

# GEOG 1: Physical Geography

**Instructor:** Maureen Smith Fall 2010  
**Office:** BGS 350 Saddleback College  
**Office Hours:** Tues. 8 - 9am (by appointment only) & Wed. 3 - 4pm M/W 10:30 – 11:45am  
**Phone:** 949.582.4210 (call during office hours, email is best) T/Th 12 – 1:15pm  
**Website:** <http://www.saddleback.edu/faculty/msmith115/> Email: [msmith115@saddleback.edu](mailto:msmith115@saddleback.edu)

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## Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to analyze the controls, distribution, and classification of world climates.
2. Describe seasonal Earth-Sun relations and explain resulting physical phenomena on Earth's surface.
3. Describe the Theory of Plate Tectonics, provide scientific evidence in its support, and explain its correlation to the creation of landforms.

## Course Description:

Focuses on the basic physical elements of geography: Earth-sun relationships, weather, climate, landforms, soils, water and natural vegetation, and their integrated patterns of world distribution.

## Course Goals & Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the earth's physical processes and their geographic distributions and relationships. The locations of faults, volcanoes, plant species, and deserts are the result of specific geographical considerations and physical processes. Over the course of this semester, we will study the earth's climatic, hydrologic, tectonic, biologic and morphologic characteristics and interrelationships. In addition, this course is designed to exercise your critical thinking and writing skills. Therefore homework assignments and in-class discussions are an integral part of the course.

## Recommended Prep:

It is recommended that all students in this course have successfully completed all basic skills courses in reading, writing, and math. You will be expected to perform at the college level in this course.

## Required Materials:

1. Hess, D., *McKnight's Physical Geography*, 2<sup>nd</sup> California Edition.
2. The Nystrom Desk Atlas: ISBN #: 978-0-7825-1188-8
3. Calculator (cell phones may not be used!!!!)
4. Color Pencils

**Class Format:** Every lecture will include items that may or may not be covered in the textbook so it is imperative that you attend every class.

**Examinations:** Exams will cover material from lectures, discussions, textbook readings, quizzes, videos, in-class exercises, and homework. Exams are multiple choice, true/false and short answer format. The final is not comprehensive. All exams are timed and no one can begin taking the exam after another student has finished and left the room. There are NO make up exams, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

**Semester Project:** Students will create a photo essay illustrating and explaining the physical geography of Orange County. See assignment sheet for details. Absolutely no late projects will be accepted regardless of circumstances!!! You can not pass this class if you do not turn in a project.

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes are designed to be study guides for the exams and to make sure students are on-time to class. Quizzes are worth 10 points. They are open book, note, & neighbor. You must be on time and attend the whole class to receive the 10 points. Points will be deducted for students who are late to class. After 15 minutes, you can not receive points for the quiz. Quizzes can not be made up if you are not present in class, NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Atlas Exercises:**

There will be 2 atlas exercises. The purpose of the atlas exercise is to familiarize students with the locations of major physical features throughout the world. Additional "investigative" questions will exercise critical thinking and map reading skills. You will need 1 quiz size scantron, form #: 882-E (Green). The due dates will be announced in class and must be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due.

**Homework:** Homework is due at the beginning of class the day it is due and is worth 10 points.

\*If you are unable to turn in your homework or atlas exercise during class on the day it is due, you can turn it in to the division office located at BGS 314 but it must be received the day it is due. You must get your homework time stamped by the front desk to prove the date you submitted it. Understand that this is a risk since there is no way to insure that it will make it in my mailbox and then into my hands. If your homework is lost or does not make it to me, you will receive a zero.

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is based on each student's total number of points accumulated through their performance on assignments divided by total number of points assigned for the semester. The estimated number of total points possible for the course is approximately 400.

A	100% - 89.9% (Passing, surpasses expectations)
B	89.8% - 79.9% (Passing, above expectations)
C	79.8% - 69.9% (Passing, meets expectations)
D	69.8% - 59.9% (Passing, below expectations)
F	59.9% or below (Does not meet expectations)

**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.

**ADA Accommodations: Students with a Disability**

"Special Services provides support services and specialized instruction for students with disabilities." If you feel that you are in need of special services please contact the Special Services office: (949)582-4249  
Office location: SSC 113

Website: [www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/](http://www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/)

**Note:** You **MUST** be assessed by DSPTS and submit the proper paper work to me before any accommodations can be provided.

**CHEATING POLICY:**

Cheating constitutes academic dishonesty and, in general will be handled as part of the course grading process. Penalty will be no credit (zero) for the assignment. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the VP of Student Affairs and will fail the assignment regardless of extent (one sentence or entire paper). This includes turning in any assignment that is identical to another student. Refer to pages 39 and 40 of the *Student Handbook* for more information on plagiarism.

## Class Policies and Information:

- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 10-12 point font with standard 1-inch margins. Assignments turned in handwritten will be returned to the student with a zero score!
- **NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!!!!** Only in the case of an extreme emergency (which must be verified by a doctor's note, funeral notice or police report). Students must inform the instructor as soon as possible via e-mail and phone message informing me of the emergency. In this extreme case, the exam will be taken at an appointed time prior to the student returning to class.
- Any student e-mailing the instructor must include their full name and the course in the subject area. (example: MW9am M.Smith) Any e-mail sent without this information will be deleted. E-mail is strictly for academic purposes **only!**
- Please check your Saddleback e-mail account regularly or forward it to your personal e-mail account.
- Late work will NOT be accepted. In case of an emergency, a student can turn in one assignment late. It is up to the student to decide what constitutes an emergency. Fill out and attach the "Late Work Coupon" available at the end of the syllabus to your assignment. Any late assignment due to emergency must be turned in within one week of the original due date. Once the "late" option has been used, no other assignments can be turned in late regardless of circumstances. **This does not include the semester project which cannot be turned in late!**
- Behavior that is disruptive to the instructor and students will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to the following:
  - No MP3 players, IPODs, Walkman, or play computer games during class.
  - No sleeping or "resting" of eyes in class.
  - No ringing, vibrating, text messaging, or even having cell phones out during class! (I can take your phone away).
  - Magazines, books, newspapers, or any non-geography related material cannot be out or open during class.
  - No passing notes in class (this is not Junior High!)

Students who engage in these behaviors will be dismissed from class and lose points.

### **This is your WARNING!**

- It is the student's obligation to file the appropriate paperwork to drop the course. Do not assume that you will be automatically dropped if you stop attending class. Failure to drop will result in an F grade.
- Missing class for any reason, including sports, work, medical appointments, family matters, travel, etc., will result in being marked absent, **no exceptions**. This includes leaving class early. All students are responsible for any information, notes, and assignments missed due to not being present in class.
- Students who wish to take notes on a laptop during class must do the following:
  - Meet with the instructor during office hours to have the laptop approved and rules explained.
  - Must sit at a desk in the first two rows of the classroom.

- Forfeit the use of the laptop if caught having any other program open or running during class (including e-mail, instant messaging, downloading music, facebook, etc.)
- This is a rigorous course in both scope and topics. It is important that you review the textbook and your lecture notes each week in order to be prepared. PowerPoint lectures are not available on-line so it is each student's responsibility to get any missed lecture notes from other students in class. The suggested amount of time for a college course is two hours per week per unit outside of class time.

**(3 unit class) X (2 hours per week) = 6 hours/week**

- **No Plagiarism!** Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's words or ideas. All work must be properly cited from the text or other sources (this includes the internet). Students are expected to turn in assignments using individual ideas, analysis, and words. Anyone caught plagiarizing will fail the assignment regardless of extent (one sentence or entire paper). For this geography class, students **MUST** use the **Chicago Manual of Style** when citing someone in your writing and creating a bibliography. Examples of this are provided in the handout for the semester project.
- It is the student's obligation to be familiar with all of the policies set forth in the syllabus. By remaining in the course, you are agreeing to abide by these policies.

### Exam and Assignment Due Dates

	Mon Wed 10:30 - 11:45am	Tues Thurs 12 - 1:15pm
Atlas Exercises & Homework	TBA	TBA
1 Photo w/ Analysis	September 27th	September 28th
Midterm	October 13th	October 14th
Photo Project	November 24th	November 23rd
Final Exam	Dec. 15th 10:15am - 12:15pm	Dec. 14th 12:45 - 2:45pm

## “Tentative” Course Schedule

- This is the order that topics will be covered, you will need to attend class to know where we are.
- The textbook is on reserve in the library under: Maureen Smith (Geography)

Topic	Assignment	Concepts
Introduction to Earth	Ch. 1	Geography, Geographic Grid - latitude & longitude, rotation, seasons, types of rays, time zones
Portraying Earth	Ch. 2	Nature of maps, map projections
Intro to Earth's Atmosphere	Ch. 3	structure of the atmosphere, climate controls
Insolation & Temperature	Ch. 4	Solar energy, insolation, heating & cooling, types of transfer, land & water differences, albedo, ocean temps & transfer of energy temperature patterns on a global scale.
Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	Ch. 5	Pressure & temp, pressure gradient, coriolis, friction, high & low pressure (cyclones), global wind & pressure system -seasonal shift
Atmospheric Moisture	Ch. 6	Hydrologic cycle, evaporation, condensation, humidity, stability, cloud types, precipitations, lifting mechanisms, global patterns
Atmospheric Disturbances	Ch. 7	Air masses, types of fronts, El Nino, tornadoes, hurricanes
Climate and Climate Change	Ch. 8	Koppen classification system
Patterns in the Biosphere; Terrestrial Flora & Fauna	Ch. 10 & 11	Biogeography
Soils	Ch.12	Relationship b/w climate, plants & soils
Intro to Landform Study	Ch.13	Interior layers, rock types
The Internal Process	Ch. 14	continental drift, plate tectonics, boundaries, landforms, subduction, volcanoes, stress, folding/faulting
Weathering & Mass Wasting	Ch. 15	Weathering agents, mass wasting types
Glacial Modification of Terrain	Ch. 19	Effects of Glaciers
Coastal Processes	Ch. 20	Coastal landforms, processes, wave action

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### LATE WORK COUPON: USE ONLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Assignment must be received by the instructor within **one week** of the original due date. 1 point will be deducted for each day that it is late so turn it in ASAP!
- May **NOT** be used for Photo Project – the semester project may not be turned in late!
- Once you have used this coupon, you may not turn in additional late work **REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES!**