Hi Prospective Geography 101 Students,

I am Jason Burgdorfer and will be your instructor for physical geography this summer session. This course is offered in a 100% online six week format starting June 16th. The course will be broken up into weekly modules covering material from three chapters of your textbook each week. Each week there will be three chapters to read, three discussion board questions to answer, one activity, one practice quiz, and one test to complete by deadlines posted in the syllabus. There will be no final exam in this class.

Students who take this class will need to purchase *McKnight’s Physical Geography*, 3rd California edition, Darell Hess, Pearson Publisher (Older editions and non-California editions are also acceptable. Ideally students should purchase this textbook in advance so that they will have it by the weekend before summer session begins on June 16th. This will allow students to get a start on the readings for the first week (Chapters 1-3 of the textbook). **It is essential that students purchase some edition of this book** since this class is online. The book will be your main source of course content and will be needed to answer the discussion board questions and study for the tests.

To succeed in this class it is recommended that you complete the following in this order for each week. 1. Read the assigned chapters. 2. Review the assigned chapter lecture presentation slides. 3. Take the practice quizzes. 4. Complete the activity. 5 Post your answers to the discussion board questions. 6. Post your responses to other student’s posts in the discussion board. 7. Review for the test. 8. Take the weekly test.

The course’s Blackboard page will open up for you see the weekend before the six week summer session begins. As soon as you have access to Blackboard you are welcome to begin working on the first week’s assignments. When you login to the course’s Blackboard page for the first time please find the start here tab in the menu bar to the left and follow the instructions to get started working on the first week’s learning module.

It is very important that you write a brief introduction to yourself and post it in the course’s discussion board on Blackboard. This will be worth 10 points and must be completed by 11:59pm on Wednesday June 18 or else you will be dropped from the course.

Below this orientation letter you will find a preliminary syllabus that is subject to change for this class showing class policies, readings schedule, grading, assignments, and test dates. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at jason.burgdorfer@canyons.edu

Jason Burgdorfer
Geography, Geology, and GIS Instructor
College of the Canyons
Preliminary Syllabus (Subject to Change)
Geography 101 Physical Geography
Summer 2014

Course and Instructor Information:
Section # 10476 Summer 2014
Instructor: Jason Burgdorfer
Class Meeting Times/Place: Online
Office Hours: Online and Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30pm to 6:00pm in Boykin 109
Email: jason.burgdorfer@canyons.edu
Publisher, (Older editions and non-California editions are also acceptable)

Course Description
Studies the basic physical elements of Earth and the processes that affect climate, water, soils, vegetation, landforms, how humans and the environment interrelate, the fundamentals of Earth/Sun relationships, and cartography.

Student Learning Outcome
1. demonstrate basic cartographic skills of map reading and spatial analysis.
2. analyze the relationships among Earth's lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere and the interface with humans.

Grading
Welcome Activity 1X10 Points= 10 Points
Weekly Activity 6 X 25 Points = 150 Points
Weekly Discussion Board Posts 6 X 35 = 210 Points
Practice Quizzes 6 X 25 = 150 Points
Weekly Tests 6 X 80 Points = 480 Points
Total Points = 1000

Students who earn between 900 and 1000 points will receive an A, 800-899 points will receive a B, 700-799 points will receive a C, 600-699 points will receive a D, and 599 points and below will receive a F.

Welcome Activity: For 10 points students will be required to write a paragraph or two introducing themselves and post in the course’s Blackboard Discussion Board by 11:59PM on Wednesday 6/18

Weekly Activity: Each week their will be an online activity worth 25 points. These activities are used to explore class material in more depth and provide active hands on learning opportunities. Each week’s activity will need to be completed by the 11:59pm on Sunday at the end of that week.

Discussion Board Posts: Each week you will be required to answer three critical thinking questions (1 per chapter) pertaining to the week’s topics. The questions will be posted in the class’s Blackboard Discussion Board at the beginning of each week and your answers will be submitted as a thread in the specific forum pertaining to the question. Your answers to the week’s critical thinking questions must be posted in Blackboard by 6:00am on Friday of each week. Each answer is expected to be answered in a short paragraph and all of your answer posts in a week will be graded out of 30 points. To earn a full 35 points you will be required to provide meaningful academic comments/responses on at least one other student’s post by the end of the day on Sunday of each week. Also, please note that you will not be able to see other students answer posts until you have posted your own answer.
Practice Quizzes: On Blackboard you will find quizzes pertaining to the 18 chapters of the *Mc Knights Physical Geography (California Edition)* textbook used in this class. These quizzes are there for practice and self-assessment to see if you understand the material as you read through it in the textbook and review each chapter’s PowerPoint presentations. These quizzes will not be scored on accuracy; however you will receive 25 points for completing each week’s chapter practice quizzes. It is highly recommended that you complete each chapter’s quiz on Blackboard since it is from these quiz questions that many of the weekly test questions are drawn from. **Please note that the practice quizzes for each week will open up on Monday at 12:01 am and close at/ due by 6:00 am on Fridays.**

Weekly Tests: There will be six tests in this class, one at the end of each week. Each test will be taken online through Blackboard and consist of 40 multiple choice, diagram/chart interpretation, and true false questions worth 2 points each. Each week’s test will only cover that week’s particular material and will not be cumulative. Each week’s test will open up on Blackboard each Friday at 6:00 am and will close at/due by 11:59 pm on Sunday. There is no Final Exam. **Please note that you will not be able to take the test after it has closed on Blackboard, and that once you begin taking the week’s test on Blackboard you will have one hour and thirty minutes to complete it.**

Academic Integrity: This class will strictly follow College of the Canyons Academic Integrity Policy. It can be found at: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Handouts/PDFs/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement.pdf](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Handouts/PDFs/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement.pdf). Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. If you have any questions about this or have any doubt about whether your work is or is not your own, please contact the instructor.

Support for Students Outside the Classroom:  
Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS): Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of disability should contact the DSPS offices at (661) 362-3341 to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. The DSPS office can be found on the 1st floor of Seco Hall on the Valencia Campus For additional information please refer to: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps/](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps/)

Student Health and Wellness Center: The Student Health and Wellness Center provides a variety of physical and mental health counseling services to students who have paid the student health fee. The Student Health and Wellness Center is located in the Student Center building on the Valencia Campus and can be contacted at (661) 362-3259  
Additional information can be found at [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health/Default.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health/Default.asp)
### Preliminary Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Textbook Readings Due</th>
<th>Discussion Question Answer Posts and Practice Quizzes Due: Weekly Test Opens At:</th>
<th>Weekly Test, Response Posts, and Activities Due By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week One     | Intro to the Earth; Portraying the Earth/Maps                           | Chapter 1             | Fri 6/20 6:00am  
Week 1 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 1 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 1 Test Opens  | Sun 6/22 11:59pm  
Activity 1 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 1 Test Due |
| 6/16-6/22    | Intro to the Atmosphere                                                | Chapter 2             |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Chapter 3             |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 6/20 6:00am  
Week 1 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 1 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 1 Test Opens  | Sun 6/22 11:59pm  
Activity 1 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 1 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 6/27 6:00am  
Week 2 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 2 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 2 Test Opens  | Sun 6/29 11:59pm  
Activity 2 Due  
Response Post Due  
Week 2 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/4 6:00am  
Week 3 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 3 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 3 Test Opens  | Sun 7/6 11:59pm  
Activity 3 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 3 Test Due |
| Weather Three| Insolation and Temperature                                               | Chapter 7             |                                                                                |                                               |
| 6/30-7/6     | Atmospheric Pressure/Wind                                               | Chapter 8             |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Chapter 9             |                                                                                |                                               |
|              | Atmospheric Moisture                                                    | Fri 7/11 6:00am  
Week 4 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 4 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 4 Test Opens  | Sun 7/13 11:59pm  
Activity 4 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 4 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/18 6:00am  
Week 5 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 5 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 5 Test Opens  | Sun 7/20 11:59pm  
Activity 5 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 5 Test Due |
| Week Four    | Biogeography                                                           | Chapter 11            |                                                                                |                                               |
| 7/7-7/13     | Intro to Landform Study                                                | Chapter 13            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              | Internal Processes                                                     | Chapter 14            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/25 6:00am  
Week 6 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 6 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 6 Test Opens  | Sun 7/27 11:59pm  
Activity 6 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 6 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/20 6:00am  
Week 4 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 4 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 4 Test Opens  | Sun 7/13 11:59pm  
Activity 4 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 4 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/18 6:00am  
Week 5 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 5 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 5 Test Opens  | Sun 7/20 11:59pm  
Activity 5 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 5 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/25 6:00am  
Week 6 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 6 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 6 Test Opens  | Sun 7/27 11:59pm  
Activity 6 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 6 Test Due |
| Week Five    | Mass Wasting                                                           | Chapter 15            |                                                                                |                                               |
| 7/14-7/20    | Fluvial Processes                                                      | Chapter 16            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              | Karstic Landscapes                                                    | Chapter 17            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/20 6:00am  
Week 4 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 4 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 4 Test Opens  | Sun 7/13 11:59pm  
Activity 4 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 4 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/18 6:00am  
Week 5 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 5 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 5 Test Opens  | Sun 7/20 11:59pm  
Activity 5 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 5 Test Due |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/25 6:00am  
Week 6 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 6 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 6 Test Opens  | Sun 7/27 11:59pm  
Activity 6 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 6 Test Due |
| Week Six     | Arid Lands                                                             | Chapter 18            |                                                                                |                                               |
| 7/21-7/27    | Glacial Processes                                                     | Chapter 19            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              | Coastal Processes                                                     | Chapter 20            |                                                                                |                                               |
|              |                                                                        | Fri 7/25 6:00am  
Week 6 Discussion Questions Due  
Week 6 Practice Quizzes Due  
Week 6 Test Opens  | Sun 7/27 11:59pm  
Activity 6 Due  
Response Posts Due  
Week 6 Test Due |