

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
DISTANCE LEARNING OFF-LINE

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Course Description

Geography 1 (Physical Geography) is an introductory course in the elements of physical geography.

Course Goals

Our text defines physical geography as “Landscape Appreciation”. Throughout the course the student will become familiar with four principle areas of study in physical geography. The student will study the atmosphere and the global processes that create world climates. The hydrosphere will be studied in terms of its affect of our world landscape. The biosphere (life zones) and the lithosphere (surface features and their formation) are the third and fourth main study areas of physical geography.

An understanding of the workings of these four earth systems will enable the student to better understand the forces at work that create and shape the earth’s surface. Furthermore, the student will be able to apply his or her knowledge when viewing or studying various landscapes on personal adventures. Geography is often defined as the science of place. This course will enable the student to critically understand the uniqueness of the variety of landscapes Earth possesses. The course is self-paced. The student will be involved in various readings and activities to facilitate the learning of the course material. This will include chapter readings, vocabulary, written assignments, map and lab exercises, quizzes, a short written report and a final examination.

Text and Related Materials (Available at the Taft College book store)

Required: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation. McKnight, Tom L. and Darrel Hess. Prentice Hall, 9th ed. ISBN 0-13-223901-9

Required: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation-Study Guide. Hess, Darrel, Prentice Hall. 9th ed. ISBN 0-13-230323-X

Other Materials

The text may contain a CD-ROM to be used as a supplemental resource. The text also gives various web sites to consult for further study. Try them out! In particular, you should visit http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_mcknight_physgeo_7(opens in a new window). Also, some colored pens or pencils will be useful for the maps and any other drawing exercises.

Special Note to Students

Physical geography is a broad-based and all encompassing subject. Do not become overwhelmed! You will be kept informed of the areas to which you should devote the majority of your study-time and efforts. Some topics and concepts we will only touch upon lightly. You will be held accountable for the broad, basic concepts, vocabulary, and the application of certain principles. By paying close attention to the vocabulary, written assignments and map work you will be able to determine what I feel is most important. Good luck! Welcome to physical geography.

Office Hours: You can contact me via e-mail as below or any other time.

Fall: Wednesday, 6:10pm in Room S-3

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00am to 9:00am toware@yahoo.com

Attendance

All work (assignments, quizzes, tests, maps, etc) must be completed and turned in as noted in this syllabus. Late work is frowned upon. Submit all work by its due date. If work is handed in late, points will be appropriately deducted.

The final examination must be completed and turned in by the date noted on the class calendar. The quizzes, tests and final will be taken in the LRC, TCI Education Department or given by an approved proctor. ([Form available through Taft College Distance Learning Institute](#)) Students may be dropped from the class if they are not making “continuing progress”. Continuing progress is defined as taking the quizzes and completing assignments in a regular manner. If due dates are missed regularly and there is no communication with me, I will consider dropping you from the class.

The class schedule for Fall 2009 is at the end of this syllabus. You should work on this class regularly. Letting work pile up inhibits the learning process and creates unnecessary stress. And, there is so much information to take in that you just can’t afford not to stay current.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be determined on a total point accumulation. And, grading will be figured according to the following percentages of the total points possible.

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Assignment work will be valued at 20 points per chapter. Your assignments will be mailed to you. Therefore, I will need mailing addresses for you and your test proctor before class starts. If you are in the Taft area you may submit and collect assignments at my file in the LRC. Quizzes may be taken in the LRC at Taft College. Out of area students will use the U.S. mail for all paperwork. **Don’t send UPS.** TCI students will receive and return work through the TCI Education Department and the Taft College Instructional Aides.

Quizzes and Tests

- Quizzes will be objective (one hour time limit) -- Chapters 1-16
- Chart, graph and/or map questions will be asked when appropriate.
- Quizzes/tests are closed book/notes.
- Mid-term: none

Written Report

You will write a brief report (4-5 pages) on a topic of your choice. The topic will be chosen from the many areas of study in physical geography. Your text will be a great source for potential topics. You are encouraged to select a topic that fits your interests. Browse through your text to get ideas. The report is valued at 100 points. It is due no later than Wednesday, December 10. The standards for the report are: typed, doubled spaced, title page, 4-5 page body, footnote style is optional (Jones, pg.3) at least one map, bibliography (minimum of 3 resources). Topic ideas include: Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Deserts, Death Valley, Yosemite, Mustangs, Continental Drift, San Andreas Fault, Wildlife in Urban Areas, The Climate of --, Location and Distribution of any plant or animal (Giant Sequoia, tumbleweeds, Grizzly Bears, Kit Fox). Of key importance in the report is to try to discover why something exists in a certain place. What caused it, what are its controls? Describe the location. Last idea. Your favorite place. What are its physical characteristics? Location, Climate, Landforms, Flora and Fauna, Hydrology. Have fun!!

Final Examination

The final is open book/notes. It is in many ways a practical exercise. Don't let this fact lull you into a false sense of security. You will need to "know your stuff" to do well on the final. Time limit is 3 hours. It is all-inclusive. If not taken in the LRC or the TCI Education Department, I will mail it to your proctor in late November.

Schedule

When the assignments for a unit of work are completed, turn in that work and take the appropriate test/quiz. Take the test and turn in work at the LRC, TCI Education Department or schedule your test with your respective proctor. Please note all due dates. If you do not take the test/quiz by the due date and submit it late, your grade may be reduced.

The final will be available before the last week of the course. Work within the time-frame of each "unit". I want the students to stay with the class calendar so as not to race through the material. Assignments 1 - 6 will be mailed first. Assignments 7 - 20 will follow. Students may work ahead following completion of Chapter 8.

If you do not live in the Taft area, you may arrange for your tests to be proctored near where you live. Contact Mr. Ware and [download the proctor form](#) from the TC Distance Learning site. It would be very beneficial to begin the proctor procedures before the class begins.

Student input will be welcomed. If you notice discrepancies in dates or sequence please let me know. I want the system to run smoothly for everyone.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
CLASS SCHEDULE
Fall 2009

Week of: August 24

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, September 9.

September 7

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, September 23.

September 21

Chapter 7

Chapter 8 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, October 7.

October 5

Chapter 9

Chapter 10 You may now work ahead if you desire.

Chapter 11 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, October 21.

October 19

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Chapter 14 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, November 4.

November 2

Chapter 15

Chapter 16 Your last quiz is for Chapter 16. Chapter 17 All assignments and quizzes are due by Wednesday, November 18.

November 16

Chapter 18

Chapter 19

Chapter 20 All assignments & paper are due by Wednesday, December 9 or earlier.

December 7

Final exams: All Finals must be completed before Wednesday, December 16. They must be in my file or mailbox by 6:00 p.m. that evening. This cutoff applies to any other late work as grades are due by Friday. **Earlier completion is appreciated.**