Welcome to my Physical Geography 1 entirely online course! I will assist you in every way possible to succeed provided that you make every effort to do so. Online delivery of instruction is asynchronous, i.e. you can log into the course at anytime, 24/7. Like in any “on-ground” class, you are responsible for completing and submitting assignments, quizzes, etc. on time. It’s a good habit, and one that will help insure successful completion of the course, if you take the initiative to log in daily to look for announcements, messages from the instructor, assignments, etc. Keeping up is important, because you will not be attending class to be physically reminded of where you should be, what textbook chapter you should be reading and the like. I have a “no make-up” policy insofar as missed course responsibilities are concerned, so keeping in tune with what is expected of you is very important.

Course focus:
This course is fundamentally about how the Earth “works.” Geography 1 examines the Earth’s physical environment from the perspective of the major features of the Earth’s four environmental realms (geospheres): the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and the biosphere. The interactions between the variables that constitute the geospheres ultimately contribute to the Earth’s exceedingly complex physical environment. This course focuses on a study of these interactive processes. Because humans are a part of and therefore subject to the Earth’s physical environment, an understanding of topics such as the cause of the seasons, how the atmosphere works to produce changes in weather and variation in climate, the planet’s water system, what causes the Earth’s landforms to be built and to change, continental drift, earthquakes, etc. make for an informative, interesting, and a useful learning experience.

Textbook:

Course logistics:
This course is fully online, i.e. there are no on-campus meetings. Given this, the delivery of the course content and your course participation is dependent on a working computer and internet access, as well as your complete understanding of the use of the course-delivery software, ETUDES-NG. Any computer-related, internet-access related, or course software use questions should be directed to the course STS (student-to-student) discussion forum. If your questions are not answered by there by your fellow
course mates, you do have another resource to assist you. Please go to “Virtual Valley” at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm for any logistical questions, problems using ETUDES-NG, including logging in to the course.

**Required course components:**

- Quizzes – weekly; will follow the sequence of my lecture notes/assigned textbook chapters – Missed quizzes may not be made up.*
- Exams – will cumulate content form weekly quizzes. Missed exams may not be made up.*
- Final exam – synthesis of major topics from course – The final exam may not be made up.*
- Assignments – weekly; associated with key lecture/textbook chapter topics - Missed assignments may not be made up.* *I will always consider and adjudicate extenuating circumstances.

Note: All quizzes, exams, and the final exam may include short answer/essay-type questions as well as objective questions (e.g. T/F, multiple-choice)

**Course Grade:**
Your grade for the course will be based on the percentage of the cumulative points that you earn:

- A = 87% or >
- B = 77%-86%
- C = 67%-76%
- D = 57%-66%
- F = 56% or <

“See” you online at the start of the Spring semester! A complete course syllabus that describes the course logistics and content will be available within the course online site.

You will have access to the course site a few days prior to the start of the course.

Again, welcome to Geog 1 OL Spring, 2010!

JK