Course Web site:
http://faculty.ccp.edu/faculty/jvender/geog101


Instructor: Jodi Vender
E-mail: jvender@psu.edu
Mailbox: West Bldg, 2nd floor outside W2-6
Phone: 610-420-7688
Office hours: by appointment

Required Texts:
• Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 8th Edition by Tom L. McKnight and Darrel Hess
• Rand McNally Atlas of World Geography, 2nd Edition

Course Description:
GEOG 101 Introduction to Geography 3-0-3
Introduction to the basic concepts of physical geography. Topics include map reading, the movements of the earth's surface, weather, climate, natural vegetation zones, soils, oceanography, geology, landforms and mineral resources. No prerequisites.

(CCPS catalog description)

Geography is more than target-practice with maps. It's all about the patterns, processes and relationships among people, places, and environments on Earth's surface--in other words, why things are where they are, how they got to be that way, and what those patterns and processes mean to us as inhabitants of this planet (shorthand: What's where? Why there? So what?).

What makes geography unique is not its inherent subject matter, but rather the perspectives and approach we use to learn about and understand the world. Most important are the spatial perspective and the ecological perspective, which "encompass understanding spatial patterns and processes on Earth and comprehending that Earth is composed of living and nonliving elements interacting in complex webs of relationships within nature and between nature and societies" (Geography for Life: National Geography Standards 1994, p. 57). Complementing the spatial and ecological perspectives are the historical perspective and economic perspective, which help us understand events and interactions over time and connections among resources, trade, and interactions at local to global scales.
This class will help you to develop an awareness and appreciation of the role geography plays in understanding Earth as the home of people, and how people interact with and alter the physical environment. It is not possible to learn everything about physical geography in 15 weeks (or even in 15 years), but we will survey the basic components of the natural environment, as well as the spatial patterns, processes, and interrelationships among physical elements at Earth’s surface.

Course Goals

- To study location and characteristics of the physical environment as part of an approach to construct a "mental map" of the world
- To develop skills in reading and interpreting maps and graphics
- To review spatial patterns, processes, and interrelationships among Earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere
- To understand geographic relationships by reading, discussing, and writing about current world issues and events as they relate to Earth’s physical environment
- To realize the importance of geography in understanding the world as a place to live
- To develop critical thinking, writing, and computer literacy skills

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 1/18</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 1/20</td>
<td>Geographic skills &amp; perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 1/25</td>
<td><strong>Library instruction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 1/27</td>
<td>The World in Spatial Terms</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td><strong>Project topic due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/1</td>
<td><strong>Mapping &amp; atlas exercise</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ch. 1 &amp; 2 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/3</td>
<td>Earth basics</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/8</td>
<td>Atmosphere I</td>
<td>Ch. 3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/10</td>
<td><strong>In-class ex 1 - comp lab W4-27</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ch. 3 &amp; 4 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/15</td>
<td>Atmosphere II</td>
<td>Ch. 5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/17</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Ch. 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/22</td>
<td>Hydrosphere</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/24</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS - COLLEGE PROF.</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEVT. DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/1</td>
<td>Biosphere</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
<td><strong>Ch. 9 &amp; 10 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3/3</td>
<td><strong>In-class ex 2 - comp lab W4-27</strong></td>
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<td>3/7-</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>3/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/15</td>
<td>Biomes &amp; soils</td>
<td>Ch. 11-12</td>
<td><strong>Ch. 11 &amp; 12 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3/17</td>
<td><strong>In-class ex 3 - comp lab W4-27</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/22</td>
<td>Landforms</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
<td><strong>Ch. 13 &amp; 14 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3/24</td>
<td>Internal processes</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
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<td>T 3/29</td>
<td>Weathering &amp; mass wasting</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3/31</td>
<td>Fluvial processes</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 4/5</td>
<td><strong>In-class exercise 4; project disc.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ch. 15 &amp; 16 online ex. due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 4/7</td>
<td>Project research in library</td>
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Attendance

Attending class regularly is important for understanding the material covered and getting the most out of your tuition dollars. While class attendance is not mandatory, it will be assessed as part of your grade. You will receive 1 point for each class meeting you attend and 0 points for each class that you miss. There are 27 class meetings this semester. Note that the assessment rubric (below) assigns 25 points to attendance; therefore, you may miss 2 class meetings without negatively affecting your grade. Alternatively, if you attend all 27 class sessions, you will receive 2 extra points in your course total.

Assignments

The assignments for this class are designed to help you learn the subject matter, to develop critical thinking, writing, and computer literacy skills, and to help you develop an understanding and appreciation of the complex and increasingly interdependent world in which we live. The only written exam will be a comprehensive final. Other assignments will include in-class exercises (written, interpretive, and computer-based); open-book tests and exercises completed online outside class time; and a "physical geography in the news" project that will involve library research, an oral overview, and a written product.

Online Quizzes/Tests/Exercises

One-half of your final grade will be based on submission of chapter tests and exercises from the textbook’s Companion Web Site, available online at http://www.prenhall.com/mcknight. Be sure to enter the site for the 8th edition, NOT the 7th edition.

For each of the book’s 20 chapters, you are expected to complete and submit to me via e-mail the results of 2 assignments: Thinking Spatially exercise (10-12 multiple choice questions based on interpretation of maps and graphics) and Chapter Test (15 multiple choice, true/false, matching, and brief essay questions).

Each Thinking Spatially exercise submitted will receive up to 4 points. Each Chapter Test will receive up to 6 points (0-3 points for multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions; 0-3 points for written essay).

You have the option of submitting each online test/exercise to me either the first time you take it or after repeating to get all correct answers. The total number of points you receive for each assignment will depend on the percentage of correct
answers submitted and, for the Chapter Tests, the quality of your written responses. The important thing is that you do each assignment and use it as a learning tool.

You will probably find it useful to complete each test/exercise as you read the text, using them as a way to highlight important concepts. Depending on your learning style, it may be preferable to complete the tests/exercises online as you read; or (if you have adequate access to printer and paper) to print out the tests/exercises, write the answers on paper as you read the text, and submit your answers online.

Due dates for each online assignment are identified in the class schedule, but these are intended as a guide to help you pace your reading and learning. If your schedule permits, you may wish to read and work ahead of class discussions. Submissions after the suggested due date will not be penalized, provided that I receive them no later than April 28, the last day of class.

In-class exercises

There will be 5 in-class exercises, each of which is worth 10 points. The first exercise will cover the use and interpretation of maps and atlases. The remaining 4 exercises will relate to topics covered in class; 3 of these will be held in a computer lab (W4-27) rather than in our regular classroom. See schedule for dates of these exercises.

Physical Geography in the News Project

One eighth of your grade will be based on a semester-long project that relates concepts covered in class to a current events topic of your choosing. Topics must center on a physical geography concept or process and how it impacts and/or is impacted by humans.

Sources used in gathering information must include a minimum of:

- 1 newspaper article
- 1 magazine article
- 1 general interest or print source (e.g., encyclopedia, news outlet, etc.)
- 2 specialized internet or print sources (e.g., USGS, NOAA, NASA, etc.)
- any other sources as appropriate for the topic (optional)

Projects will have an oral and a written component. The oral component will comprise a 4-minute overview of your topic accompanied by a one-page summary handout for the class. The written component will comprise a 4-8 page paper plus complete bibliography and graphics (maps, graphs/charts, photos, etc.). Alternative projects that involve more creative components (e.g., art, drama, video, computer visualization etc.) are possible with my approval.

Project topics are due February 1, an outline is due April 12, oral overviews will take place on April 26, and the final project is due April 28, the last day of class. Further details will be provided on a separate handout.

Student Assessment

Grades for this class will be based on multiple measures, including attendance, in-class exercises, online quizzes/exercises, class project, and a comprehensive final
exam. Each graded element is assigned a point value; the maximum point value for the course is 400.

Graded elements include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Element</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
<th>Point value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlas exercise</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class exercises</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Thinking Spatially exercises</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Chapter Tests</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>18.75</td>
<td>75</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Total | 400 |

Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

- **A**: 90-100% 360-400 points
- **B**: 80-89% 320-359 points
- **C**: 70-79% 280-319 points
- **D**: 60-69% 240-279 points
- **F**: 59% or lower 239 or fewer points

At the end of the semester, many students are close to, but just below the grade cutoffs. In each of those cases, I will assess such subjective matters as the student’s attendance, effort, attitude, and participation in class. On the one hand, if students have good attendance, try hard, have a positive attitude, and participate, then their grades are boosted to the next highest mark. On the other hand, if students have mediocre or poor attendance, do not demonstrate much effort, have a poor attitude, or do not actively participate in class, then they receive the grades that they earn. Please note: grades are not automatically boosted for students who have good attendance, effort, attitude, and participation—just for those students near cutoff marks.

**Extra Credit Opportunities**

Students may earn a maximum of 20 extra-credit points by submitting up to 4 essays selected from any "Critical Thinking" section of the Companion Web Site. Each essay must use 250-500 words and represent your own, individual work (see academic integrity policies below). Each essay submitted will be assigned 1-5 points, provided that it meets the criteria above (i.e., within appropriate word limit
and your own work) and is received via e-mail before April 28 (last day of class). Points will be added to your class total and may be used to improve your grade and/or make up for missed work.

**Technical Requirements**

This course will require the use of computers with internet access to complete online review quizzes and some course assignments. The course syllabus and assignment information will be continually updated online throughout the semester. Computer labs are available at various locations on campus. The Help Desk can be reached at (215) 496-6000.

Several class sessions will be held in a computer classroom (W4-27) in order to complete in-class exercises.

This course will also require the use of e-mail to send and receive class communications. All CCP students may request web-based e-mail accounts by contacting the Computer Center in B2-38, phone (215) 751-8074. Free web-based e-mail is also available through Yahoo!, Hotmail, Mail.com, and other services. Let me know if you need assistance in setting up an e-mail account.

**Special Accommodations**

If there are any students in the class requiring special accommodations, please feel free to come discuss this matter in confidentiality with me. Official accommodations sheets can be obtained from the Center On Disability, located in Room M1-22, telephone phone 751-8050 (voice or TDD); these forms are necessary in order to set up appropriate accommodations.

**Campus Resources**

**Library**

http://www.ccp.edu/vpacaff/library/

Library research will be necessary in order to complete the project assignment. A library instruction day has been scheduled on Tuesday, January 25. This session will provide important information about specific resources relevant to class projects and should be attended even if you are very familiar with the library.

**Learning Lab**

http://www.ccp.edu/site/academic/learning_lab/

"The Learning Lab supports students so they will be able to do their best in their courses and succeed in college. The faculty...and peer tutors...are on hand to assist you by offering individualized tutoring on an appointment or drop-in basis. Math and English workshops and online tutoring are also available throughout the week. The Writing Center is available for students seeking assistance with college-level writing assignments. The Labs also offer access to computers and printed materials to help make learning more enjoyable."
Central Learning Lab, Room B1-28, phone (215) 751-8484  
Monday and Tuesday, 8:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Counseling Center

http://www.ccp.edu/site/current/counseling.php

The College offers free comprehensive counseling services to all its students. Counselors help students with concerns related to educational matters (course selection, problems with instructors, withdrawal from school or dropping classes, interpretation of the College’s rules, regulations and policies), career selection, and transfer planning, as well as personal situations and other concerns which affect students’ education or academic performance.

Location: West Building, Second Floor, Room W2-2, phone (215) 751-8169  
Monday-Thursday 8:45 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.;  
Friday 8:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

College Policies

College Policies and Procedures, including policies on harassment and nondiscrimination, are available online at http://www.ccp.edu/vpfin-pl/policies/policies.htm

Student Information and Policies, including information on attendance, grading system, grade reporting, course withdrawals, academic programs, and student services can be found in the College Catalog, available online at http://www.ccp.edu/site/academic/college_catalog.php

Academic Integrity Policies

Plagiarism
Any written assignment presented by a student in fulfillment of course requirements must reflect his/her own work unless credit is properly given to others. Failure to do so is a form of stealing known as plagiarism, the act of appropriating all or part of a literary composition of another person and passing it off as one's own. Anyone who assists another in such academic dishonesty is equally responsible. The act of plagiarism will open a student to disciplinary action.

Classroom Cheating
Any student who engages in cheating will be open to disciplinary action. Cheating consists of student actions including, but not limited to, the following:

• Posing as another student (or having another student pose as oneself).
• Copying from extraneous materials, such as notebooks, textbooks, or other kinds of written materials (including the work of other students) or recorded materials unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
• Using non-print materials, such as drawings or other visual aids, in the context of an in-class writing assignment or test-taking and identifying such materials as one's own original work.
**Electronic Cheating**
Any student who uses an electronic medium to violate authorial integrity, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access, and copyright violation, will be open to disciplinary action.

**Non-Print Product Misrepresentation**
Students must identify any part of an assignment which uses the product of another and give credit for this work. Failure to do so is a form of stealing known as product misrepresentation. Anyone who represents the work of another as his or her own, or anyone who assists another in this act, will be open to disciplinary action. The use of any College resource to promote or support any service or agency which encourages or assists plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation is prohibited and will lead to disciplinary action.

**Student Conduct**
Everyone at the College is expected to obey all public laws and abide by the College regulations as found in the student handbook, in the College Catalog and in the College's policies and procedures memoranda. These memoranda are issued as needed, and include the rules and regulations for all student clubs and organizations. These memoranda are available for review at the reserve book desk in the Library, at the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, M2-37, or at the Office of Student Activities, S1-10. The Student Conduct Code is available online at http://www.ccp.edu/site/current/conduct_code

**Weather Emergency Communications**
In the event that snow or other weather emergencies make it necessary for the College to close, an announcement will be placed on both of the main switchboard numbers (215-751-8000 and 215-751-8010). A notice of the College closing will be placed on Cable Channel 53, and media announcements will be made on KYW Radio and Channel 3 (CBS), Channel 10 (NBC), and Channel 29 (Fox) television. The KYW Radio closing number is 238 for day classes. The College closing numbers will be available on the KYW Web Page (www2.KYW1060.com), and notice will be placed on the College’s announcement page website, www.ccp.edu/stafpage/.