



## **GEOG 110 - Physical Geography Course Outline**

**Approval Date:** 02/13/2019

**Effective Date:** 06/01/2019

### **SECTION A**

**Unique ID Number** CCC000207271

**Discipline(s)** Earth Science  
Geography

**Division** Science and Engineering

**Subject Area** Geography

**Subject Code** GEOG

**Course Number** 110

**Course Title** Physical Geography

**TOP Code/SAM Code** 2206.00 - Geography / E - Non-Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum** Discipline expert change/addition. Text update.

**Units** 3

**Cross List** N/A

**Typical Course Weeks** 18

### **Total Instructional Hours**

#### **Contact Hours**

**Lecture** 54.00

**Lab** 0.00

**Activity** 0.00

**Work Experience** 0.00

**Outside of Class Hours** 108.00

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**Total Contact Hours** 54

**Total Student Hours** 162

**Open Entry/Open Exit** No

**Maximum Enrollment** 24

**Grading Option** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Distance Education Mode of Instruction** Hybrid

## SECTION B

### General Education Information:

## SECTION C

### Course Description

**Repeatability** May be repeated 0 times

**Catalog Description** A basic geography course emphasizing physical elements of the human environment. The course includes earth-sun relationships, maps, global time, land forms, oceans, soils, natural vegetation, weather, and climatic regions of the world.

**Schedule Description**

## SECTION D

### Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended:** *None*

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

## SECTION E

### Course Outline Information

#### 1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Identify and discuss the different spheres of the earth.
- B. Explain the Koeppen climate classification system.
- C. Describe the major physiographic divisions of the United States.

#### 2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand and apply the scientific method to geographic problem solving.
- B. Examine the physical elements of the human behavior.
- C. Describe basic earth-sun relationships that control time, seasons, daylight hours, and coordinate systems.
- D. Compare and contrast the limitations and advantages of map projections and globes.
- E. Describe and evaluate map scale, directions, and contours.
- F. Question basic categories of earth materials humans encounter.
- G. List and describe the effect on humans of primary landforms due to internal earth processes such as volcanism and deformation of the earth's crust.
- H. List and describe the effect on humans of secondary landforms due to internal earth processes such as running water, moving ice, and wind.
- I. Inspect different coastlines and describe their effect on human habitat.
- J. Describe the various resources of the sea.
- K. Diagram ocean currents and tides and describe their effect on humans.
- L. Define, explain and describe elements and controls of weather and climate and their effect on humans.
- M. Compare and contrast elements of soil and describe soil-forming processes related to climate and identify.
- N. Discriminate between basic vegetative associations and describe the effect of natural vegetation on humans.
- O. Inspect the characteristics of climatic regions of the world using climographs.
- P.

#### 3. Course Content

- A. Place geography - Locate countries, cities currently important in the news
- B. Size and shape of the earth; latitude and longitude, hours of daylight; seasons; global time.
- C. Maps and globes, map projectors, analyzing map projections
- D. Essentials of Maps - Legend symbols, directions, scale, title, township and range grid system, contours
- E. Introduction to Landforms and basic earth materials
- F. Deformation of the earth's crust - fold and fault landforms
- G. Igneous activity and volcanic landforms
- H. Weathering and Masswasting
- I. Landforms due to running water - river and streams:
  - a. Humid regions
  - b. Arid regions
- J. Landforms due to wind - dune and deflation basins
- K. Glacial landforms
- L. Groundwater and its subtle landforms
- M. Landforms made by waves and currents - coastlines
- N. Sea floor topography and islands, marine resources
- O. Tides and currents
- P. The Atmosphere and Elements of Weather:
  - a. Temperature
  - b. Pressure and wind
  - c. Moisture: humidity, condensation, and precipitation
- Q. Global Weather controls and phenomena:
  - a. Air masses
  - b. Fronts
  - c. Storms
- Soil
- R. Importance and Elements of Soil
- S. Soil-Forming processes, soil profiles and Great Soil Groups of the World (classification)
- T. Vegetative Association and Plant Physiognomy
- U. Classification of Vegetative associations and Natural Vegetation of the World
- V. Climate Classification
- W. Climate regions of the World. Tropical, Subtropical, Temperature Mid-Latitude, Frigid High Latitude
- X.

#### **4. Methods of Instruction:**

**Lecture:**

**5. Methods of Evaluation:** Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

#### **Typical classroom assessment techniques**

Exams/Tests -- Lecture Exams: Three plus a comprehensive Final Exam. Occasional lecture quizzes.

Quizzes -- Lecture Exams: Three plus a comprehensive Final Exam. Occasional lecture quizzes.

Home Work -- Lecture Exams: Three plus a comprehensive Final Exam. Occasional lecture quizzes.

Final Exam -- Lecture Exams: Three plus a comprehensive Final Exam. Occasional lecture quizzes.

Additional assessment information:

Lecture Exams: Three plus a comprehensive Final Exam. Lecture examinations will consist of objective questions in a variety of formats including short answer, multiple choice and essay questions. Typical topics will include the Atmosphere, Air Masses and Storms and Plate Tectonics.

Occasional lecture quizzes: Quizzes are short examinations covering both lecture material and current homework exercises.

Homework assignments: These assignments include the explanation of weathering and questions about Climatic Regions.

Letter Grade or P/NP

**6. Assignments:** State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Selected readings from the required textbook. For example:

1. Read chapter 3, Atmospheric Energy and Global Temperatures, covering the causes of weather and climate.
2. Read chapter 10, Weathering, Karst Landscapes and Mass Movement, and summarize the role of water and particle size in mass wasting.

B. Writing Assignments

Writing assignments will be graded on scientific accuracy, organization and correct use of English grammar and spelling. For example:

1. Physiographic divisions of the United States problem set.
2. Weather classification systems problem set.

C. Other Assignments

The students are assigned a semester long project that involves writing a report about their visit to a local museum or chosen field location.

**7. Required Materials**

**A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.**

Book #1:

Author: Christopherson, R., W.  
Title: Elemental Geosystems  
Publisher: Pearson  
Date of Publication: 2012  
Edition: 7th.

Book #2:

Author: Hess, D., Tasa, D.  
Title: Physical Geography  
Publisher: Pearson  
Date of Publication: 2016  
Edition: 12th

**B. Other required materials/supplies.**