

GEOG 101-Introduction to Physical Geography

CRN: 84685

Contact Information:

Please check in any time! Here are some ways to contact me.

1. Send a message to my Canvas Inbox or email me directly at lisa.pitts@vvc.edu (24-hour timeline Monday-Thursday and within 48 hours Friday - Sunday) If you do not hear from me in that time, please feel free to resend your message.
2. For the fastest response send me an email (please include your name, your school, and the class. Example: "Hey, Lisa Pitts from GEOG 101 at VVC here, I have a quick question about...")
3. Come to my [Student Hours](#) in my "Web-office" (TBA). Individual assistance is always available by appointment. I look forward to seeing you during student hours!
For more information about communication, please refer to my [Communication Plan](#)
4. This is a summer session class, and as such, there is a lot of work expected of you. If we had met in person it would have been for 3 hours 3 times a week, do not take this course lightly.



Statement of Access:

Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and referral to [Accessibility Coordination Center and Education Support Services \(ACCESS\)](#) per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440)

Course Description:

An introduction to the fundamental concepts of geography with an emphasis on the physical world, its components and interrelationships. Topics include earth/sun relationships, atmospheric elements, and weather, climate and seasons, earthquakes and volcanoes, rocks and minerals, oceans and coastlines, glaciers, and landform distribution, methods of map reading, and interpretation. Current environmental issues relating to these topics are emphasized. CSU, UC

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and define basic geographic concepts and tools for study, such as maps and GIS.
2. Identify and define earth-sun relationships such as rotation, revolution, angle of inclination, parallelism and sphericity and analyze how these relate to global seasonal patterns.
3. Describe the ingredients and variables that influence weather and climate and analyze how these affect global patterns of hydrology, soils, vegetation, agriculture, and human settlement patterns.
4. Describe the earth's geologic cycle including the tectonic processes of folding, faulting and volcanism that build up the land and analyze how these affect the resulting geomorphology of a region.
5. Identify earth's external weathering processes such as fluvial, eolian and glacial erosion, transportation and deposition and analyze how these affect the resulting geomorphology in humid and in arid regions.



Attendance / Withdrawal

Online attendance is mandatory and crucial to your success in this class. Student "attendance" in online courses will be defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus.

The last day to withdraw from this class and receive a "W" grade is July 20. It is your responsibility to monitor your participation level and withdraw or a letter grade will be given at the end of the term.

Grading Criteria & Scale

Assessment of Learning

This course will be primarily evaluated with several class exercises and exams, which will be given according to the schedule included in this course schedule. The exams are primarily objective tests, consisting of some combination of multiple-choice, true-false, matching, fill-in answers, maps, and short response questions worth 150 points each. Each exam will cover the material presented in readings, course exercise questions, discussion questions, videos, and any other course material during the preceding few weeks. The Final Exam will include cumulative questions, but the major focus will be on the most recent course material.

Instructor Policy:

Your grade for this class will be determined by your performance on exams, quizzes, worksheets, assignments/activities, and presentations. There will be no class curve.

Final course letter grades will be determined according to a standard 90-80-70-60-percentage scale (see below).

No “plus/minus” grades will be given.

Assignment / Activity	
Midterm (150 points)	Assignments (10-30 points each)
Quizzes (up to 35 points each)*	Weekly Discussion (20 points) *
Group Assignments (50 points each)	Final Exam (200 points)

* Lowest score will be dropped

Assignment Policies

Opening and Closing of Each Week’s Assignments, Number of Attempts on Assignments Policy, Late Assignment Policy, Timed Exam Policy, Weekly Discussion Questions can all be found on <https://sites.google.com/view/pittsthenerd/home>.

No ZEROS and Late work:

Late work is **not** accepted in this course. There are only a few mandatory assignments that will result in a zero. (Although the assignments do not result in a zero you are still **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to do them. They will not only help your grade, but they are also providing information and support for the learning in the class). The assignments that will result in a zero are **Midterms, Tests, Final exams, Discussions, Quizzes, Group Projects, and any assignment that is specifically stated**. Check the syllabus for more information.

Projects (group):

There are 2 group assignments in this class. Students will be graded based on their level of participation and contribution to the project. More information about these projects can be found in the Assignment descriptions. In general, one of the projects will be using Google Tour Builder or An ArcGIS Story map to show places from the 200 places activity. The other project is to create a Google Slide show about a portion of the 200 places in the World Assignment. Students will join a group of their choosing. Given the short nature of the course, I will be assigning the groups at the end of the first week. Again details will be provided in the assignment itself. [Places Topic Sheet Link](#)



Disclaimer:

From time to time this syllabus may need to be amended during the semester for various reasons, to add new material into classes, respond to student inquiries, change exam dates, etc. Students will be notified of syllabus changes during regularly scheduled class periods. It will be the responsibility of the students to ensure that they possess the latest version of the class syllabus or information with respect to the changes.

Important Contact Information

Geography Department Chair

Brian DiBartolo, Brian.DiBartolo@vvc.edu, Liberal Arts Building (#30) 3B, 760-245-4271 x 2435

Instructional Dean, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM):

Amy Azul, Amy.Azul@vvc.edu, Building 33, Room 33-164, 760-245-4271 x 2942