

**GCU 221 - GEOGRAPHY OF ARIZONA  
GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FALL 2009 SYLLABUS**

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CLASS HOURS: M W F 11:00 A - 11:50 A (section 15500)  
CLASSROOM: HU-112  
OFFICE HOURS: M W F 9:00 A - 10:00 A  
T R 9:00 A - 10:00 A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class is intended as an introduction to the physical and cultural landscapes of Arizona. Geography as a science has historically attempted to study humans and their environment in interaction. It attempts to do this by describing the distribution of the natural phenomena that affect human inhabitation of the earth and the manner in which they have affected patterns of human settlement and exploitation. In turn, human use of natural resources and human patterns of organization on the landscape are also considered proper subject matter for geography.

This semester will include study of the physical geography of Arizona, the environmental/ecological infrastructure that supports human society. We will first discuss the landforms (mountains, plateaus, canyons, valleys, dry lakes, volcanoes) that give Arizona its incredibly diverse appearance. Arizona is well known for its dry sunny skies. We will investigate the causes of Arizona's hot dry weather as well as the factors that lead to the sticky humid late summer conditions known as the "monsoon". There is relationship between climate and the diverse landforms in Arizona. An attempt will be made to elucidate the effects of elevation and mountains on temperature and precipitation. The first half of the class will wrap up with a look at the various vegetation types that are found in the state. Arizona contains plants that also grow in the warm forests of Central America as well as those that grow in the polar regions of Canada and Alaska. This plant diversity will be linked to Arizona's diverse climates and landforms.

Alternating with lectures on physical geography will be discussions of the cultural geography of Arizona. We want to emphasize how the physical geography of Arizona has had an impact on human occupation through time. How have human occupations dealt with the challenges and opportunities presented by Arizona's soils, minerals, climate, vegetation, and landforms? Just as important is the impact of humans on the natural landscape. How have humans abused or used wisely the natural resources provided to them. We will examine not only the present patterns of human occupation in Arizona but also the geographies present at the time of the Spanish conquest, Mexican occupation, and early Anglo settlement.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Your grade in this class will depend upon your performance on exams and on map quizzes. There will be seven exams and four map quizzes during the semester. All exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers, diagrams, and maps. The map quizzes will be given at various points during the semester at dates yet to be determined. I will supply Arizona maps covering topics such as cities, counties, rivers, mountains, vegetation, climate, etc. These maps will be yours to study from, memorize, and know. Four times during the semester you will take a quiz on one or more of these maps.

**COURSE MATERIALS:** Arizona Highway Geological Map: Arizona Geological Survey

**GRADING:**

**Points**

**Total Points**

**Letter Grade**

Exam 1	100 points	765 - 850	A
Exam 2	100 points	680 - 764	B
Exam 3	100 points	595 - 679	C
Exam 4	100 points	510 - 594	D
Exam 5	100 points	fewer than 510	F
Exam 6	100 points		
Exam 7	100 points		
Take-home assignments	50 points		
Map quizzes (4 x 25pts)	<u>100 points</u>		
Total	<b>850 points</b>		

**COURSE ATTENDANCE:** It is your responsibility to attend all classes. Exams taken in a class from which you are absent cannot be made up without penalty unless you give me **prior notice**. If given prior notification a make-up exam will be arranged at the testing center – which is located in TDS 118. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the scheduled exam. Missing an exam without prior notification results in the same process as above except with a 10% reduction in your exam score. You can make up only **ONE** missed exam!!! Map quizzes taken in a class from which you are absent can be made up on the day of the final. No penalty is incurred with prior notification but, again, a 10% reduction in quiz scores for those who did not give prior notification. Only one map quiz can be made up. If you are late to class on the day of a scheduled map quiz you will take that quiz on the day of the final without penalty. Your attention is directed to the attendance policies in the student handbook/catalog. Missing more than two lectures may be grounds for dismissal from the course. If you have a good reason for being absent, notify your instructor prior to the class meeting so that your absence will be excused. Lectures will begin on time. Be in the classroom at the scheduled time so that your arrival will not disrupt the rest of the class. If you wish to be withdrawn from class for whatever reason, you must start withdrawal proceedings. **DO NOT** just stop attending class and expect your instructor to withdraw you.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:**

**Week 1 through Week 8** – a grade of W will be given to students who wish to withdraw from the class.

**Week 9 through Week 14** – a grade of W will be given to students who wish to withdraw from the class **ONLY** if they are passing the class (cumulative score of 70% or better) at the time they initiate withdrawal. A grade of Y will be given to those students who wish to withdraw from the class who **DO NOT** have a passing grade (cumulative score of 70% or better) at the time they initiate withdrawal.

**Week 15 through Week 16** – grades of W and Y are no longer available.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular class. Students will be notified in class by the instructor when adjustments to this syllabus are required.

**DISABLED STUDENT RESOURCES:** Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate disabled students. Students who require special assistance and/or accommodations should consult the instructor. Disability Services and Resources (845-3080), located in the SPS Building, can be of assistance.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Students enrolled in this course are responsible for understanding both the information contained in this syllabus but also the college policies included in the college catalog and the student handbook.

**AUDIOTAPING:** No audiotaping of the class is allowed.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES**

### **Week 1**

M 24 Aug

**Introduction**

W 26 Aug

**Basin and Range  
Geology and Landforms**

- basin and range disturbance
- basin and range topography

F 28 Aug

**Basin and Range  
Geology and Landforms**

### **Week 2**

M 31 Aug

**Basin and Range  
Geology and Landforms**

W 02 Sep

**Basin and Range  
Geology and Landforms**

- metamorphic core complexes
- caliche and other hardpans
- desert pavement and desert varnish

F 04 Sep

**Early Hispanic Arizona**

### **Week 3**

M 07 Sep

**LABOR DAY (no classes today)**

W 09 Sep

**Early Hispanic Arizona**

F 11 Sep

**Hispanic Architecture in Arizona**

### **Week 4**

M 14 Sep

**EXAM I**

W 16 Sep

**Colorado Plateau  
Geology and Landforms**

- sedimentary rock geology
- marine transgressions and regressions
- folding (anticlines, synclines, monoclines)

F 18 Sep

**Colorado Plateau  
Geology and Landforms**

### **Week 5**

M 21 Sep

**Colorado Plateau  
Geology and Landforms**

- Petrified Forest National Park
- fossils and dinosaurs

W 23 Sep

**Route 66**

F 25 Sep	<b>Route 66</b>	
<b>Week 6</b> M 28 Sep	<b>EXAM II</b>	
W 30 Sep	<b>Central Highlands &amp; Volcanism in Arizona</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- San Francisco volcanic field</li> <li>- San Francisco volcanic field</li> <li>- San Francisco volcanic field</li> <li>- SP crater</li> <li>- Sunset crater</li> <li>- Superstition Mtns and calderas</li> <li>- Chiricahua Mtns</li> </ul>
F 02 Oct	<b>Central Highlands &amp; Volcanism in Arizona</b>	
<b>Week 7</b> M 05 Oct	<b>Volcanism in Arizona (cont.)</b>	
W 07 Oct	<b>Mormon Arizona</b>	
F 09 Oct	<b>Mormon Arizona</b>	
<b>Week 8</b> M 12 Oct	<b>EXAM III</b>	
W 14 Oct	<b>Introduction to Climate</b>	
F 16 Oct	<b>Introduction to Climate</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> M 19 Oct	<b>Arizona Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- temperature</li> <li>- radiation budget</li> <li>- climate factors</li> <li>- Arizona temp. data</li> </ul>
W 21 Oct	<b>Arizona Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- global pressure and circulation model</li> <li>- bimodal precipitation</li> <li>- summer monsoons</li> <li>- Arizona precip. data</li> </ul>
F 22 Oct	<b>Arizona Climate</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> M 26 Oct	<b>Desert Vegetation Adaptations</b>	

W 28 Oct	<b>Desert Vegetation Adaptations</b>	- Lower Sonoran Deserts scrub  - Upper Sonoran Deserts scrub
F 30 Oct	<b>EXAM IV</b>	
<b>Week 11</b> M 02 Nov	<b>Sonoran Deserts scrub Community</b>	
W 04 Nov	<b>Other Deserts scrub Communities</b>	- Mojave Deserts scrub -  - Chihuahuan Deserts scrub - Great Basin Deserts scrub - Interior Chaparral
F 06 Nov	<b>Grassland &amp; Chaparral Communities</b>	- Semi-desert Grasslands - Plains and Great Basin Grasslands - Alpine and Sub-alpine Grasslands
<b>Week 12</b> M 09 Nov	<b>Woodland and Forest Communities</b>	- Madrean Evergreen woodland - Great Basin Conifer Woodland - Rocky Mtn/Madrean Montane Conifer Forests - Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest
W 11 Nov	<b>Woodland and Forest Communities</b>	
F 13 Nov	<b>EXAM V</b>	
<b>Week 13</b> M 16 Nov	<b>Groundwater Issues</b>	
W 18 Nov	<b>Groundwater Issues</b>	
F 20 Nov	<b>Groundwater Issues</b>	
<b>Week 14</b> M 23 Nov	<b>Surface Water Issues</b>	- Salt River Project

W 25 Nov	<b>Surface Water Issues</b>	- Colorado River - Central Arizona Project
F 27 Nov	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> M 30 Nov	<b>Surface Water Issues</b>	
W 02 Dec	<b>EXAM VI</b>	
F 04 Dec	<b>Land Use</b>	
<b>Week 16</b> M 07 Dec	<b>Land Use</b>	
W 09 Dec	<b>Urban Geography</b>	
F 11 Dec	<b>Agriculture</b>	
<b>Week 17</b> W 16 Dec	<b>EXAM VII</b>	

**COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

1. Describe the physical characteristics of Arizona, including climate and vegetative zones. (I)
2. Describe the settlement of Arizona from the arrival of prehistoric tribes to the present. (II)
3. Describe demographic characteristics in Arizona, including growth, distribution, and migration of major population groups. (III)
4. Identify land ownership and political organization in Arizona at a variety of levels. (IV)
5. Describe primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary activities in the development of Arizona's economy. (V)
6. Describe surface and ground water resources in Arizona. (V)
7. Identify possibilities for future environmental, demographic, political and economic trends in Arizona. (VI)