GEOG 1 - PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY - Fall 2009
Instructor: Dan Walsh
(949) 582-4398, Office BGS 350
dwalsh@saddleback.edu (best way to reach me)
www.saddleback.edu/faculty/dwalsh
Texts: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, McKnight & Hess
Atlas of World Geography, Rand McNally (others may be acceptable)

Catalog Description: A study of the basic physical elements of geography: Earth-sun relationships, climate, landforms, soils, water, and natural vegetation, and their integrated patterns of world distribution.

Class Format: This is a three-hour class. Every lecture will include items that may or may not be covered in the textbook. It is imperative that you attend every session. Most of the sessions will be lectures but there will also be videos, in-class assignments, and slides.

General Classroom Guidelines: Please do not bring food or drink into the class room. No headphone or cell phone use of any type is permitted during class (including during examinations). No electronic recording devices are allowed. Students using computers to take notes must sit near the front of the classroom. If there are health & safety or other issues that relate to this policy please see me privately.

Any talking or noises that disrupt the learning process will not be allowed. Be considerate to your fellow students and do not hold private conversations with a neighbor. However, do not hesitate to ask a geography question during class.

Cheating or plagiarizing will not be tolerated in any form and will be dealt with swiftly and to the full extent allowed by the college. Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s words or ideas. All work must be properly cited from the text or other sources. There are no group projects in this course and students are expected to turn in assignments using individual ideas, analysis and words. Anyone caught plagiarizing will be reported to the VP of Student Affairs and will fail the assignment regardless of extent (one sentence or entire paper). Refer to pages 39 and 40 of the Student Handbook for more information on plagiarism. Students may be required to turn in papers to on-line plagiarism detection.

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations must discuss options with me during the first class sessions. Appropriate actions will be taken with campus Special Services. Discussions remain confidential.

Minor students are asked to report to and wait at either Campus Safety or the Office of Student Services in the event class is completed before your ride arrives.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the “Students’ Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Student Handbook or college catalogue and refer to the code of conduct.

Add/Drops: The maximum class size is limited by the college and the number of seats in the classroom. No more than this number will be allowed. It is the student's responsibility to drop the class. Students will not be dropped after the first week of class just because they fail to attend. Students that do not show up the first day of class without prior notification will be dropped.

Testing & Assignments: Tests will consist of a quiz, one mid-term, one final exam and potentially one or more pop quizzes. These tests will include a) multiple choice, b) True/False and c) map identification. The final exam will include topics covered in the first 1/2 of the course. Tests will constitute approximately 60% of the final grade. If you do not take one or both of the two major exams or fail to complete the semester project you will get a grade no higher than a ‘D’. No electronic dictionaries or earphones/music players allowed during testing. During testing, students are not allowed to come and go from the classroom.
In addition to the tests, there will be additional in-class exercises, and one written assignment. Exercises will constitute approximately 40% of the final grade. Additional assignments will be given throughout the semester. Assignments must be typed. Unless otherwise indicated, handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

In order to protect yourself, you need to take a few extra steps. If you turn in any assignments to the division office, be sure to get the name of the person you turned it in to. Please hold onto any returned exams and assignments until the grades are posted. Keep a digital copy whenever possible as well.

Note: Due dates for written assignments will be discussed in class. It is the student’s responsibility to meet the time deadlines on these assignments. Any indicated due dates for assignments means that assignments are due at the beginning of class – not at midnight of that date. Should you miss a class, please contact me to pick up any missed distributed material or assignment. You will not be able to make up missed in-class assignments though you will be responsible for information on them.

Late assignments will receive maximum \( \frac{1}{2} \) credit and will not be accepted more than one week past their due date. Unless you have a verifiable excuse (doctors note, police report – not a note from your mother) late projects will receive a huge penalty thus you should begin working on assignments as soon as possible. Emailed projects at the last minute are not accepted either (unless pre-approved this with me in advance). The final project cannot be turned in late.

This is a rigorous course in both scope and topics. It is important that you review text and lecture material each week in order to be prepared. The suggested amount of time for a college course is two hours per week per unit outside of class time. For a 3 unit class, you should spend 15 hours each week reading, completing assignments and studying.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on approximately 200 total points for the semester (plus adjustments for participation and additional exercises). 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, below 60% is an F. An “A” grade is considered excellent, a “B” is good, a “C” is satisfactory, a “D” is passing, less than satisfactory and an “F” is failing. Meeting only the minimum requirements will earn you “C” grade. Poor attendance will have a negative impact on your grade as there will be in-class assignments that cannot be made up in addition to the missed information.

No make up exams or extra credit will be given unless under verifiable unplanned, extenuating circumstances (family vacations, weddings, soccer practice, etc. do not count as unplanned or extenuating). Remember, your birthday is not a national holiday. If you need to pass this class or get an ‘A’ to maintain your GPA, the time to begin planning for this is now, not the night before the final exam. There will be no opportunity for you to do extra work after the semester to improve your grade.

**Student Email Accounts:** It is the students’ responsibility to see that the Saddleback College provided email address is checked on a regular basis. Notifications of schedule or assignment changes may be sent to this address. You can always forward this email to an existing email account.

**Important Dates:**
Drop without 'W' Grade by: Friday, 9/25/2009
Drop with 'W' Grade by: Thursday, 11/5/2009