UNLV COURSE SYLLABUS INFORMATION
GEOG 103 - Physical Geography Of Earth's Environment (3 cr.)
SECTION 1001 – M-W 10:00-11:15 am – SEB1311

1. Instructor:
   Office hrs.
   Phone

   Physical geography of Earth's environment focuses on the processes that form and modify landscapes, climates, and ecosystems. It includes interrelationships among the atmosphere, water, earth and life with emphasis on relationships between humans and environmental processes.

2. Course Learning / Outcome Objectives
   Upon completion of the course, students should have a comprehensive, introductory understanding of:
   1. The development and operation of geographic systems
   2. How maps are constructed and used
   3. Development of the solar system, the planet Earth, and its atmosphere
   4. The components of "Weather"
   5. The components of "Climate"
   6. The classification and description of soils – time permitting
   7. The internal structure of the Earth and the unifying concept of Plate Tectonics
   8. The hydrologic and fluvial cycles of erosion and deposition
   9. The origin and development of landforms
   10. Causes and effects of glaciation
   11. The energy and materials of the coastal environment

3. Assessment of these learning/outcome objectives will be based on lecture, quizzes, and exams including the final exam. Exams (2) are 25% each, Final is 35%, Post-quizzes 15%, and an extra credit of up to 10% can be awarded for pre-quizzes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class only, and will be used to help determine borderline grades.

4. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to and survey of Physical Geography and to provide one of the UNLV courses that satisfies the UNLV General Science requirement. Student responsibilities include: attending the lectures, taking and maintaining lecture notes to supplement the assigned text readings, studying and learning the "language of geography" as defined by the key text terms. Examinations are primarily multiple choice and key-term definition; Departmental policy precludes make-up exams – no make ups are possible. You must bring picture ID for all exams.

5. Final exam is scheduled for Monday May 9 from 10:10 to 12:10 am in this room.

Grading policy:

Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule. The instructor may also elect to curve grades in the students favor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>over 93</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>between 73 and 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>between 90 and 93</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>between 70 and 73</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>between 87 and 90</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>between 67 and 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>between 83 and 87</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>between 63 and 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>between 80 and 83</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>between 60 and 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>between 77 and 80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 60</td>
</tr>
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Logistics and Policies

1. Participation
I expect that students will come to this class with very different backgrounds and levels of educational training. As a result, you may find some material difficult, feel that you are already familiar with some of the concepts, or have personal experiences that can inform us all. Whatever your situation, please share your position with us through class participation. Most importantly, however, if you are confused about a concept, please ask questions in class for clarification and further explanation. You will not be alone in your confusion. There are many ways to present this material, and I will attempt to find one that works for you. If you do not feel comfortable asking questions in class, please contact me.

2. Attendance
It is important that you attend class daily because we cover a lot of material, and I will provide guidance for reading assignments and exam questions regularly. You are responsible for all material covered in lectures no matter what causes your absence. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from a classmate. Topics covered may vary from the schedule somewhat, but the exam dates will remain fixed. Neither make-up lectures, make-up exams, make-up quizzes nor make-up exercises will be given. If you are absent from a scheduled exam without a written medical, military, or university excuse, you will receive a zero for that exam. If a make-up exam is required due to the excuses listed above, the nature of the make-up exam will be at my discretion. The final exam is required of all students.

3. Succeeding!
To do well in this class you should study and work with the material daily. At the end of each day, read your notes and make sure that you understand what you wrote. Better yet, re-write your notes in a second notebook using complete sentences: if something isn’t clear in your own mind it will be readily apparent to you. For best results, do this within 24 hours of when class ends. Even though not assigned, answer the questions at the end of each chapter. Quiz yourself. Develop a study group, you’ll learn more and it will be more enjoyable. Keep up with reading assignments and lecture material. It is harder to come from behind than to stay engaged daily. If you get confused or have questions that have not been resolved in lecture, then do not hesitate to contact me. Meeting with me during office hours is best because I have set aside this time for you. If you cannot make any of my office hours, call or email for an appointment.

Public Health Directives
Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the UNLV Code of Student Conduct. https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct
Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the Student Conduct Code, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

Auditing Classes
Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct
Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially
disruptive devices or activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Copyright
The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional copyright policy information is available at https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A, Room 143, https://www.unlv.edu/drc, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Final Examinations
The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the Final Exam Schedule, https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars.

Identity Verification in Online Courses
All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy, https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades
The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources
Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the Libraries’ Research Consultation website, https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian. You can also ask the library staff questions via chat and text message at https://ask.library.unlv.edu/.
Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Work policy, under Registration Policies, on the Academic Policies webpage, https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?coid=29&navoid=7326.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail
Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching
The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the ASC website, https://www.unlv.edu/asc, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center
One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3–301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Optional statement for inclusion in syllabi.

Diversity Statement
As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see University Statements and Compliance, https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another’s points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and
comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.
COURSE OUTLINE - GEOGRAPHY 103, PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, SECTION 1001, Spring 2016

Geography 103, Section 1001, M-W 10:00 – 11:15 am is a 3 credit course. Your grade will be based on two midterm examinations each worth 25% of your grade, and a final exam worth 35%, and quizzes worth 15%. In addition, 10% additional extra credit is available. This outline lists the topics covered in lecture and the appropriate text pages of reading. The highly, highly recommended texts for this course are the Essentials of Physical Geography (9th edition) by Gabler, Peterson, Trapasso, and Sack (or newer versions by Petersen et al.) or Geosystems, (7th edition) by Christopherson. Please note that owing to Administrative procedures there are no "make up" exams.

Tentative Course Outline

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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Introduction, Scientific Method, nature and history of Phys. Geography</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>Geographic systems, and models; Maps - the round earth on flat paper</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1-3</td>
<td>Maps, air photos, and satellite images; Origin and evolution of our galaxy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Origin and evolution of the earth; Solar radiation</td>
<td>4,5</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>No Classes – President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Atmospheric pressure and winds; Condensation, precipitation, hydrologic cycle</td>
<td>6,7</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>Air masses, storms, atmospheric disturbances; Climate definitions and</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 29</td>
<td>Tropical, desert, continental climate; Vegetative communities, ecosystems</td>
<td>9,10,11</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Biogeography</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>First Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14-16</td>
<td>Internal structure of the earth</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21-26</td>
<td>Spring Break - NO CLASSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28-30</td>
<td>Plate tectonics and continental drift; Volcanoes</td>
<td>14,15</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4-6</td>
<td>Mountains, folding and faulting of rocks; Weathering and mass movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Avalanches; Karst, caves, and the underground world</td>
<td>16,17</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>Groundwater; Fluvial erosion and floods, landforms</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Second Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mountain and Continental Glaciers</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2-4</td>
<td>Wind Erosion; Oceans and Coastal Environments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Monday Final Exam – 10:10am – 12:10pm in this room.</td>
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