

GEOGRAPHY

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dean: Susan Corum

Academic Chair: Colin McCaughey

Faculty: Robert Stevens, Jodi Titus

CURRICULUM

Geography is the academic discipline which studies the earth and its people in their many mutual relationships and regional variations. Geography students examine a broad range of topics—from the physical nature of the earth's surface and atmosphere to the varied human activities which interrelate with the physical environment and result in a distinct spatial imprint on the land. As a result of its interdisciplinary nature, geography is an outstanding discipline for students who wish to integrate the physical and social sciences.

MAJOR

An undergraduate major in geography can prepare the student for a professional career in urban and community planning, resource management, earth and atmospheric sciences, cartography and geographic information systems, education, and regional analysis. With careful planning, students who complete a four-year degree in geography are discovering an expanding variety of employment possibilities.

CAREER OPTIONS

Examples of careers for the geography major include the following:

Cartography/GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

- Cartographer/Computer Mapper
- Geographic Information Specialist
- Remote-Sensing Analyst
- Surveyor

Cultural and Human Geography

- Community Developer
- Map Librarian
- Peace Corps Volunteer

Economic Geography

- Location Expert
- Market Researcher
- Real Estate Agent/Broker/Appraiser
- Traffic Manager (Shipper)/Route Delivery Manager

Environmental Studies

- Environmental Manager
- Forestry Technician
- Hazardous Waste Planner
- Park Ranger

Geographic Education

- College Professor
- Elementary/Secondary School Teacher
- Overseas Teacher

Physical Geography and Earth Science

- Coastal Zone Manager
- Hydrologist
- Outdoor Guide
- Soil Conservationist/Agricultural Extension Agent
- Weather Forecaster

Regional Geography

- Area Specialist
- International Business Representative
- Travel Agent

Urban and Regional Planning

- Health Services Planner
- Transportation Planner
- Urban and Community Planner

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

• Associate in Arts Degree in Geography

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major ("Major Requirements") and general education requirements (pages 65-73), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 61-64 for further information.

TRANSFER PREPARATION

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the University Studies major (page 224) and "Transfer Planning" (page 76); (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance); and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: GEOGRAPHY Associate in Arts Degree

Complete the following courses:

		Units
ANTH 2	Cultural Anthropology	3
GEOG 1	Physical Geography	3
GEOG 2	Cultural Geography	3
GEOG 3	World Regional Geography	3
GEOG 38	California Geography	3
GEOL 1	Physical Geology	4
TOTAL UNITS:		19

Recommended electives:

ANTH 1; HIST 10, 11; MATH 10; PS 14

COURSES

GEOG 1: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

Physical Geography is the systematic study of the dynamic physical environment of the earth as the human home. Topics include the sun/earth relationship and energy balance, the character of the atmosphere, weather, climate, vegetation, the composition of the earth, plate tectonics, landform development and reduction, water, and the modification and pollution of the earth by humans. (CAN GEOG 2) NR

GEOG 2: CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

This course explores the kaleidoscope of human activity which takes place on, and interrelates with, the surface of the earth. Geography, a holistic science, investigates such topics as population growth; economic development; human migration; the variety of agriculture; political organization; cultural and ethnic conflict; the origin and diffusion of language; world religions and their distribution; the history, growth and patterns of settlement; the rise of industrialism; and the result of human activity on the land, water, and atmosphere of the earth. (CAN GEOG 4) NR

GEOG 3: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

World Regional Geography provides a systematic study of the major geographic regions of the world. Specific countries within various regions are investigated in terms of their physiographic features, climatic conditions, natural resources, cultural heritage, population characteristics, agricultural practices, transportation systems, economic development, and future prospects. NR

GEOG 38: CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHY

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

This course provides a broad overview of the state of California in terms of its physical landscape and cultural environment. The state is divided into specific geographic regions; and those regions are analyzed in terms of their physiography, climate, vegetation, water resources, human history, agriculture, mineral resources, manufacturing, transportation, economic development, urbanization, and geographic problems. Students learn to interpret and construct basic maps, the foundation for spatial analysis. Attendance at field trips may be required. NR

“Geography students have the unique opportunity to study the world and gain a better understanding of how people and places are interconnected and impact everything we see on the surface of the earth.”

— Jodi Titus
Assistant Professor,
Geography



IVC field geography students at Mauna Kea summit on the Big Island of Hawaii, June 2006.