

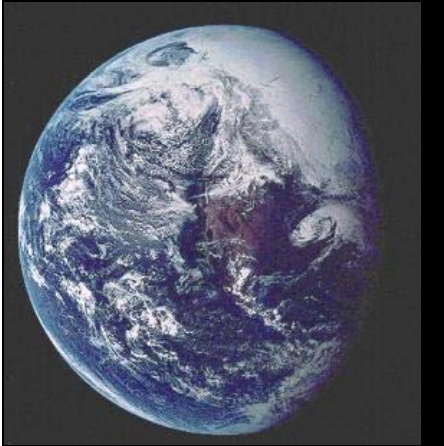
# Physical Geography Hybrid

**Instructor:** K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan  
**email:** meezankaren@fhda.edu

**Course times/location:** Tu/Th 10-11:50AM  
and Online

**Office:** 3020 **Phone** (650) 949-7166

**Office Hours Fall 2009:** Tuesday 1-2PM, 4:30-5:30PM, Thursday 9-10AM and by appointment



Physical geography is the study of the earth's dynamic systems – its air, water, weather climate, landforms, rocks, soils, plants, ecosystems and biomes – and how humans interact with the earth's systems. Physical geography is the study of the world around you. It will help you to understand why San Francisco is always cold and foggy, why we have earthquakes, and what causes seasons. Everyone, every day, interacts with the earth's dynamic systems. I challenge you to join me on an exploration of the complex, and exciting world in which you live!

## By the end of this course you should be able to do the following:

- Explain why we have seasons
- Describe the function and composition of the atmosphere
- Discuss the earth's hydrologic cycle
- Describe the structure of the solid earth and relate it to phenomena such as earthquakes, mountain ranges and volcanoes
- Evaluate the effects of the atmosphere and the hydrosphere on the lithosphere
- Compare and contrast the earth's ecosystems

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course however it is *strongly recommended* that you have completed Math 200 (pre-Algebra) or the equivalent. You will need to have access to a Java enabled internet browser (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0 or the equivalent) to access web pages, and you will need an email account. You will also need a copy of Microsoft Excel to complete the labs. You will also need access to and the ability to use (or learn to use) Quicktime and Adobe Acrobat.

## Texts(required)

*Geosystems 7<sup>th</sup> edition* (Christopherson) NOTE: 6<sup>th</sup> edition will work fine. A reading list for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition is listed on page 5 of the syllabus.

*Goode's World Atlas 21<sup>th</sup> edition* (Hudson) NOTE: 20<sup>th</sup> edition will work fine too.

## Course Outline

### Unit 1 Introduction to the Physical Earth

- Definition of physical geography
- Describing, measuring and monitoring the earth with cartography, GIS, and remote sensing
- The solar system
- Why we have seasons
- The earth & the development of the modern atmosphere

## Unit 2 The Atmosphere and Hydrosphere

- The earth's atmosphere: Composition, temperature, function
- Global temperatures, atmospheric and oceanic circulation
- Forms of water on earth; weather; water resources; climate

## Unit 3 The Lithosphere

- Earth's structure
- The rock cycle
- Plate tectonics

## Unit 4 Shaping the Lithosphere

- Orogenesis
- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Mass Wasting: Weathering processes; mass movement; glacial processes; eolian processes
- River systems and landforms; floods and river management; coastal systems

## Unit 5 The Biosphere

- Soils
- Ecosystems components and cycles
- The earth's ecosystems

## Teaching Methods, Labs, Exams and Grading

This course will incorporate a variety of teaching methods including class lectures, supplemental readings, web-based labs, and two exams. You will be challenged to think critically and independently through a variety of methods including case study evaluation, data interpretation and analysis.

*Course grades will be determined using the following point values:*

	Total Points	Point breakdown
Discussion participation	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course Policies quiz: 10 points;</li><li>• Discussion 1: 20 points,</li><li>• Discussion 2: 35 points;</li><li>• Discussion 3: 35 points</li></ul>
Weekly lecture quizzes  OR  Lecture attendance & participation	200	<p>Each week students have the option of either reading and studying the online lectures and completing a 20 point quiz</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Students earn 20 points by attending <i>both</i> lectures in a week. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and participation assignments will also take place in class.</p> <p>Partial credit may be earned, but may not be combined with weekly quiz scores. If students both attend class and take the quiz in a week, the higher of the two scores will count toward their grade. For example, Joe Student attends class on Tuesday, but not on Thursday. Joe also takes the quiz for the week. Joe earns 10 points for attendance, and earns 16 points on his quiz. The quiz score (16 points) counts towards his grade for the week.</p>

Laboratory Assignments	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab 1: 50 points</li> <li>• Lab 2-5: 100 points each. Lowest score dropped.</li> <li>• Climate &amp; Weather lab project 150 points</li> </ul>
Midterm Exam	250	
Final Exam	350	
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>1400</b>	

In accordance with Foothill grading policy, there is no A+ or C- in this course. Grades lower than C are not issued pluses or minuses. The following lists the full grading breakdown.

1400-1288 points	A
1287-1260 points	A-
1259-1218 points	B+
1217-1148 points	B
1147-1120 points	B-
1119-1078 points	C+
1077-980 points	C
979-840 points	D
less than 840 points	F

### How to Calculate Your Grade

ETUDES allows students to access their scores for each assignment. To calculate your grade (1) Add up the total number of points that you have earned so far. (2) Divide this by the total number of points that have been graded so far. (3) If all labs and quizzes have been graded, drop your lowest lab score from labs 2-5, and your lowest quiz score. (4) This gives you a percentage. Note that the grades are assigned based on a percentage, so 90-100% is an A etc.

### Discussion participation

There are 4 required forum discussions for class participation credit. Topics for discussions 1, 2, & 3 will be posted in the discussion forum. Directions for the Climate & Weather project discussion can be found in the Climate & Weather project handout in the Tests, Tasks and Assignments section of the course. Discussion 1 is worth 20 points, Discussion 2 & 3 are worth 35 points. Due dates are listed on the class calendar and in the discussion forum.

To receive full credit a student must make an initial posting of one paragraph or more, then respond to postings of classmates and engage classmates in discussion (for a total of 3 postings). Scores for each discussion forum discussion will be posted no more than one week following the end of the discussion. **There is no late credit given for participation** because the purpose of the participation element is for you to interact with your classmates. Students should budget at least 1 hour per week to engage in participation discussions.

Students may earn up to 10 points of extra credit by volunteering to lead class discussions. To lead a class discussion, contact the instructor. Discussion leader assignments will be made on a first come, first serve basis. To earn full extra credit points, the student discussion leader must login to the discussion regularly throughout the open period of the discussion and encourage discussion by asking questions, posting relevant news items etc. Further instructions will be given to the students as they volunteer.

## Lectures: Class attendance OR Weekly lecture quizzes

Students have two options for class lectures. Students may read the online lectures in ETUDES and complete a 20 point skills check quiz on each lecture, or earn 20 points for the week by attending face to face class lectures. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students earn 20 points by attending *both* lectures in a week. Attending only one lecture will earn 10 points. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and participation assignments will also take place in class.

Partial credit may be earned for face to face attendance, but may not be combined with weekly quiz scores. If students attend class and take the quiz in a week, the higher of the two scores will count toward their grade. For example, Joe Student attends class on Tuesday, but not on Thursday. Joe also takes the quiz for the week. Joe earns 10 points for attendance, and earns 16 points on his quiz. The quiz score (16 points) counts towards his grade for the week.

Attendance is required. If you do not attend for two weeks without contacting the instructor you will be dropped. Attendance is defined as completing the weekly quizzes OR attending face to face lectures

The weekly lecture quiz is open book, and is open for one week starting at 6:30AM on Mondays. Quizzes may not be made up. The quizzes are intended to serve as a learning tool. The quiz is not timed. Students are encouraged to review the quiz questions in conjunction with their reading before taking the quiz. Students may take the quiz two times. If a second submission is made, its score will count towards the final grade. Students opting to attend lectures face to face rather than online are encouraged to print out the quizzes and use them as study tools.

## Laboratory Assignments

- Lab 1 is worth 50 points. Lab 1 is required.
- Labs 2-5 are worth 100 points each. Your lowest score from labs 2-5 is dropped. (e.g. the 3 highest scores from these labs will count toward your final grade)
- The Weather & Climate lab is worth 150 points (125 points for the lab writeup, 25 points for the data discussion and posting). The Weather & Climate lab is required.

Students are encouraged to work together on their labs, but *each student must submit an original write-up*. Identical write-ups will be considered plagiarized. See the plagiarism policy below. Lab assignments change in subtle ways from quarter to quarter. Read and complete each lab carefully, do not rely on assignments acquired from friends who took the class in past quarters. If evidence of this plagiarism is present, the student will receive a zero for that assignment and the class plagiarism policy will be applied.

All assignments are due at 10AM on the posted due date (see the list of due dates below). A late penalty of 10 % per day will apply to homework submitted after the due date. Late work is accepted up to four days after the due date, with a day being defined as the 24 hour period from the time the assignment was due. All labs must be submitted through the ETUDES class. I do not accept copies by paper or email. I will demonstrate in the first week of class how to submit through the ETUDES system.

Please review the directions for turning in lab assignments posted in the FAQ area of Discussions in our ETUDES class. Please note that the ETUDES system will 'unformat' assignments turned in using the Safari browser on the Mac (it is not a supported browser). **Do not use the Safari browser** if you are using a Mac. Assignments that are not formatted correctly will be awarded a grade of zero.

## Exams

The midterm exam is essay and short answer. The final exam is essay, short answer and multiple choice. Five or six essay topics will be distributed the week before your exams. You are encouraged to draft the essay questions and ask about anything that you are unclear on. *Students may complete exams online*. Make-up exams are given only in extenuating circumstances (eg. Illness, car accident etc). Make-up exams are only given in person.

Note: Accommodations will be made as necessary for students with disabilities. Please speak to me at the beginning of the course to make me aware of extenuating circumstances.

### **Email and class messages**

You are encouraged to email or send a message in the ETUDES class to Professor Meezan if you have any questions. Expect a 24 hour response time for messages sent Monday through Friday morning. Messages sent over the weekend will be responded to within 72 hours.

### **Attendance and withdrawal policy**

Attendance is required. If you do not attend for two weeks without contacting the instructor you will be dropped. Attendance is defined as completing the weekly quizzes OR attending face to face lectures. If you do not turn in three assessment items in a row (quizzes, labs, exams, discussions) without contacting the instructor, you will be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. If it is past the deadline for dropping with a 'W' the student's logon to the course will be disabled and he/she will receive an F in accordance to the Foothill College withdrawal policy.

NOTE: If you wish to drop you need to contact Admissions and Records at Foothill and do so. Do not rely on me to drop you! The withdrawal policy is in accordance to the official Foothill withdrawal policy  
<http://www.foothill.edu/reg/todrop.html>

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism (see Foothill college definition of plagiarism at: <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/news/honor.html>) on any assignment or exam in this course will result in an F on that assignment/exam for the first infraction, and an F for the course for subsequent infractions. All incidents of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students.

### **Disclaimer**

The above schedules and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

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### **Reading list for *Geosystems 6<sup>th</sup> edition***

**Week 1:** Chapter 1 pp. 1-15, Chapter 2; **Week 2:** Chapter 1 pp. 16-33; **Week 3:** Chapters 3 & 4; **Week 4:** Chapters 5 & 6; **Week 5:** Chapters 7&9; **Week 6:** Chapters 8 & 10; **Week 7:** Chapter 11; **Week 8:** Chapter 12; **Week 9:** Chapters 13 , 15, 17 pp. 531-549; **Week 10:** Chapters 14 & 16; **Week 11:** Chapters 18 & 19; **Week 12:** Review for the final exam

Physical Geography Online, Fall 2009

	Reading	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Chapter 1 pp. 1-16, Chapter 2	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep
					Course policies quiz due 10AM	
Week 2	Chapter 1 pp. 16-35	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct
		Quiz 1, 6:30AM	Lab 1, 10AM	Discussion 1, 11:30AM		
Week 3	Chapters 3 & 4	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
		Quiz 2, 6:30AM			Lab 2, 10AM	
Week 4	Chapters 5 & 6	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct
		Quiz 3, 6:30AM				
Week 5	Chapters 7 & 9	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct
		Quiz 4, 6:30AM		Discussion 2, 11:30AM	Lab 3, 10AM	
Week 6	Chapters 8 & 10	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct
		Quiz 5, 6:30AM		online midterm opens 5:30AM	online midterm due 11:30AM	
					in-class midterm 10: 11AM	

	Reading	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 7	Chapter 11	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov
		Quiz 6 6:30AM		Data posting for weather & climate project due 11:30AM	Lab 4, 10AM	
Week 8	Chapter 12	9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov
		Quiz 7, 6:30AM		Weather & Climate project data discussion, due 11:30AM		
Week 9	Chapters 13, 15, 17 pp. 532-546	16-Nov	17-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov
		Quiz 8, 6:30AM			Weather & Climate Project due, 10AM	
Week 10	Chapters 14 & 16	23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov	27-Nov
		Quiz 9, 6:30AM		Discussion 3, 11:30AM		
Week 11	Chapters 18 & 19	30-Nov	1-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec
		Quiz 10, 6:30AM			Lab 5, 10AM	
Week 12	Review for final exam	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec
		Quiz 11, 6:30AM	Online final opens 5:30AM In class final exam 10AM-Noon	Online final due 11:30AM		