

Dr. John A. Menary  
Mailbox: Social Science Division Office  
Email: [jmenary@saddleback.cc.ca.us](mailto:jmenary@saddleback.cc.ca.us)

Fall 2005  
Classroom: BGS 306  
TR 9-10:30

## Physical Geography 1(Section-17965)

### Required Text:

McKnight T. and Hess, D. Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation. 8<sup>th</sup>. ed.

Website for the Text: [http://wps.prenhall.com/esm\\_mcknight\\_physgeo\\_8](http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_mcknight_physgeo_8)

**A Copy of the Textbook is on Reserve at the Library.**

### Course Description:

Geography literally means “description of the Earth.” Today, geographers apply science to accurately describe and explain the Earth’s surface, or topography. It differs from other sciences because of the questions asked, such as **where, how far, or how do you get there and what is it like?** Yet, contemporary geography is a component of a larger group of Earth System Sciences which includes cartography (map-making) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Their concern is with explaining the underlying processes responsible for the Earth’s appearance.

Building on the basic ideas of geography and mapping, this course then explores physical geography. This is one part of geography, the other being human geography. It is interested in how **weather (and climate), geologic and geomorphic, hydrological and biological processes differentially** interact and influence the Earth’s **topography**.

### Course Objectives:

**You will acquire** an elementary comprehension of the basic geographic themes of:

- **Location and Distance** (a position or site distinguished by some feature on the Earth’s surface, scale, maps);
- **Place** (location where the interdependence of physical and human qualities helps identify and differentiate a site and situation).
- **Region** (geographic areas defined by one or more attributes which combine to help delimit and differentiate areas into a cohesive unit or whole);
- **Human-Environment Relations** (the complex series of interrelationships between human beings and their physical environment);
- **Movement or Change** (how physical processes interact to modify and alter the natural landscape).

### Grading and Performance Criteria

**GRADE CALCULATION:** Grades will be based upon performance in the following major areas:

1. **45% 3 Quizzes** (Short essay) and **FINAL**.
2. **35% Attendance and In-Class Assignments:** Chapter Reviews, Problems, Maps, and Internet Exercises.
3. **20% Research Paper** (6-10 pages) Due Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. (Discussed in First Class)

**CHEATING OF ANY TYPE IS AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE.**

**ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLASS.**

Absences permitted ONLY by prior arrangement for “good cause” (e.g.: death in the family). In all cases you must notify the instructor via email. **Beyond these exceptional cases, absences in excess of 3 will result in a decrease in the FINAL GRADE!**

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** Performance evaluation is designed to help you, the student, learn as well as indicate areas of achievement and deficiency. Your work will be evaluated in terms of these general criteria:

**Content:** Do you read and understand the concepts and facts in the text?

**Affect:** Do you show originality and independent thinking?

**Analytical Technical Skills:** Are you conversant with the computer and the Internet?

**Social Skills:** How well do you perform in a group?

**Communication Skills:** What is your proficiency in written, oral and graphic communication?

**Reliability:** timeliness, dependability (class attendance and deadlines)

### General Topical Outline

Week	Topic	Important Dates
1	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>.</b>
1/2	<b>BASICS: SCIENCE AND THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY</b> Chapters 1, 2 <b>GEOGRAPHY AND MAPS</b> Location and Distance: Latitude and Longitude Significance of Place Making and Using Maps <b>PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY MATTERS</b> Place and Time: The Planetary System The Seasons: Earth-Sun Relations The Significance of Place and Energy Factors Shaping the Natural Landscape: Energy, Land, Water <b>Mapping Assignment</b>	<b>Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.</b>             <b>Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.</b>
3-8	<b>Module ONE: ATMOSPHERE</b> <b>Chps.3-9</b> Heat and Energy Water (Moisture)-Precipitation/Clouds Energy in Motion: Pressure and Wind Weather Formation Climate <b>Quiz 1</b>	<b>Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.</b>
8-12	<b>Module TWO: GEOSPHERE</b> <b>Chps.13-20</b> Earth's Internal Energy: Plate Tectonics and Mountain Building Water's Role Connecting Atmosphere and Geosphere: Erosion and Weathering Rivers/Fluvial Processes Glaciers Work of Wind: Desert Landforms Work of Water: Coastal Landforms <b>Quiz 2</b>	<b>Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.</b>
13-17	<b>Module THREE: BIOSPHERE</b> <b>Chps.10, 11, 12</b> Soils Biogeography: Biodiversity; Flora and Fauna; Ecosystems <b>Quiz 3</b>	<b>Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.</b>
18	<b>SUMMARY: Human Impact on Environment</b>  <b>Research Paper Due</b> <b>Final</b>	<b>Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.</b> <b>Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.</b>