

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Outline

Course Prefix and Number: GEO 200

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Geography

Course Description: Studies major elements of the natural environment, including earth-sun relationship, landforms, weather and climate, natural vegetation and soils. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course can be used to satisfy the Social/Behavioral Science elective for all AS and AA transfer degrees. It is also for anyone interested in learning more about physical geography.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Understand the global energy budget and the role of atmospheric and oceanic circulation in redistributing solar energy;
- b. Understand how climate affects the formation and distribution of landforms;
- c. Understand how climate and soil types affect the distribution of life on Earth;
- d. Understand the role of disturbance and natural hazards in the global ecosystem;
- e. Understand and interpret complex materials;
- f. Weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted;
- g. Access needed information effectively and efficiently;
- h. Use logical and mathematical reasoning within the context of various disciplines; and
- i. Reason by deduction, induction, and analogy.

Major Topics to Be Included:

The course will cover the patterns of physical phenomena on the Earth's surface and the processes that create those patterns. They include:

- a. Atmospheric phenomena: including Earth-sun relations, climate classification and weather phenomena
- b. Hydro-spherical phenomena: including characteristics of oceans, estuaries, rivers, and lakes
- c. Landforms: including the characteristics and distribution of characteristic features of the land surface
- d. Soils: including the distribution of soil types
- e. Bio-geographic phenomena: including patterns of plant and animal distributions and the factors that limit those distributions.

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