

Wayland Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Contact Information

Course: GEOG 1301 VC 01 – Introduction to Physical Geography

Campus: WBU Online

Term/Session: Fall1 2026 (Aug. 10 - Oct. 3)

Instructor: Beverly Penner, MS

WBU Email Address: Beverly.Penner@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: N/A

Class Meeting Time and Location: Online, asynchronous

Course Information

Catalog Description: Study of the physical world including the characteristics, processes of formation, distribution, and interrelationships of land and water, climate, vegetation, and soils.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation by Darrel Hess (12th edition) Pearson 2017 ISBN: 978-0-13-419542-1.

*The textbook for this course is part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- The physical characteristics of the planet Earth.
- The four basic spheres of the Earth: Hydrosphere, Lithosphere, Biosphere, Biosphere and Atmosphere.

- The forces and concepts of climate.
- The basic internal forces that help create landscape.
- The major soil types found on Earth.
- The causation and effects of soil erosion.
- The basic functions of fluvial process.
- The cause and impact of Coastal processes.

Attendance Requirements

WBU Online

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](#)

- a. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
 - i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
 - ii. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
 - iii. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

The course will consist of 8 weekly modules with the timeframe running from Monday morning through Sunday evening each week. Two to three textbook chapters (or ~ 30 to 70 pages) are covered each week, so the pace is brisk! Grades will be based on the following, with 500 total points available:

Weekly Discussions (8)	160 points (20 points each)
Weekly Quizzes (7)	140 points (20 points each)
Pre-Test & Final/Post-Test (2)	200 points (only the highest score is kept)

Total points available: 500

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topics & REQUIRED Readings	Readings, Assignments, & Quizzes
1	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Earth Chapter 2 – Portraying Earth COMPLETE PRE-TEST BEFORE READING TEXT.	Pre-test (do not study before taking) Discussion Board #1 DUE Quiz #1 DUE
2	Chapter 3 – Introduction to the Atmosphere Chapter 4 – Insolation and Temperature Chapter 5 – Atmospheric Pressure & Wind	Discussion Board #2 DUE Quiz #2 DUE
3	Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Moisture Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Disturbances Chapter 8 – Climate & Climate Change	Discussion Board #3 DUE Quiz #3 DUE
4	Chapter 9 – The Hydrosphere Chapter 10 – Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere Chapter 11 – Terrestrial Flora & Fauna	Discussion Board #4 DUE Quiz #4 DUE
5	Chapter 12 – Soils Chapter 13 – Introduction to Landform Study Chapter 14 – The Internal Processes	Discussion Board #5 DUE Quiz #5 DUE
6	Chapter 15 – Weathering and Mass Wasting Chapter 16 – Fluvial Processes Chapter 17 – Karst and Hydrothermal Processes	Discussion Board #6 DUE Quiz #6 DUE
7	Chapter 18 – The Topography of Arid Lands Chapter 19 – Glacial Modification of Terrain Chapter 20 – Coastal Processes and Terrain	Discussion Board #7 DUE Quiz #7 DUE
8	REVIEW CHAPTERS 1 – 20 BEFORE TAKING THE FINAL EXAM/POST-TEST.	Discussion Board #8 DUE Final Exam/Post-Test (review Chs. 1 – 20)