

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2019	Instructor Name:	Samuel Cortez
Course Title & #:	GEOG 100 Physical Geography	Email:	
CRN #:	11392	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Facility C	Office #:	
Class Dates:	August 19-December 14	Office Hours:	
Class Days:	Fridays	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:	16:30-19:40 pm	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3.0		

Course Description

From the Imperial Valley College Catalog, this class is described in the following manner:

An introduction to the physical characteristics of the earth. Topics include: climate, land forms, natural vegetation, and the water and mineral resources of the earth. (CSU,UC)

This is essentially a physical science class: the first part of the course will focus on things happening in the atmosphere, such as weather and climate, while the second part will focus on things happening in the lithosphere (the planet itself), such as tectonics, erosion, deposition, and the creation of landforms. Because it is a *geography* class, throughout the course we will be concerned with *why* these phenomena are happening *where* they are happening. And looking at lots of maps!

This is a lecture course, and much of the class time will involve listening to lectures supplemented by visuals in the form of Powerpoint slides. However, you should not expect me to be “talking at you” for the entirety of every (or even any) class. We will watch video clips, look at and think about maps, and discuss the places and ideas we will learn about. If you raise your hand, I will answer your question as soon as it is convenient to break from what we are discussing. I love questions: they make the class so much more interesting for students and for myself, so ask away.

Geography 100 is a challenging course. Despite the fact that this is a general education class, it is a science class, and as such tends to be more difficult for many people. To be successful in this class, you will have to spend time studying on a daily basis; if not, you will quickly fall behind and not be able to catch up. You will have a quiz or test fairly frequently.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Demonstrate your understanding of geographic patterns of a specific locale by analyzing the flora, fauna, and weather patterns in relation to its physical setting. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Analyze current spatial geographic events using the Five Themes of Geography (ILO1, IOL2, IOL4)
3. Explain Plate Tectonics and how it has influenced landform formation (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

Course Objectives

1. The Earth's size, shape, and movements in space and the importance of these factors to environmental processes and patterns;
2. The atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape and influence the Earth's surface environments and landscapes.
3. The global distribution of the Earth's major climates, ecosystems, and physiographic (landform) features;
4. The basics tools and technological instruments and applications used in geographic research and inquiry;
5. Application of basic geographic concepts in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required text: *McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation* (12th edition) by Darrel Hess.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

KEY CONCEPTS/TERMS QUESTIONS

These questions will be provided for each chapter prior to the lectures and it is strongly suggested that they are completed as you read the assigned pages. The questions consist of key physical geography terms and concepts covered in the lectures and found in the reading. Exam questions come from these materials and you will be allowed to use these notes during exams. The questions will be made available for you to complete prior to the beginning of each chapter and will be due prior to the exam. A study guide containing the answers will be provided so you may prepare for the respective exams. Each set of questions (there will be 13 of them) is worth **10 points** for a total of **130 points**.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There will be **four**, worth 39 points each for a total of **156 points**. The assignments consist of you writing a minimum of one-page essays each about specific topics in Physical Geography we are dealing with in class. There may be multiple questions/ topics that you will be required to write about. Each of the **four** entries will have a due date for submission.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

About every other week, I will bring some news articles about items discussed in class that may come up in the news. You will read the articles and write a minimum of two well-reasoned, clearly written paragraphs in response to the article; each paragraph must have a minimum of 5-6 sentences in your paper. Your response must include one paragraph with a brief summary of the contents of the article in your own words and importantly the second paragraph must discuss how the article connects to some of the topics we are talking about in class. There will be **four** of these assignments worth **39 points** for a total of **156 points**. Please note that this class is not designed for memorization and regurgitation. Rather, in this class, I want you to think critically about how the physical geography of our world

interacts with our human endeavors and I want you to find some relevance of what we are learning in class to what is happening outside and beyond college life.

EXAMS

There will be three non-cumulative exams during the semester, worth **150** points each, consisting of multiple-choice questions and matching definitions. Questions will emphasize concepts (how something works) over terminology (though there will be some terminological questions). Study guides for each exam will be provided one week prior to the exam date as well as we'll have a test prep session prior to the exam.

MAP QUIZES

There will be **five** map quizzes during the semester, worth **20 points** each. These quizzes will need to be completed by the deadline, failure to complete by the deadline will result in the loss of those points. You may not make up quizzes unless you have any of the extraordinary circumstances mentioned above. The map quizzes will test your ability to properly locate and identify countries or states/provinces of each world region. With enough lead time I will provide a study guide for you to study the appropriate maps.

MAKE UPS

In-class writing assignments may not be made up for any reason, ever. Quizzes, **assignments** and exams may **ONLY** be made up if you miss them due to **SERIOUS, EXTENUATING** circumstances.

Valid reasons for make-up exam:

- Serious illness requiring medical attention (which can be documented with a doctor's note)
- Death in the family (I hate to ask for documentation of this, but it seems that a LOT of grandparents, aunts, and uncles pass away right before exams)
- Issues in the Correction facility that may arise and that are beyond your control.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

COURSE EVALUATION AND CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Your final grades are **earned** by you and are non-negotiable (of course, you may contact me about your final grade if you think I have made a computation error). Do not ask me to round up your grade! I consider each student's overall performance and situation before submitting final grades, and I will know each of you by name.

COURSE EVALUATION AND CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Deadlines are just that - they are final and non-negotiable. With that being said I am a very understanding person and know some things in life are beyond our control. Only under serious circumstances with instructor approval, and with documented verification (i.e. a doctor's note) will makeup quizzes or exams be accepted. Please come and talk to me if any problems arise that would prevent you from attending class, completing the assignments on time, or missing a quiz or exam. I do not curve and do not give minuses or pluses, your grade is based on the accumulation of points, and thus your final grade is based on the number of points out of **1000** points as presented in the table in the next page.

Assignment	Points	Grading
1. Map Quizzes (5X20)	100	Your grade will be determined based on the following grading scale: 900-1000 A 800-899 B 700-799 C 600-699 D <599 F
2. Exam 1 (150 points)	150	
3. Exam 2 (150 points)	150	
4. Exam 3 (150 points)	150	
5. Physical Geog News (4x39points)	156	
6. Physical Geog Essays (4x39 points)	156	
7. Key Concept Questions (13x10)	130	
8. Participation	8	
TOTAL POINTS:	1000	

Attendance

As required by this Correctional Facility. However, it is important that you attend and participate in class. Absences due to reasons that you can control such as family visits that will make you miss class will minimize the participation points you may get. There will be a maximum of **16 points** that may be awarded for participation in class. That’s the equivalent of **one point** per class that you are in attendance (we are scheduled to have 17 class sessions). So, I urge you to plan ahead particularly on Saturdays when you may be thinking about scheduling family visits).

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another’s work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting as one’s own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to “cite a source” correctly, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. This applies to in class exams as well; if you are caught cheating in an exam the professor has the prerogative to take your exam away and give you a zero. Therefore, students are asked to do their own work and avoid looking at other students’ exams.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test

information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Misconduct: Faculty may require a student who disrupts the classroom to meet with the Director of the Prison Education Coordinator and or the Correctional Faculty Education Coordinator prior to the next class meeting. Also, instructors may exclude a student for misconduct on the day of the disruption and an additional day if needed. Disruption of instructional activities or administrative procedures; continued disruptive behavior, continued willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent abuse of college personnel may warrant further disciplinary action that may be pursued by the instructor, college administration and Correctional Facility Administration.

Additional Student Services

As available at this Correctional Facility

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

As available at this Correctional Facility

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible.

Student Counseling and Health Services

As available at this Correctional Facility

Veteran's Center

As available at this Correctional Facility

The mission of the IVC Military and Veteran Success Center is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

As available at this Correctional Facility

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also, under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program. EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

Student Equity Program

As available at this Correctional Facility

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Additional requirements as mandated by this Correctional Facility

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC College Policy.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

RESPECT ONE ANOTHER, THE INSTRUCTOR, AND THE LEARNING PROCESS.

Any classroom conduct issues will be dealt with in concordance to Imperial Valley College Policy as well as the rules and regulations within the Correctional Facility.

The following are the Classroom Guidelines according to Imperial Valley College:

- You will conduct yourself so that the classroom is a positive learning environment for all by treating everyone with respect and consideration.
- You will plan to attend every class meeting and stay for the entire class period. You will not be absent more than the maximum number allowed during the course of the semester (2 classes or more).
- You will do the assigned work and be responsible for all class work or assignments even if you miss school for a legitimate reason. It is not acceptable to return to class following an absence and claim that you did not know about some assignment, class activity, or exam. Find out what you missed before returning and get caught up.

- You accept the expectation to spend a minimum of two hours outside of class for every hour that the class meets during the week and will plan your schedule accordingly. This means that a 3-unit class requires 6 hours of work outside of class. More or less time may be required depending on how quickly and thoroughly you work.
- You will take notes; be attentive; participate in classroom activities; and not disrupt the rest of the class.
- There is no excuse for excessive talking. Dismissal from the class may result if your behavior continues to be disruptive after being warned.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. This Correctional Facility Library provides numerous sources to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change, but not without fair notice.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Agenda/Topics</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Friday August 23	Chapter 1: Introduction to the Class Earth-Sun Relationships: Introduction to the Earth	Ch. 1 P. 3-27
2	Friday August 30	Chapter 2: Mapping and Emerging Geographic Information Technologies: Portraying Earth Written Essay #1 Due next class September 6 News Write up #1 Due next class September 6	Ch. 2 P. 28-52
3	Friday September 6	Chapter 3: Atmospheric Layers: Introduction to the Atmosphere Chapter 4: Solar Insulation: Insolation and Temperature Map Quiz # 1: North America/ Latin America and Caribbean Due next class September 13	Ch. 3 P. 54-74 Ch. 4 P. 76-107
4	Friday September 13	Chapter 5: Atmospheric Movement: Atmospheric Pressure and Wind Key Concepts Chapters 1-5 due in class Exam # 1 Test Prep	Ch. 5 P. 108-137
5	Friday September 20	Exam #1 Chapters 1-5 Written Essay #2 Due next class next class September 27 News Write up #2 Due next class next class September 27 Map Quiz #2: Africa and the Middle East due next class September 27	
6	Friday September 27	Chapter 6 Atmospheric Moisture Chapter 7: Atmospheric Disturbances	Ch. 6 P. 138-173 Ch. 7 174-203
7	Friday October 4	Finish Chapter 7 Atmospheric Disturbances Chapter 8: Carbon Cycle, Climate and Global Climate Change Map Quiz #3: Europe/Russia/Central Asia due next class October 11	Ch. 8 P. 204-249

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8	Friday October 11	Finish Chapter 8 Climate and Climate Change Chapter 9: The Hydrosphere Written Essay #3 Due next class October 18 News Write up #3 Due next class October 18	Ch. 9 P. 250-276
9	Friday October 18	Chapter 10-11 Biogeography: Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere, Terrestrial Flora and Fauna Key Concepts Chapters 6-10/11 due for check Test prep Exam 2	Ch. 10 P. 278-305 Ch. 11 P. 306-341
10	Friday October 25	Exam #2 Chapter 6-10/11 Map Quiz #4: Asia due November 1	
11	Friday November 1	Chapter 13: Landforms: Introduction to Landform Study	Ch. 13 P. 372-397
12	Friday November 8	Chapter 14: Earthquakes and Volcanoes: The Internal Processes Map Quiz #5: Oceania due November 15	Ch. 14 P. 398-443
13	Friday November 15	Finish chapter 14 The Internal Processes Written Essay #4 Due November 22 News Write up #4 Due November 22	
14	Friday November 22	Chapter 15: Erosion and Mass Wasting: Weathering and Mass Wasting	Ch. 15 P. 444-497
15	Friday November 29	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
16	Friday December 6	Chapter 16: Fluvial Processes Key Concepts Chapters 13-16 due for check Test prep Exam #3 final	Ch. 16 P. 466-497
17	Friday December 13	Exam #3 Final	

Tentative, subject to change but not without prior notice