

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 VC01 – Introduction to Physical Geography

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: SUM 2026

Instructor: Prof. Jessica Patton Maer

Office Phone Number: 817-515-7674

WBU Email Address: jessica.patton@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Online, TTh 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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, 13th edition, Pearson Publishers, 2022, ISBN 9780135800089

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.

Optional Materials: N/A

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

WBUonline

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 start with a pre-test worth 50 points. We will cover 10 lessons in our textbook, with each lesson made up of two chapters in the textbook. There will be two graded activities for most lessons (a lesson quiz over the textbook chapters and a short essay assignment over a video), with four of our lessons also having a discussion board activity for you to complete. The Discussion Board with Lesson 1 will be a chance for all students to introduce themselves and share a bit about their major, interests, etc. The class will end with a post-test worth 50 points.

Pre-test – 50 pts

10 Lesson quizzes – 50 points each

10 Short essays – 50 points each

4 Discussion boards – 50 pts. each

Post-test – 50 pts

Method of determining course grade:

Each student's final grade will be based on a total points earned scale:

1,164 – 1,300 = A

1,034 – 1,163 = B

904 – 1,033 = C

774 – 903 = D

Below 774 = F

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

GEOG 1301 – INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY COURSE PLANNER – SUMMER 2026

******Please note that all due dates/times are based on CDST (Central Daylight Savings Time). If you are not located in the central time zone, be sure to adjust your due date/time accordingly. All homework assignments/quizzes/discussion boards are due by 11:59 p.m. on the respective due date.***

[Due by Friday, June 5, 11:59 p.m.](#)

PRE-TEST

[Due by Wednesday, June 10](#)

Lesson 1 Quiz

Lesson 1 Discussion Board -- at least 2 posts

Lesson 1 Short Essay

[Due by Sunday, June 14](#)

Lesson 2 Quiz

Lesson 2 Short Essay

[Due by Thursday, June 18](#)

Lesson 3 Quiz

Lesson 3 Short Essay

[Due by Wednesday, June 24](#)

Lesson 4 Quiz

Lesson 4 Discussion Board – at least 2 posts

Lesson 4 Short Essay

[Due by Tuesday, June 30](#)

Lesson 5 Quiz

Lesson 5 Short Essay

[Due by Monday, July 6](#)

Lesson 6 Quiz
Lesson 6 Discussion Board – at least 2 posts
Lesson 6 Short Essay

[Due by Thursday, July 9](#)

Lesson 7 Quiz
Lesson 7 Short Essay

[Due by Monday, July 13](#)

Lesson 8 Quiz
Lesson 8 Short Essay

[Due by Friday, July 17](#)

Lesson 9 Quiz
Lesson 9 Discussion Board – at least 2 posts
Lesson 9 Short Essay

[Due by Tuesday, July 21](#)

Lesson 10 Quiz
Lesson 10 Short Essay

[Due by Saturday, July 25](#)

POST-TEST

Additional Information

- 1. Because this is a 100% online course and all materials are available online during posted availability dates, all due dates will be firm. I will allow late work, up to 3 calendar days late (except the post-test, which is due on the last day of class).** Any work submitted within this 3 day “late” window can receive up to 70% of the original point value. I cannot give extensions beyond this 3-day window, except in case of documented emergency (hospitalization, military deployment/TDY, etc.). Any documented emergencies will require official documentation in order for me to give any further extension beyond the 3-day window – this policy is in place in order to be fair to all students in the course.
- 2.** I do not accept any homework or discussion board assignments through email, except in cases of emergency (as noted above). Every graded assignment must be turned in through the BlackBoard portal. I would encourage you to save a screen shot of the confirmation page for every assignment you submit – this gives us something to work with if your assignment goes “missing,” which can happen with any online classroom platform. You can make a folder for submission confirmations (be sure to label each one individually). At the end of the semester after you receive your final grade, you can delete the entire folder.
- 3. All due dates/times are based on Central Daylight Savings Time (CDST). All graded work will be due at 11:59 p.m. on the respective due date – and no late work will be accepted beyond the 3-day “late” window.** If you live outside of the central time zone, please adjust the Course Planner accordingly so you won’t miss any due dates/times. Also, cut-off times for assignments are based on BlackBoard’s

clock – not necessarily your computer’s clock, so please be aware of these deadlines. As soon as the 3-day late window passes, the graded activity will disappear from BlackBoard and you will not be able to turn in any completed work after it disappears. The best solution for avoiding a missed due date/time is to make sure you complete and turn in your work early. Any student who attempts to turn in graded activities at the last minute and misses the deadline will not be able to send those graded activities through email or receive an extension.