GPH 111 - INTRO TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FALL 2009 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Emrick
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CLASS HOURS: T - R Lecture 10:00 A – 11:15 A
(sec. 15512) (honors sec. 72905)
Th Lab 12:00 P - 2:45 P
(sec. 15514) (honors sec. 72907)

OFFICE HOURS: M W F 9:00 A – 10:00 A
T R 9:00 A – 10:00 A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES: This course will provide an introduction to the earth's physical environments. This course will NOT involve learning and memorizing the states of the United States, the countries of the world, or the ten longest rivers in South America. However, references are made to various locations around the world in class, so familiarity with a U.S. and world political map would be helpful. The first portion of the semester will be spent on an introduction to climatology. We will study how the earth is heated, how the heat is distributed around the globe by winds, and what factors cause precipitation. The result will be an understanding of global climatic patterns - why the Sahara Desert is located where it is, why Los Angeles has the same climate as Monte Carlo. A few weeks will be devoted to the study of biogeography, or the study of the distribution of plants and animals. The third section of the course will cover the internal processes of the earth - rock formation, plate tectonics, volcanoes, mountain building, and stream development. These internal forces work in concert with climate to provide a vast array of resulting landscapes. The last portion of the semester is devoted to some special landscapes - deserts, coasts, and areas of glacial influence.

COURSE MATERIALS: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 9th Edition, Tom L. McKnight, Prentice Hall, 2008.
Physical Geography Laboratory Manual, Glendale Community College.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade in this course will depend upon your performance on exams, lecture quizzes, lab quizzes, and in the labs. There will be five exams during the semester. All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, diagrams, and maps. There are fourteen labs during the semester worth five points each and due at the end of the lab period. There will be NO make-up labs. There will be fourteen lab quizzes during the semester that will cover the material done in the previous week's lab. There will be NO make-up lab quizzes. A comprehensive multiple-choice exam (called the GEOCOMP) will be given at the end of the semester for extra credit. The GEOCOMP consists of 50 questions worth one-half point each so that a maximum of 25 extra-credit points are available. To get the extra-credit points one must score at least the class average on the GEOCOMP exam. If you miss an exam during the semester your grade on the GEOCOMP exam will be substituted for the missed exam but those points will NOT be available to you as extra credit. Each lab will be designed to give the student more direct experience with the concepts introduced in the accompanying chapter. Working in small groups is encouraged during the labs.

GRADING:	**Points**	**Total Points**	**Letter Grade**
Exam I	100 points	860 – 774	A
Exam II	100 points	773 – 688	B
Exam III	100 points	687 – 602	C
Exam IV	100 points	601 – 516	D
Exam V	100 points	fewer than 516	F

Lab Quizzes (14 x 20)	280 points
Labs (16 x 5)	80 points
TOTAL	860 points

COURSE ATTENDANCE: It is your responsibility to attend all classes. As stated in COURSE REQUIREMENTS, quizzes and activities done in a class from which you are absent cannot be made up. Your attention is directed to the attendance policies in the student handbook/catalog. Missing more than three lectures or more than one lab 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 and labs will start 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:
Week1 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. The Disabled Student Resources Center (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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES

DATE	READINGS	LECTURE	LAB
WEEK 1			
Tu 25 Aug	Chap 1 (pp. 1-14) (pp. 23-27)	Introduction/Earth Grid	

***Lab A** – Intl System of Units will be done as a take-home lab this week

Th 27 Aug	Chap 2 (pp. 29-43)	Portraying the Earth (maps)	**Lab C** – Geographic Grid and Time
WEEK 2			
Tu 01 Sep	Chap 3	Structure of the Atmosphere	
Th 03 Sep	Chap 1 (pp. 15-23)	Earth – Sun Relationships	**Lab B** - Earth – Sun Relationships
WEEK 3			
Tu 08 Sep	Chap 4	**EXAM I** Heating and Temperature	
Th 10 Sep	Chap 4	Heat and Temperature	**Lab E** – Intro. to Geographic Tools – Topographic Maps
WEEK 4			
Tu 15 Sep	Chap 4	Global Heating	
Th 17 Sep	Chap 5	Air Pressure and Wind	**Lab G** – Atmosphere and Climate
WEEK 5			
Tu 22 Sep	Chap 5	Winds and Ocean Currents	
Th 24 Sep	Chap 6	Humidity and Precipitation	**Lab G** - Atmosphere and Climate
WEEK 6			
Tu 29 Sep	Chap 6	Humidity and Precipitation	
Th 01 Oct	Chap 7	Air Masses and Fronts	**Lab H -** Atmosphere and Climate
WEEK 7			
Tu 06 Oct	Chap 7	Atmospheric Disturbances	
Th 08 Oct	Chap 7	Atmospheric Disturbances	**EXAM II** **Lab I** - Atmosphere and Climate
WEEK 8			
Tu 13 Oct	Chaps 10 & 11 (pp. 289-299) (pp. 303-309)	Ecosystems and Biomes	
Th 15 Oct		Ecosystems and Biomes	**Lab L** – Desert Biogeography

WEEK 9			
Tu 20 Oct		Island Biogeography	
Th 22 Oct	Chap13	Earth's Crust	**EXAM III** **Lab F** – Intro. to Geographic Tools – Contour Lines and Profiles
WEEK 10			
Tu 27 Oct	Chap 13	Earth's Crust	
Th 29 Oct	Chap 14	Plate Tectonics	**Lab M** - Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes & Diastrophism
WEEK 11			
Tu 03 Nov	Chap 14	Plate Tectonics	
Th 05 Nov	Chap 14	Diastrophism	
WEEK 12			
Tu 10 Nov	Chap 15	Rock Weathering	
Th 12 Nov	Chap 15	Mass Wasting	**EXAM IV**
WEEK 13			
Tu 17 Nov	Chap 16	Fluvial Processes	
Th 19 Nov	Chap 16	Fluvial Landforms	**Lab N** - Fluvial Landforms
WEEK 14			
Tu 24 Nov			
Th 26 Nov		**THANKSGIVING**	
WEEK 15			
Tu 01 Dec	Chap 18	Desert Processes	
Th 03 Dec	Chap 18	Desert Landforms	**Lab Q** - Desert Landforms
Week 16			
Tu 08 Dec	Chap 19	Glacial Processes	
Th 10 Dec	Chap 19	Glacial Landforms	**Lab P** - Glacial Landforms
Week 17			
Tu 15 Dec		**EXAM V** (10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.)	