

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

GEG Course Prefix	111 Course Number	Physical Geography Course Title	(3 - 0) Lec-Lab	3 Semester Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the spatial distribution of elements of Earth's four physical spheres: the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere, and the biosphere including landforms, climates, weather, vegetation, and soils. Consideration is given to the causes of these distributions and to their effects on human populations. IAI P1 909

TOPICAL OUTLINE

- I Introduction to Physical Geography
 - A) What is Geography/Physical Geography
 - B) Location
 - C) Time
 - D) Maps and Map Projections
- II Atmosphere: Earth-Sun Relationships
 - A) The Solar System and Universe
 - B) Seasons
 - C) Energy Balance
 - D) World Temperatures
 - E) Circulation of the World's Oceans
- III Hydrosphere: Water, Weather, and Climates
 - A) Atmospheric Moisture
 - B) Weather
 - C) Water Resources
 - D) Climates
- IV Lithosphere: Landforms
 - A) Plate Tectonics
 - B) Volcanism and Earthquakes
 - C) Weathering, Mass Movement, Karst Landscapes
 - D) Water Processes
 - E) Wind Processes
 - F) Coastal Processes
 - G) Glacial Processes
 - H) Periglacial Processes
- V Biosphere
 - A) Soils
 - B) Ecosystems
 - C) Biomes
 - D) Zoogeography and Human Impact

METHODS OF PRESENTATION

1. Lecture
2. Audio-visual presentations
3. Cooperative learning/small group discussions
4. Demonstrations

STUDENT OUTCOMES: (*The student should...*)

1. demonstrate a working knowledge of latitude and longitude and map projections.
2. understand general meteorological terms and atmospheric processes.
3. demonstrate a general comprehension of plate tectonics.
4. apply concepts of plate tectonics to explain the location of earthquake and volcanic activity worldwide.
5. demonstrate a general understanding of the fluvial, glacial, and coastal processes.
6. demonstrate a general knowledge and location of the earth's major biomes and of ecosystem development.
7. demonstrate a general awareness and understanding of human activity and its impact on the world's ecosystems.
8. demonstrate a general understanding of weathering and soil development.
9. apply concepts of weathering to identify various physical landforms.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Quizzes and multiple choice and/or essay exams
2. Written reports relating to individual assignments
3. Cooperative learning activities
4. Problem sets and assignments
5. Map interpretation
6. Map construction exercises
7. Final exam

TEXTBOOK & INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

McKnight, *Physical Geography*, 10th ed., Prentice Hall, 2011.

Prepared by: Veronica Mormino
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