

GEOG 104: Physical Geography Lab, Spring 2019
Section 1003, Mon 5:30-8:15 pm, Technology Building (TEC) 104

Faculty: James Mifflin
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Office Hours: TEC Computer Lab, Thursday 10:00-12:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Format: Laboratory once a week

Required Textbook: *Physical Geography of the Earth's Environment Laboratory Manual UNLV Custom Edition 2018 (ISBN 9781323859001)*

Prerequisites: GEOG 103 pre- or co-requisite

Purpose of this class:

This course will introduce investigations into the basic principles of geography, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy, including: 1) the concept of "systems"; 2) principles of mapping; 3) Earth as a planet; 4) the concept of weather; 5) the concept of climate; 6) Earth's internal structure and plate tectonic theory; 7) the hydrologic cycle and erosion; and 8) the processes that occur near the Earth's surface such as groundwater, rivers, wind, waves, and glaciers. **This course is aligned with the State of Nevada Earth Science Content standards for K-8 certification.**

Learning outcomes of this class:

Students who successfully complete this course will show proficiency by: 1) reading and interpreting a variety of maps; 2) using an understanding of the variations in season and weather to interpret how these factors affect the natural landscape; and 3) researching an environmental issue and composing an opinion letter to a policymaker.

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>
A	over 93	C	between 73 and 77
A-	between 90 and 93	C-	between 70 and 73
B+	between 87 and 90	D+	between 67 and 70
B	between 83 and 87	D	between 63 and 67
B-	between 80 and 83	D-	between 60 and 63
C+	between 77 and 80	F	less than 60

Final grades will be computed as follows:

Lab Activities)	(11 @ 25 points each)	275 pts
Pre-Lab exercises	(9 @ 10 points each)	90 pts
Position Paper		50 pts
Participation		50 pts
Total Points		465pts

Notes:

1. You must attend all lab classes. Any student with more than 2 unexcused absences will fail the course.
2. No make-up exercises will be given unless you provide a written medical, military, or university excuse.
3. Bring a calculator to every class.
4. Pre-lab exercises are due at the beginning of class. No exceptions.
5. No extra credit will be given.
6. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will result in an absence
7. All lab manual assignments must be completed in the manual

Changes to syllabus:

GEOL 104: Physical Geography Lab, Fall 2017
Section 1001, Mon 11:30-2:15pm, Lilly Fong Geoscience (LFG) 103

The attached schedule is tentative; adjustments to the schedule of topics and reading assignments may be made in accordance with the rate and progress in the classroom. The instructor also reserves the right to change a topic to reflect world events. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary (i.e. modifications to the schedule of exams).

Class schedule

Date	Laboratory Exercise	Exercise Number
Week 1	No Labs All Week – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Week 2	Latitude, Longitude and Time	1
Week 3	Directions and Compass Readings + Map Projections	2 + 3
Week 4	Earth – Sun Relationships Pre-Lab 1	4
Week 5	No Labs All Week – Presidents Day	
Week 6	Temperature Concepts and Temperature Patterns Pre-Lab 2	5 + 6
	Position Paper Assignment	
Week 7	Geographic Positioning System and Environmental Geoscience Pre-Lab 3	Handout
	Position Paper Topic Due	
Week 8	Atmospheric Pressure, Humidity, Stability, and Adiabatic Processes	7+8

GEOG 104: Physical Geography Lab, Spring 2019
Section 1003, Mon 5:30-8:15 pm, Technology Building (TEC) 104

Pre-lab 4

Week 9	No Labs All Week – Spring Break Recess	
Week 10	Earth Materials 1 (Minerals) Pre-Lab 5	Handout
Week 11	Earth Materials 2 (Rocks) Pre-Lab 6 Position Paper Rough Draft Due	Handout
Week 12	Contours and Topographic Maps Pre-Lab 7	9 + Handout
Week 13	Topographic Analysis: Fluvial, Coastal and Arid Geomorphology Pre-Lab 8	10 + 11
Week 14	Plate Tectonics: Global Patterns and Volcanism Pre-Lab 9 Position Paper Final Version Due	12
Week 15	No Labs All Week – Study Week	
Week 16	Finals Week	

GEOL 104: Physical Geography Lab, Fall 2017
Section 1001, Mon 11:30-2:15pm, Lilly Fong Geoscience (LFG) 103

No Labs All Week – Finals Week

Logistics and policies

1. Participation

Students in this class will have different backgrounds and levels of educational training. As a result, you may find some material difficult, feel that you are already familiar with some 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

Unless explicitly instructed otherwise by the Head TA, you must attend the lab section for which you are registered. If you are absent from lab without a written medical, military, or university excuse, you will receive a zero for that lab. Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class regardless of your performance on the other lab exercises. If a make-up exercise is allowed due to the excuses listed above, the nature of the make-up work will be at the instructors' discretion.

3. Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; 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 when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

4. Administrative drops/Classroom conduct

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Any student that does not comply with these requirements and conducts themselves in a manner that is disruptive and interferes with the right of other students to learn or of the instructor to teach will be administratively dropped from the course.

5. Recording Lectures

Absolutely **no electronic recording or posting** of lectures or other materials will be allowed without my prior approval.

6. Bringing children/guests to class

Students are not generally allowed to bring guests, including children to lecture. Please see me with any questions.

7. Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to 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.

8. UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will

GEOG 104: Physical Geography Lab, Spring 2019

Section 1003, Mon 5:30-8:15 pm, Technology Building (TEC) 104

receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

9. 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, visit <http://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** (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TBE second floor.

10. Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. Subject librarians for various classes can be found here: https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

11. Transparency in Learning and Teaching

The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:
<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>
<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

12. Religious Holiday Policy

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit:
<http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

13. Official extracurricular activity

All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

14. Nondiscrimination

The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

15. 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 information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

16. Rebelmail

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

17. Incomplete Grades

The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course

GEOL 104: Physical Geography Lab, Fall 2017
Section 1001, Mon 11:30-2:15pm, Lilly Fong Geoscience (LFG) 103

work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. 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 time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded, and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

18. Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>