Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

Course Number: EDU 911A
Course Title: Geography (Methods and Activities)

X Online

Instructor: Marvin Harms
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Units: 3
Grade Level: K-12

Course Description

This online methods course is designed to explore how Geography can be used to enrich your program. The participants are required to complete and evaluate a planned series of lessons and/or experiences with their students. This course is in alignment with the California State and National Social Studies Framework. Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects are included in lesson plans and assignments of these lessons and/or experiences may be used with children in the classroom, home, and/or neighborhood.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year to complete assignments.

You have up to one year from the date of registration, and no less than three weeks (one week per credit), to complete the course.

Technology Requirements (For online courses)

Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. In the event that you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

To register for courses go to http://ce.fresno.edu/cpd and log in
Moodle:
This course will be delivered totally online. Moodle is a learning management system that provides students access to online resources, documents, graded assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, etc. with an easy to learn and use interface. To learn more about Moodle go to: (http://docs.moodle.org/en/Student_tutorials). There are some student tutorials on the Center for Online Learning website at Fresno Pacific University – http://col.fresno.edu/student.

Moodle Site Login and passwords – (or other online course access information)
Students will need to have internet access to log onto http://ce-connect.fresno.edu. The username and password numbers for Moodle access will be sent to you by the university using the email address you submitted at the time of registration. The instructor will then contact you with a welcome letter and login instructions. If you need help with the username and password recovery please contact the Center for Professional Development at (800)372-5505, or (559)453-2000 during regular office hours - Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Getting Help with Moodle:
If you need help with Moodle, please contact the Center for Online Learning (COL), by telephone 1-559-453-3460. Help by phone is available Mon-Thurs 8:00 am to 8:00pm and on Fridays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, or by filling out a “Request Services” form at http://col.fresno.edu/contact/request-services. Please identify that you are with the Continuing Education/Independent Studies department.

Course Materials
All of the materials are found online.

Course Requirements

1. The teacher is to do the assignments including 14 lessons and/or experiences with his/her class. Forums are provided for each lesson. After you complete the Lesson, respond to the questions in the Forum for that particular Lesson.

2. The teacher is to list the State and/or National Social Studies Standards and Common Core Literacy Standards Social Studies that were met teaching each lesson on the appropriate Forum where requested.

3. Post a one page report describing how this class enhanced your curriculum.

4. The teacher may posts lessons of her/his own. Each lesson will count one for one that you write.

5. The teacher must post the five Philosophy of Course and Introduction
question’s in the Forum provided.

**Content standards:**

Students will apply grade level standards applicable to their state or local district standards. Include the appropriate standards in the Forum Section when completing an assignment.


[www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks)

[www.education-world.com/standards](http://www.education-world.com/standards)

[http://www.academicbenchmarks.com/search](http://www.academicbenchmarks.com/search)

[http://corestandards.org/the-standards](http://corestandards.org/the-standards)

Download Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. Go to pages 60 - 66 to see the Common Core Standards for this Class.

**Primary Learning Outcomes.**

1. Teachers who take this course will demonstrate how to make the study of *Geography relevant to their daily life.*

2. Teachers will be able to effectively present the study of Geography in a variety of situations.

3. Teachers will be able to articulate how the State and/or National Social Studies Standards were met using this material.

4. Teachers will be able to analyze the different strategies used to study Geography.

5. Teachers will be able to evaluate on how to teach this material effectively.

6. Teachers will be able to formulate conclusions as to why the study of Geography important to our daily lives.

**Schedule of Topics and Assignments.**

Take a look at the curriculum required by your district. Perform the lessons that are appropriate to meet the needs of your district. By doing the lessons, you will be able to become more
proficient in your ability to communicate with your students, parents, fellow teachers and administration. Assignments are designed with the busy life of a teacher in mind. The lessons are designed to give you a basic format from which to develop the concepts. The Forums are designed so that you may evaluate your teaching strategy.

1. On-track students – (Teachers with students) choose 15 Lessons from the materials included with this course and present them to your class or a group of students. Complete 15 Forums based on the Experiments taught. Check the complete assignment list on the Grading Rubric.
2. Off-track students - (Teachers without students) review 30 Lessons using the Forum prompt for that particular Experiment. You do not need to actually present these Lessons to students. Check the complete assignment list on the Grading Rubric.
3. Upon completion of your Forum assignments, your instructor will contact you via phone or e-mail to discuss your work. Responses will be made by the Instructor each day that posts are made.

**Evidence of Learning**

Instructor will assess student’s learning based on evaluation of work submitted by students based on class participation, reflective writing, and criteria established for each assignment and/or experiment or experience. I will read the Forums that you post. The Forums will be responded to within 24 hours. This will be a way of communication with you about your progress.

**Grading and Rubrics**

Grades will be assigned based on points earned during the course. Grades will be given on the following basis: A=99-110 points, B=88-98 points. For a credit grade you must have at least 88 points.

The discernment between a and a B is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted.

Course work falling short of a quality equaling a B or a Credit Grade will be discussed via e-mail with further instructions.

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a grade. In addition, all assignments are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instruction from the instructor.

**Instructor/Student Contact**

Built into the course requirements, are several contacts between the course instructor and the

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student. Questions are addressed and assistance is offered through these contacts between the instructor and student. These contacts are confirmed when the Student goes online and posts their assignments. If I cannot reach the student by email, I will give them a telephone call and discuss their work. I will contact the student as many times as is necessary. The minimum will be at least three contacts.

**Online Courses**

Throughout the course students will be communicating with the instructor on a regular basis through the use of Forums. In addition, students are encouraged to email the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they a resubmitted. I will contact the student within twenty four hours after they have posted an assignment.

**Common Core**

To help English language learners attain the competencies stipulated in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), educators need to both plan and deliver rigorous instruction both in the content areas and in promoting English language proficiency. Effective instruction in content areas involves recognizing the challenge, and teaching effectively, including implementing and evaluating sheltered instruction, and incorporating the teaching of academic language. Academic language should of course be incorporated into ELD instruction. Other practices to promote English language proficiency include daily language instruction, structured student talk, grouping, encouragement of verbal interactions, and sufficient duration of services. Moreover, school and district factors, such as "coherent school-wide goals, ongoing assessment of student learning, strong leadership, and ongoing professional development linked to goals and assessments" play a positive role in English language learners' achievement.

**Final Course Grade and Transcripts**

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to logon to the Center for Professional Development website (http://ce.fresno.edu/cpd) to “Submit Grade Form”. Once the instructor fills out the grade form online, students may log back in to request their Grade Report as well as order transcripts online. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted. For more information see the Independent Studies Policies and Procedures that were sent to you when you received your course materials, or in your online course. They are available, also at http://ce.fresno.edu/cpd - under General Information > CPD Policies.

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty**

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled according to the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue. URL http://www.fresno.edu.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

| CE 1. | Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use. |
| CE 2. | Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts. |
| CE 3. | Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement. |
| CE 4. | Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting. |
| CE 5. | Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field. |
| CE 6. | Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information. |

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

| Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will exhibit clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically evaluate content and delivery components. |
| Written Communication: Students ill demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others. |
| Content Knowledge: Students will demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts. |
| Reflection: Students will reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement. |

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**Critical Thinking:** Students will *apply* critical thinking competencies by *generating* probing questions, *recognizing* underlying assumptions, *interpreting* and *evaluating* relevant information, and *applying* their understandings to new situations.

**Moral Reasoning:** Students will *identify* and *apply* moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and *articulate* the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.

**Service:** Students will *demonstrate* service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.

**Cultural and Global Perspective:** Students will *identify* personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to *evaluate* complex systems.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** Students will accurately *compute* calculations and symbolic operations and *explain* their use in a field of study.

**Information Literacy:** Students will *identify* information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, *explain* how that information is organized, *identify* the best sources of information for a given enquiry, *locate* and critically *evaluate* sources, and accurately and effectively *share* that information.