GPH 111 Introduction to Physical Geography  
Fall Semester 2008

**Instructor:** Alan R. Gaugert  
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**Class Meetings-HU 112 - Section 5408, 5409**  
**Lec:** Tue 5:45 – 8:30 pm  
**Lab:** Thu 5:45 – 8:30 pm  
**Office Hours**  
By appointment

**Course Description:** Physical Geography is the study and synthesis of selected areas from the natural sciences and addresses the Earth’s four major environments: the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere and the biosphere. Physical geographers investigate the variety, distribution, duration and significance of changes to Earth’s environments. They conduct their studies over a wide range of spatial and temporal scales and seek to explain processes, origins, changes and patterns as well as the role of humans and their impact on each environment.

**Required Texts:** Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, Ninth Edition 2008 by Tom L. McKnight and Darrel Hess, Pearson - Prentice Hall, publishers  


**Course Requirements/Attendance Policy:** It is each student’s responsibility to complete all reading assignments prior to class, attend all class lectures and labs, satisfactorily complete all examinations and submit all assignments promptly. Late assignments will be accepted only with prior coordination and only one examination may be rescheduled for credit. **Students missing more than three class periods will be withdrawn from the course.** When circumstances compel a student to be late or absent, advance coordination with the instructor is expected.

**Grading Policy:** The results of homework, quizzes, lab exercises, examinations and the final exam will determine each student’s grade. Normally, **Quizzes and lab exercises may not be made up for credit without prior approval.** Missed examinations must be completed not later than seven calendar days following the original examination date. The following scale will be used to determine student grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Projects (See homework sheet)</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
<td>90% A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (Lec/Lab) (10 min)</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
<td>80% B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter Tests (80 min)</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
<td>70% C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GECOMP Exam (100 min)</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
<td>60% D</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 60%</td>
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<td>F</td>
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**Letter Grade**

**Expectations:** **This is a demanding course!** Over 700 terms! However, if you complete the readings and homework, use the information available on the web site and review the textbook CD, this will be an exciting course that will provide insight into natural occurrences that affect your daily life. A great opportunity to learn about the world around you! You will be challenged. **I do not give grades!** The “A” you earn will reflect your effort and acknowledge the knowledge gained.
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**Homework:** Students are expected to complete assigned readings and bring assigned homework to class on the designated due date. Additional guidance is found in the “Homework and Extra Credit For GPH 111” handout located on the Blackboard site.

**Resources:** The text author maintains a web site to assist students in the understanding of concepts presented in this course, and to enhance the study of geography in general. Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to review the material at this site; especially “the m/c questions and the thinking spatially” options. The text web site is found at the following address:

- **Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation Internet Support** [http://www.prenhall.com/mcknight](http://www.prenhall.com/mcknight)
- **Earth Revealed** video tapes (QE 26.2 E 28, 1992) can be checked out for review IN the library as well as viewed on the internet (PrenHall website under Media Room). Links are provided on the Blackboard site.
- **Blackboard:** Assignments, quizzes, tests, lecture slides, links and handouts are available on this site.
- **Student Animations CD:** In your text. **Google Earth, ArcGis Explorer** (On line); **ArcGis Online.**

**GEOCOMP Examination:** The GEOCOMP Exam is a comprehensive examination designed to assess each student’s mastery of key competencies in the course. The exam will be administered during Week 17 of the course. **No makeup examination** will be scheduled. **This examination is worth 20 percent of the final course grade.**

**Tutoring:** Tutors are available for students who require additional instruction in this course. Information concerning scheduling of tutors can be obtained in the Center for Learning - CL 45 at Glendale Community College (623) 845-3812. Start early! Don’t get into a crevasse.

**Study Guides:** Study Guides for all examinations will be published 7-10 days prior to each examination. Study Guides may be accessed on the Blackboard page.

**Classroom Etiquette:** All students are expected to assist in the maintenance of a learning conducive environment in the classroom. Students are expected to enter quietly when late or departing early, turn off all pagers, cellular phones, personal information management devices (PDA) and alarm watches and display courtesy towards each other.

**Recording Lectures:** Recording of lectures is not normally allowed. The instructor will consider special cases where recording is necessary or helpful to the student’s successful acquisition of course material. Requests must be submitted in writing to the instructor no later than the end of the first week of class.

**Schedule Changes:** Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular class. Students will be notified when adjustments to the syllabus are required.

**Disabled Student Resources:** Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate disabled students. Students who require special assistance and/or accomodations should consult the instructor or the staff in Disability Services and Resources Office – TDS-100 (623) 845-3080 or TTD (623) 845-3086.

**Length of Course:** Due to the amount of material to be covered, the evening class will be 16 weeks in duration. The Final Exam will be administered on Tuesday of Week 17.
# GPH 111 Course Calendar (Tentative)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday– Lecture</th>
<th>Thursday – Lab</th>
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| Week 1: Aug 25-29 | **Introduction** Syllabus/Blackboard/Web
**Introduction to Earth** Chapter 1
Demo & Assign Lab A: Part I & II – due Thursday! Practice math. | **Chapter 1 Wrap-up**
Lab A: The International System of Units (SI), Statistical Data, Graphs and Contour (Isopleth) Analysis
Turn in parts I & II, complete III & IV Assign Geography ID (Blackboard) |
| Week 2: Sep 1-05 | **Portraying Earth** Ch. 2
**Introduction to the Atmosphere** Ch 3 | Lab C: Geographic Grid and Time
Assign Project A - Atmospheric Study Guide |
| Week 3: Sep 8-12 | **Intro. To the Atmosphere** Ch 3
USPLS hangout
**Insolation &Temperature** Ch. 4 | Lab E: Introduction to Geographic Tools - Topographic Maps |
| Week 4: Sep 15-18 | **Insolation &Temperature** Ch. 4
*Film: What’s Up with the Weather* I
Project A - Atmospheric Study Guide – due | Lab B: Earth-Sun Relationships
*Film: What’s Up With the Weather II*
Assign Project B – Global Circulation Study Guide |
| Week 5: Sep 22-26 | **Atmospheric Pressure and Wind**
Chapter 5
**Atmospheric Moisture** Ch. 6 (9)
Assign Project C – Adiabatic Process | Lab G: Atmosphere and Climate I
Temperature and Pressure
Lab A: part III (A-3 to 6) Review
Project C - Due |
| Week 6: Sep 29-Oct 3 | **Atmospheric Moisture** Ch. 6 (9)
Project B - Global Circulation System
Study Guide - due
**Transient Atmospheric Flows – Chap 7** | Lab H: Atmosphere and Climate II
Humidity and Precipitation
Assign Project D - Water Vapor Capacity of Air |
| Week 7: Oct 6-10 | **Transient Atmospheric Flows and Disturbances** Chapter 7
Water Vapor Capacity of Air – Due | Lab I: Atmosphere and Climate III
Weather Map Construction |
| Week 8: Oct 13-17 | **Transient Atmospheric Flows and Disturbances** Ch. 7 (cont)
REVIEW for Quarter Test 1– Chap 1-7 | **Quarter Test I Ch. 1-7**
Lab D: Introduction to Geographic Tools - Atlases |
| Week 9: Oct 20-24 | **Climatic Zones and Terrestrial Flora**
Ch. 8 and 11 *Film: Plant Politics* | **Lab J:** World Climate Zones
Lab K: Vegetation and Biomes |
| Week 10: Oct 27-31 | **Soils** Chapter 12
**Intro. to Landform Study** Ch. 13 | **Lab F:** Introduction to Geographic Tools - Contour Lines and Profiles |
| Week 11: Nov 03-07 | **The Internal Processes – Plate Tectonics Folding and Faulting**
Chapter 14 | **Lab M:** Plate Tectonics, Volcanism and Diastrophism
*Film: Volcanism – Earth Revealed* |
### GPH 111 Course Calendar (cont.)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday Lecture</th>
<th>Thursday-Lab</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 12: Nov 10-14</strong></td>
<td>The Internal Processes-, Earthquakes and Vulcanism Ch. 14 Review for Quarter Test II</td>
<td>Quarter Test II – Chap 8-14 Weathering and Mass Wasting Ch. 15</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13: Nov 17-21</strong></td>
<td>Weathering and Mass Wasting Ch. 15 (con’t) Karst Topography Ch. 17 (pp471-476)</td>
<td>The Fluvial Processes Ch. 16 Video: Running Water (60 min) Lab N: Fluvial Processes and Landscapes</td>
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<td><strong>Week 14: Nov 24-28</strong></td>
<td>The Fluvial Processes Ch. 16 (cont) Aeolian Processes-Arid Lands Ch. 18</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>Thanksgiving – no school 27-30!</td>
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<td><strong>Week 15: Dec 01-05</strong></td>
<td>Aeolian Processes-Arid Lands Ch. 18 Wrap up Glacial Modification of Terrain Ch. 19</td>
<td>Lab Q: Desert Processes and Landscapes Lab P: Glacial Processes and Landscapes</td>
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<td><strong>Week 16: Dec 08-12</strong></td>
<td>Coastal Processes and Terrain Ch. 20 Lab O: Coastal Processes and Landscapes</td>
<td><strong>COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW Geography ID - Due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 17: Dec 15-19</strong></td>
<td>GEOCOMP (Cumulative) Quarter Test III Chapters 15-20</td>
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<td>Final Exams Day Classes</td>
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