones & Weather Maps – Ex 23, 24 |
| **4/1/15** | **SPRING BREAK** |
| **4/8/15** | **Exam #2** |
| 4/15/15 | Topographic Maps I & Compasses – Ex 7,8,9 |
| 4/22/15 | Earthquakes - Handout |
| 4/29/15 | Topo Maps II, Stereophotos I & Landforms I – Ex 11, 40, 41 |
| 5/6/15 | Stereophotos II & Landforms II – Ex 44,47,48 |
| 5/13/15 | Replacement Lab (Substitute for lowest lab score) Handout on topographic profile; campus walkabout |
| /27/2014 | HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING |
| **5/20/15** | **Exam #3** |

\*Ex is short for Exercises and corresponds with distinct topics or “chapters” in the lab book.

*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.*

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**AGREEMENT & UNDERSTANDING**

**Geography 101L, CRN 09373, SPRING 2015**

I have received a copy of and have read the syllabus for Geography 101L, CRN 09373, SPRING 2015.

I understand the syllabus and the course requirements. By affixing my signature below, I agree to the syllabus as written and agree to abide by it.

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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