



School of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Virtual Campus – Winter 2008

Nov. 10, 2008 – Feb. 14, 2009

Mission: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning and service to God and humankind.

Geography 1301 - Introduction to Physical Geography

There is no pre-requisite for this course.

Instructor: Beverly Penner, MA

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Catalog Description: Study of the physical world including the characteristics, processes of formation, distribution, and interrelationships of land and water, climate, vegetation, and soils.

Textbook: Physical Geography, a Landscape Appreciation, McKnight and Hess, 9th Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall - ISBN 978-0-13-223901-1.

We will be using the Student Resource CD that comes with the textbook

You will also need access to an up-to-date atlas.

Course Outline: Textbook chapters 1-20 will be covered, along with related activities, as well as additional readings, discussions and assessments. A midterm exam will cover chapters 1-10 (week 6) and a final exam will cover chapters 11-20 (week 12); both are un-proctored.

Course Requirements:

- Required, informative weekly readings.
- Weekly quizzes based on notes/readings.
- Activities related to the current topic.
- Discussion board topics w/a required number of entries each week.
- Midterm and final exams.

Course Expectations:

Put forth diligent effort in all readings and assignments and adhere to all deadlines.

Check announcements at least twice weekly and keep in touch with instructor.

Be proactive... don't procrastinate!

Have fun - realize the fascinating complexities that make up the field of Geography.

Course Outcome Competencies:

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following -

- The physical characteristics of the planet Earth.
- The four basic spheres of the Earth: Hydrosphere, Lithosphere, Biosphere, and Atmosphere.
- The major forces and concepts of climate.
- The basic internal forces that help create landscape: volcanism, plate tectonics, and erosion.
- The major soil types found on the Earth.
- The basic functions of fluvial processes.
- The process of glaciation and its impact on the Earth.
- The causes and impacts of coastal processes.

Course Schedule (may be subject to change):

November 10 - 16:	Chapter 1, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
November 17 - 23:	Chapters 2 & 3, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
November 24 - 30:	Chapters 4 & 5, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
December 1 - 7:	Chapters 6 - 8, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
December 8 - 14:	Chapters 9 & 10, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
December 15 - 21:	Midterm Exam (un-proctored)
December 22 - January 4:	Christmas Holiday
January 5 - 11:	Chapters 11 - 13, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
January 12 - 18:	Chapters 14 & 15, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
January 19 - 25:	Chapters 16 & 17, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
January 26 - February 1:	Chapters 18 and 19, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
February 2 - 8:	Chapter 20, activity, weekly quiz, discussion
February 9 - 14:	Final Exam (un-proctored)

Grading Method:

The University's grading scale will be used:

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=less than 60%.

Course grades based on:

Reading assignments:	Not graded, but crucial to course success.
Weekly quizzes:	10 points each (10% of grade)
Discussion board entries:	10 points each (minimum 2 per week - 20% of grade)
Lab activities:	20 points each (10 activities total - 20% of grade)
Tests:	100 points each (20% of grade)
Final Exam:	300 points (30% of grade)

Attendance:

Students enrolled in a Virtual Campus course are expected to participate in class 'sessions' and complete all required work. I have, as the instructor, the ability to view each student's log-in history, areas accessed, etc. Students who do not check in consistently will receive one absence for every week of inactivity. Policy states that 'any student who misses 25% or more of class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course.'

Therefore two weeks of inactivity could result in a failing grade.

If you must be away from the course due to unavoidable work circumstances or family emergency, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably prior to the absence if at all possible. Otherwise, carve out time each week (except holiday weeks) for the next eleven weeks to devote to this course.

Academic Honesty:

University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as one's own. See the current WBU catalog, pp. 78-79 for penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty.)

Service for the Disabled: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities at the first class meeting.