

Date Prepared: 01-26-06

Effective Date: Spring '06

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER:** GEO 200 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
2. **COURSE TITLE:** INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
3. **PREREQUISITES:** English placement for English 111 and satisfactory completion of English 1 and 4 if required by reading placement test. Co-requisite: English 5 and English 107 if recommended by reading placement test.
4. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Studies major elements of the natural environment including earth sun relationship, land forms, weather and climate, natural vegetation and soils. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps.
5. **CONTENT:** The course will cover the patterns of physical phenomena on the Earth's surface and the processes that create those patterns. These 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.
6. **GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of 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.
 - i. Reason by deduction, induction and analogy.