

Course Syllabus

Geography 4 - Physical Geography

Spring 2017

Instructor: Cate Braschi
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Office Hours: In Santa Rosa, Lark Hall Room 2029 MW 9:30 -10:30
In Petaluma, the Cafeteria TTh 10:00-10:30 am

Course Description

Hello Geographers! This class will introduce you to the processes that create and shape the earth's surface. You will study the earth's dimensions and motions. Weather, pollution, global climate change and the distribution of climate, plants and soils around the world will be discussed. You will learn about tornados and hurricanes; floods and volcanos; landslides and blizzards.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Describe the geographic patterns of the earth's physical environment, including global patterns of climate, soils and landforms
- Explain and diagram Earth-sun relationships and their effects on climate
- Understand and determine latitude and longitude
- Understand and be able to read and interpret maps, remote sensing imagery, appropriate graphs and charts
- Understand the causes and mechanisms of climate and weather
- Be familiar with the earth's interior structure, explain the theory of plate tectonics and relate tectonic theory to landform development, diastrophism, volcanoes and earthquakes
- Understand external land forming processes such as running water and ice

Required Texts:

McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation (11th edition, Hess 2014) (ISBN-13: 9780321820433)

Essential World Atlas (8th edition, DK 2013) (ISBN 9781465402288)

Reader (Cate Braschi, available book store only)

Special Note

You may have access to an older edition of the McKnight textbook. While the page numbers won't match the syllabus, the book will otherwise be fine for this class. I will have a few old books available the second week of class to loan students who cannot otherwise afford to purchase a book. Please don't try to take the course without the textbook.

Unfortunately you must have the required atlas. No substitutes will work (including the internet)

Attendance:

It is the student's responsibility to sign the roll sheet at the beginning of each class. Three tardies or early departures will be considered equal to one absence. Good attendance is an easy way to earn extra credit in this class and it will absolutely improve your understanding of the material.

Students should be aware that material will be covered during lectures, which is not covered in the text. If you miss class you're probably going to have some trouble with the exams!

Basis for Semester Grades:

Students can expect weekly or biweekly assignments throughout the semester. These assignments will account for approximately 30% of your grade. Homework assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on time! Late assignments may be marked down. **In no case will late assignments be accepted after answers have been discussed in class.**

Three midterms and a Place Name Exam will be administered throughout the semester. They will be worth approximately 40% of your final grade. The final exam will account for the remaining 30%. The final will be comprehensive covering all of the material reviewed in class. The final exam will be **open note**. *It is, therefore, really helpful to have great notes to use on the final.*

Make-up exams will be handled on a case-by-case basis and will only be allowed if you are ill or have a personal emergency. Only one make-up exam will be allowed during the semester and the make-up will be scheduled at my convenience.

Approximate breakdown of points:

Weekly assignments	30%
Total of Four Exams	40%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Extra Credit!

There will be lots of opportunity to earn extra credit during the semester including:

- Attendance (10 points if no more than two absences)
- Class participation (5 points)
- Current events (bring in 5 articles relating to Physical Geography and give a brief oral synopsis of each – 5 points)
- Occasional extra credit homework assignments and test questions

Grading Policy

Where it will benefit the class, I may grade using a simple curve. Otherwise grades will be assigned as follows:

"A"	90% and above
"B"	80 - 89%
"C"	68 - 79%
"D"	58 - 69%
"F"	under 58%

Important Dates

January 31	Last day to drop and receive a refund
February 7	Last day to drop without a "W"
February 28	Last day to opt for P/NP
April 24	Last day to drop with a "W"

No class Santa Rosa Sections: 2/20, 3/20, 3/22
No class Petaluma Sections: 2/16, 3/21, 3/23

Classroom Conduct

So that everyone has the opportunity to get the most out of class, I ask that students follow the following code of classroom behavior:

- **Come to class!** There is a direct correlation between grades and attendance. If you aren't here you will be missing important information which may not be available from the text; announcements made in class; and in-class assignments which cannot be made-up. Besides, attendance is the easiest way to earn extra credit in this course.
- Arrive **on time** to class. Announcements happen at the beginning of class.
- Do not disrupt class by leaving **early**.
- Refrain from talking during lectures unless you are contributing to a class discussion or activity.
- Be **courteous** to each other and the instructor when asking questions and during class discussions.
- Ensure that your work is your own unless you have been asked to work with other students. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who **plagiarize** or **cheat** may be suspended and referred to the Vice President of Student Services for disciplinary action.
- Please turn off your **cell phones**. Cell phones and PDA's may not be used as calculators or in any way during exams. If I see one out during an exam, I will assume you are cheating and you will fail the exam.
- Request **make-up exams** in advance and only due to an emergency. No makeups will be allowed unless I am contacted prior to the next class meeting following the exam. Only one make-up per semester per student will be allowed regardless of circumstance.
- Lastly, do your homework assignments and turn them in!!!! The most common reasons for students to do poorly in this class are poor attendance and failing to turn in homework. It is critical to your success in this class to complete all assignments. If you need help ask....that's what they pay me for.
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READING ASSIGNMENTS GEOGRAPHY 4 – SPRING 2017

- **Section 1: Earth Geometry and Motions**

- **Week 1 (1/17)** **Text: Preface, Chapter 1 (pgs 1 – 11)**
- **Week 2 (1/23)** **Text: Chapter 1 (pgs 11 – 17)**
- **Week 3 (1/30)** **Text: Chapter 1 (pgs 24- 27, 18 - 24)**
- **Week 4 (2/6)** **Text: Chapter 2**

- **Section 2: Atmospheric Processes: Insolation and Temperature, Pressure and Wind, Humidity and Precipitation**

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- **Week 5 (2/13)** **Tentative Place Name Exam and Midterm #1**
- **Week 6 (2/20)** **Text: Chapters 2 (pgs 22 -24), Chpts 3, 4**
- **Week 7 (2/27)** **Text: Chapters 3 and 4**
- **Week 8 (3/6)** **Text: Chapters 5 and 6**
- **Week 9 (3/13)** **Text: Chapters 6 and 7**

- **Section 3: Patterns of Climate, Groundwater, and Soils**

- **Week 10 (3/27)** **Reader: Climate Classifications**
Tentative Midterm #2
- **Week 11 (4/3)** **Reader: Climate Classification**
- **Week 12 (4/10)** **Text: Chapter 9 and 10**
- **Week 13 (4/17)** **Text: Chapter 11 and 12**

- **Section 4: Earth Processes and Landforms**

- **Week 14 (4/24)** **Text: Chapter 13**
Tentative Midterm #3
- **Week 15 (5/1)** **Text: Chapter 14**
- **Week 16 (5/8)** **Text: Chapter 15 and 16**
- **Week 17 (5/15)** **Text: Chapter 16 and 19**

- **(Week of 5/22) Comprehensive Final Exam**

(dates will be announced in cl