ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Geography 180 – Physical Geography
CRN # 25887
Fall 2015
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Chris Quinn

Class Location: C & L Room #105

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday @ 11:10 am – 12:35 pm

Office Location: Social Science Room #200 A (right behind the OCC Bookstore – in the faculty offices upstairs)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday @ 10:00 am – 11:00 am and 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm; also by appointment

Email and Phone: cquinn@occ.cccd.edu (714) 432-5028

Instructor Website: http://occonline.occ.cccd.edu/online/cquinn/ (or simply Google me!)

Textbook Website: http://www.pearsonhighered.com/mygeoscienceplace/


Required Materials: Two #886-E Scantrons (large, green) for the Exams
Eight #882-E Scantrons (small, green or blue) for the Map Quizzes, Take Home Quiz, and Final Exam

Multi-colored pens, pencils, and/or highlighters for class notes, maps, and assignments; 1 file folder

Course Objectives, Requirements, and Grading

Course Goals:
Welcome to the exciting world of Geography! In this course, you will be exposed to the concepts and features that are associated with the geographic, oceanographic, and atmospheric phenomena of the Earth. Specifically, this course is an investigation and interpretation of the Sun/Earth relationship, the science of maps, weather and climate, the hydrosphere, flora and fauna, and the cycles and patterns in the biosphere. It also includes rocks and minerals, weathering, mass wasting, erosion, and the origin and types of landforms that provide insights into the nature of the physical environment. While I will be your guide throughout the semester as we travel to various locations around the world, you must be willing to dedicate yourself to the actual goal of learning and accept responsibility for your own education.

Course Topics:
This course is generally divided into two basic parts: 1) Earth Movements and the Atmosphere; and 2) Geomorphology and Geomorphic processes. Each basic part is further sub-divided in order to create four sections. The methods and materials that are used to convey a comprehension of each section include textbook readings, class discussions, map reading and interpretation, videos, animations, PowerPoint slide presentations, homework assignments, in-class activities and cooperative learning groups.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1) Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles and concepts related to weather, climate, and climate change.
2) Demonstrate knowledge of the theory of plate tectonics and its relation to the formation and distribution of landforms.
3) Demonstrate knowledge of the gradational processes of water, wind, and glaciers in reshaping the landscape.
4) Explain the climate and soil adaptations of the earth’s biomes.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THIS SYLLABUS COMPLETELY AND TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE INFORMATION
Reading:
In order to be adequately prepared for this Geography course, students are expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbook — preferably before coming to class. Please see the Tentative Course Schedule on page 6 for the dates of the scheduled readings. Occasionally, this means that there will be a few in-class quizzes or homework assignments where you will be asked questions based upon the assigned readings. In addition, some of the exam questions will come from the assigned readings and will not be mentioned in the class discussions. You are advised to read all of the assigned chapters, including the maps, figures, tables, captions, and boxed exhibits. A good way to review is to see how much you can recall by looking at the headings, sub-headings, and the key geographic concepts/ideas/terms that are found in each chapter.

* The assigned readings for each section are:
  a) Unit #1: Read Chapters 1, 2 (Skim), 3, and 4
  b) Unit #2: Read Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 (Skim), and 9 (Skim)
  c) Unit #3: Read Chapters 13 and 14
  d) Unit #4: Read Chapters 15, 16 (Skim), 17, 18 (Skim), 19, and 20

Attendance and Class Participation:
Regular attendance is expected and students should plan on attending each class meeting and ARRIVING ON TIME. Attendance is taken every day at the beginning of each class and again toward the end of each class. Students who arrive late to class or leave early from class will be counted as absent for that class meeting. Not surprisingly, poor attendance will negatively affect your final grade.

Late arrivals and/or early departures are highly discouraged because constantly coming in late and leaving early is not only unprofessional, but it also disrupts the entire class and the learning process for everyone. Students who are persistent non-attendees (i.e. - more than 4 absences in the semester) and students who constantly come late to class and/or leave early from class will be dropped. If you have any further questions about the attendance and absence policies at Orange Coast College, please see the official guidelines that are listed in the College Catalog.

Active class participation is also expected and required in order to pass this course. Class attendance and participation is an extremely important part of the course because a substantial percentage of the exam questions are derived from class discussions. If you are adequately prepared and regularly contribute to the discussions, then we can make this a fun, lively learning community and I believe that you will find this Geography course to be a rewarding educational experience.

Course Grading:
Final grades will be based upon your total point accumulation (750 points) through the following methods:

1) **Exams:**
   Two 100-point multiple-choice/essay exams will be given at the end of Unit #1 and Unit #2. Please see the Tentative Course Schedule on page 6 for the scheduled dates of the exams.
   a) The exams consist of 45 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each and a few short-answer/essay questions worth a total of 10 points.
   b) Short-answer/essay topics will be presented prior to the scheduled exam date. See the class handout for the potential essay questions.
   c) The Final Exam is comprehensive and consists of 75 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each.
   d) Students will be given approximately 80 minutes to complete the exams. Please do not be late—students who disrupt the class by arriving late while an exam is in progress will receive a 5-point deduction from his/her total score and will not receive extra time to complete the exam.

2) **Map Quizzes:**
   Four map quizzes are worth 20 points each and two map quizzes are worth 40 points each. Please see the Tentative Course Schedule for the scheduled dates of the map quizzes.
   a) The first four map quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each. The last two map quizzes consist of 20 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each.
   b) The map quizzes will require students to locate and identify the features (i.e. – states, countries, cities, and physical features) that are found on the study guide handouts. See the study guide handouts and the corresponding blank outline maps that are posted on the instructor’s website.
   c) Students will be given approximately 10 minutes to complete the map quizzes and they will begin promptly at the start of the class session. Students who disrupt the class by arriving late while a map quiz is in progress will receive a 2-point deduction from his/her total score and will not receive extra time to complete the quiz.
3) One 100-point multiple-choice “Take Home Quiz” that covers the last few chapters of the textbook will be due at the beginning of class on December 3, 2015 (more details will be provided later).

4) Several in-class activities and/or homework assignments will be worth a total of 140 points.

**PLEASE KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PROGRESS DURING THE SEMESTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>My Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Quizzes</td>
<td>80 (4 x 20 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Quizzes</td>
<td>80 (2 x 40 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Home Quiz</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class / Homework Assignments</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit for 0-1 Absences/Tardies</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit for Map Quizzes</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**
The grading scale for this course is based on each student’s total number of points accumulated through his/her performance on all of the preceding assignments. Final grades will be assigned on a percentage basis as follows:

- A = 675 – 750 Total Points (90% - 100%)
- B = 600 – 674 Total Points (80% - 89%)
- C = 525 – 599 Total Points (70% - 79%)
- D = 450 – 524 Total Points (60% - 69%)
- F = 0 – 449 Total Points (0% - 59%)

Each student is personally responsible for maintaining his/her own grade records and keeping all graded and returned materials in a file folder. It is highly recommended that you record and enter the number of points that you earn in the preceding columns (see “My Points Earned” section above) so that you can add them up at any given time during the semester. This should easily allow you to be fully informed about your grade status and it will also permit you to reference your grade record against mine, in case you have any questions about your final grade at the end of the course.

**Student Professionalism and Basic Class Etiquette:**

* Students are expected to arrive on time, attend each class meeting, and stay for the full class session. If you cannot arrive on time, then you should consider either setting all of your clocks ahead, improving your time management skills, or dropping the class.

* Students who disrupt the class by constantly coming in late, leaving early, and/or missing class will be dropped from the course.

* Packing up early is extremely rude and disrespectful to everyone in the classroom and is not permitted until the class is finished, as determined by the instructor.

* Any student who sleeps during class is not mentally present. In past semesters, students who have fallen asleep during class have been promptly waken up, asked to leave, and marked absent for the day. Please sleep in the comforts of your own home!

* **No texting, cell phones, or other electronic devices during class.** As a common courtesy to all of your classmates and the professor, it is expected that you turn off your cell phones, IPods, laptops, and all other electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Please be sure to put all electronics away in a backpack, purse, etc. – not on your desk or lap – and set them so that they do not ring, distract, or otherwise disturb the class because you will be asked to leave. Students who are seen text messaging or checking cell phones at any time during class will also receive a 10-point deduction from his/her total score and marked absent for the day.

* If class disruptions become a problem, students will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
Course Policies and Other Important Notes:

* **Extra Credit Option #1:** Any student who has zero absences/tardies throughout the semester will receive 10 points added to his/her total point accumulation. Students who have no more than one absence will receive 5 points added to his/her total points.

* **Extra Credit Option #2:** Any student who earns 100% on all of the map quizzes will receive an extra 10 points added to his/her total point accumulation.

* For unforeseeable situations and documented emergencies (as determined by the instructor), **ONE make-up map quiz or exam will be permitted and it will be given during the instructor’s office hours on week #15**. For such extenuating circumstances, there will be only one make-up per student and it can be for either a map quiz or an exam. Prior to scheduling a make-up quiz or exam, students must talk to the instructor in person and provide written documentation.

* It is highly recommended that you bring the required textbook, atlas, paper, and writing implements to each class meeting. On exam and quiz days, each student should bring a new, **machine-readable Scantron form** (i.e. - not folded, ripped, perforated, eaten by your dog, etc.) and two sharpened pencils with good erasers.

* **Working on homework and assignments for this class, or any other course, is not permitted during class.**

* Late assignments will not be accepted past the scheduled due date and homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any time after the due date is considered late and assignments will not be accepted by email. All assignments must be personally submitted by the student in class and may not be turned in by other students. Students must be present for the entire class meeting in order to submit or receive credit for assignments.

* Missing class for any reason, including sports, medical appointments, work, personal matters, travel, good surfing conditions, fresh snow in the mountains, court dates, car issues, etc. will result in being marked absent – no exceptions.

* Any missed information is the student’s responsibility – please check with your neighbors and fellow classmates in order to find out about the information that you missed in class. If you still need further assistance, just ask. However, please do not email or ask me if you “missed anything important” or if I can quickly explain what you missed from the previous class because you were absent.

* While open discussion of the course topics is highly encouraged, students must always maintain respect for each other, the instructor, and all of the people, cultures, and places that are discussed in class.

* Students with learning disabilities are required by law to inform the instructor if they need any special assistance for note taking, recording, interpretation, or examination-taking and scheduling (e.g. - needing extra time for exams/map quizzes or taking the exams/map quizzes in a location other than the classroom).

* Any student who takes an exam or map quiz in an alternate location is required to remind the instructor (in writing) each and every time an exam or map quiz is to be taken at that alternate location.

* It is **highly recommended** that students exchange information with each other (e.g. - email addresses and/or cell phone numbers) as soon as possible so that they may have an option available for getting notes and assignments in case of an absence.

* This is a rigorous course in both scope and topics. It is important that you review the textbook and lecture material each week in order to be adequately prepared. According to the State of California, the suggested amount of preparation time for a college course is approximately 2-3 hours per week (per unit) outside of class. Therefore, for a 3-unit class, students should plan on spending between 6-9 hours each week outside of class by studying/reading/preparing for the class/assignments/map quizzes/exams.

* Taking university transfer-level courses should be viewed as work, rather than simply something to do on the side, since (in most cases) the student is taking a college course to better his/her socio-economic standing. Consequently, a student who is taking 15 or more units of university transfer-level courses in one semester should be prepared to spend at least 30-45 hours each week in education-related activities (i.e. - the equivalent of a full-time job). Working full-time and attending college full-time can be accomplished by many people. However, in most cases something suffers – usually the quality of the student’s education.

**THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE COURSE SYLLABUS IF NECESSARY.**
Academic Honesty Policy
The college standards of academic honesty will be applied in this class. Academic dishonesty will result in a “0” on all or part of an assignment and a written referral to the Dean of Students. The complete policy may be found in the 2015 College Catalog, the official publication that addresses academic and student services policies. An electronic copy of the College Catalog may also be found on the college website. If necessary, students may be required to electronically submit their written work for plagiarism checking.

Accommodations for Disabilities:
If you have a disability and believe that you will need accommodations, then you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disabled Students Center as soon as possible. The office is located in the Special Services Building and the phone number is (714) 432-0202 Ext. 25807.

Ten Suggestions for the Successful Completion of Geography 180
1) Come to class and actively participate in the class discussions by making thoughtful contributions and asking relevant questions.
2) Take clear, comprehensive, high-quality notes in class and rewrite them within 1 or 2 days of the next lecture.
3) Read the corresponding chapters in the textbook before coming to class.
4) Highlight, underline, and/or write down the key points and important concepts in the textbook as you read the chapters.
5) Regularly use your atlas and/or the textbook to find the different places and locations that are discussed during class.
6) Make flash cards for the key terms and concepts that are discussed in class and frequently review them.
7) Prepare for all of the map quizzes by labeling and filling in the blank outline maps, preferably before the day of the map quiz.
8) Complete all of the homework/in-class assignments and submit them at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date.
9) Form a study group and study with other classmates – this often helps and it is usually a lot more fun!
10) Avoid trying to read and learn everything the night before an exam. Throughout the ages, students (including your instructor) have consistently proven that this strategy is not especially productive in challenging college courses. In fact, this strategy is often quite counter-productive.

Ten Ways to Make Life Hard for Your Professor and Classmates
1) Constantly whisper, talk, and laugh with your neighbors during class.
2) Arrive late to class and leave early for no particular reason.
3) Place your head on the desk. Doze off and catch a nap. Snore if you can.
4) Yawn loudly over and over again. Stretch your arms. Keep staring at your watch and/or the clock on the wall.
5) Blow bubbles with your gum and make loud popping sounds.
6) Work on homework or study for another class during class discussions.
7) Make facial expressions that show how disgusted you are with something that the instructor or another classmate said.
8) Check your cell phone to see if you missed any important calls. Email or text message your friends during class.
9) Interrupt the entire class by constantly coming in and/or leaving the classroom.
10) Zip up your backpack and pack up your belongings a few minutes before the class is finished.

* Any behavior that is disruptive to the instructor or other students in class will not be tolerated.
**Tentative Course Schedule (dates are all subject to change*)**

| Week 1: | Introduction to Geography and the Earth | Skim the Table of Contents & Field Guides  
(August 27) | Read Chapter 1 – Introduction to Earth |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week 2: | Earth/Sun Relationships | Map Quiz – United States & Canada  
(September 3) | Skim Chapter 2 – Portraying Earth |
| Week 3: | Earth and the Atmosphere | Read Chapter 3 – Introduction to the Atmosphere  
(September 10) |
| Week 4: | Insolation and Temperature | Map Quiz – California  
(September 17) | Read Chapter 4 – Insolation & Temperature |
| Week 5: | Pressure, Winds, and Circulation | Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4)  
(September 24) |
| Week 6: | Pressure, Winds, and Circulation | Read Chapter 5 – Atmospheric Pressure & Wind  
(October 1) |
| Week 7: | Atmospheric Moisture, Hydrologic Cycle | Map Quiz – Physical Features (Part #1)  
(October 8) | Read Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Moisture |
| Week 8: | Air Masses, Fronts and Violent Weather | Read Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Disturbances  
(October 15) | Skim Chapter 8 – Climate & Climate Change |
| Week 9: | Structure of the Earth  
(October 22) | Map Quiz – Physical Features (Part #2) | Review Chapters & Notes for Exam #2 |
| Week 10: | Study of Landforms | Exam #2 (Chapters 5-9)  
(October 29) | Read Chapter 13 – Introduction to Landforms |
| Week 11: | Tectonic Processes  
(November 5) | Read Chapter 14 – The Internal Processes | Plate Tectonics |
| Week 12: | Weathering and Mass Wasting  
(November 12) | Map Quiz – Countries (Part #1)  
Fluvial Processes | Read Chapter 15 – Weathering & Mass Wasting |
| Week 13: | Karst Topography  
(November 19) | Read Chapter 17 – Karst Topography | Skim Chapter 18 – Topography of Arid Lands |
| Week 14: | Glacial Landforms  
(November 26) | Read Chapter 19 – Glacial Modification  
Glacial Processes | Read Chapter 20 – Coastal Processes & Terrain |
| Week 15: | Coastal Processes and Landforms | Map Quiz – Countries (Part #2)  
(December 3) | Take Home Quiz Due @ 11:10 AM  
Coastal Processes and Landforms |
| Week 16: | Field Trip  
(Class Meets at Upper Newport Bay on 12/8/15  
(December 8) | Final Exam (Chapters 13-14) plus some questions  
(December 10) | from Exam #1 and Exam #2 |
| | Finale | “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness” - - Mark Twain | |

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