

GEOG 104 – Physical Geography Laboratory, Spring 2016

Section 1002, Monday 2:30 – 5:15 pm, TEC 104

Instructor: Richie Ness
TEC (113) Computer lab
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Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:00 pm Tuesday TEC (113) Computer Lab

Course Format: Laboratory once a week

Required Textbook: *The Pearson Custom Library for Geography & Geology*
Physical Geography Laboratory
UNLV Geography 104 Laboratory Manual

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 Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to 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 Position Paper.

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:

13 lab activities @ 25 points	325 pts	60%
11 quizzes @ 10 points	110 pts	20%
Position Paper	50 pts	10%
Participation	50 pts	10%
Total Points	535 pts	100%

Position Paper: This assignment makes up the writing component of this class and is worth ~10% of your grade. Each student must pick a topic relating to physical geography (environmental issues, global warming, energy issues, water issues, natural disasters, etc...) and write a two-page position paper addressing your position on the topic. The paper should include a minimum of 3 reputable sources. **Grading will be based on how well you present your topic and the information you use to back up your position. Format, grammar, and spelling will also be taken into consideration. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

- Notes:**
1. You must attend all lab classes. Any student with more than 2 unexcused absences will fail the lab course.
 2. No make-up exercises will be given unless you provide a written medical, military, or university excuse.
 3. Any make-up accommodations must be enacted **within 1 week** after missing the lab or returning to school from a medical absence. There is no potential for making up lab exercises after one week, even with an excuse.
 4. Bring your lab book and a calculator to every class.
 5. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. No exceptions.
 6. No extra credit will be given.

GEOG 104 – Physical Geography Laboratory, Spring 2016

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7. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will result in an absence and a missed quiz.

8. All lab manual assignments must be completed in the manual

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Laboratory Exercise	Exercise number in Lab Book
Week 1		
Jan 18	No Labs All Week– MLK Day	
Week 2		
Jan 25	Latitude, Longitude and Time	1
Week 3		
Feb 1	Directions and Compass Readings + Map Projections	2 + 3
Week 4		
Feb 8	Earth – Sun Relationships (Quiz)	4
Week 5		
Feb 15	No Labs – Presidents Day Week	
Week 6		
Feb 22	Temperature Concepts and Patterns (Quiz)	5 + 6
Week 7		
Feb 29	Earth's Atmosphere (Quiz)	7
Week 8		
Mar 7	Atmospheric Humidity, Stability, and Adiabatic Processes (Quiz)	8
Week 9		
Mar 14	Earth Materials 1 (Minerals) (Quiz) Position Paper Assignment	Hand-out
March 21 – 26 Spring Break No Labs		
Week 10		
Mar 28	Earth Materials 2 (Rocks) (Quiz) Position Paper Topic Due	Hand-out
Week 11		
Apr 4	Contours and Topographic Maps (Quiz) Position Paper Rough Draft Due	9
Week 12		
Apr 11	Geographic Positioning System and Environmental Geoscience (Quiz)	Hand-out
Week 13		
Apr 18	Topographic Analysis: Fluvial Geomorphology (Quiz) Position Paper Final Version Due	10
Week 14		
Apr 25	Topographic Analysis: Coastal and Arid Geomorphology (Quiz)	11
Week 15 (Last Lab)		
May 2	Plate Tectonics: Global Patterns and Volcanism (Quiz)	12

GEOG 104 – Physical Geography Laboratory, Spring 2016
Section 1002, Monday 2:30 – 5:15 pm, TEC 104

Week 16

FINAL EXAM WEEK – NO LABS

GEOG 104 – Physical Geography Laboratory, Spring 2016

Section 1002, Monday 2:30 – 5:15 pm, TEC 104

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 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

Students are expected to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material covered no matter what causes your absence. If you are absent without a written medical, military, or university excuse, you will receive a zero for that material. If a make-up exercise is required due to the excuses listed above, the nature of the make-up work will be at my discretion.

3. Academic Misconduct

As stated in the UNLV Undergraduate catalog: "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 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."

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. This course operates under a "zero tolerance" policy, meaning that if a student commits cheating or plagiarism they will receive a grade of F for the class.

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 Administrative Drops/Classroom Conduct 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. Learning Environment

The classroom is intended to be a place of learning. As such, and as specified in the UNLV Undergraduate Catalog, no pagers, cell phones, or other potentially disruptive devices are allowed in lab. Student usage of laptop computers or similar devices is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor, and is restricted to taking notes for this course. Disruptive behavior such as those described above, chatting, sleeping, watching video, playing games or texting may result in an administrative withdrawal from the course.

6. Bringing children to class

Students are not allowed to bring guests, including children to lecture.

7. Disability Services (DS)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. You must be registered with Disability Services for accommodations to be made for you.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

8. 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-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive

GEOG 104 – Physical Geography Laboratory, Spring 2016

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priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 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. Religious Holidays

As a general rule, a student missing a class because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. You must notify me by the last day of late registration if this pertains to you and a clear deadline will be set for completion of work.

10. 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 official written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

11. 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.

12. Copyright Issues

The university requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves 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 you, nor defend you, nor assume responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations could subject you to federal and state civil liabilities as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.