

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

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Emrick

CLASS HOURS: M-W-F Lecture 9:00 A – 9:50 A (section 41099)

M-W-F Lab 10:00 A – 10:50 A (section 47407)

PHONE NO.: 845-3697

OFFICE: 05-138

OFFICE HOURS: M W F 1:00 P – 2:00 P

TR 10:00 A – Noon

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**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, 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 fifteen 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. These lab quizzes will cover the material done in the previous 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.

| <b><u>GRADING:</u></b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Total Points</b> | <b>Letter Grade</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Exam I                 | 100 points    | 855 – 769           | A                   |
| Exam II                | 100 points    | 768 – 684           | B                   |
| Exam III               | 100 points    | 683 – 598           | C                   |

|                       |                  |                |   |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Exam IV               | 100 points       | 597 – 513      | D |
| Exam V                | 100 points       | fewer than 513 | F |
| Lab Quizzes (14 x 20) | 280 points       |                |   |
| <u>Labs (15 x 5)</u>  | <u>75 points</u> |                |   |
| TOTAL                 | 855 points       |                |   |

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES

| DATE          | READINGS  | 9:00 AM                                 | 10:00 AM   |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| <b>WEEK 1</b> |   |   |  |
| Mon 19 Jan    | <b>MLK HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</b>   |   |  |
|               | * <b>Lab A</b> - Intl System of Units will be done as a take-home lab this week and is due at the end of lab on Feb 04. |   |  |
| Wed 21 Jan    | Chap 1<br>(pp. 1-15)<br>(pp. 23-28)   | Introduction/Earth Grid                 | <b>Lab C</b> – Geographic Grid and Time                      |
| Fri 23 Jan    |   | <b>Lab C</b> – Geographic Grid and Time |  |
| <b>WEEK 2</b> |   |   |  |
| Mon 26 Jan    | Chap 1<br>(pp. 15-23)   | Earth – Sun Relationships               |  |
| Wed 28 Jan    |   | <b>Lab B</b> – Earth-Sun Relationships  |  |
| Fri 30 Jan    | Chap 2<br>(pp. 31-43)   | Portraying the Earth (maps)             |  |
| <b>WEEK 3</b> |   |   |  |
| Mon 02 Feb    | Chap 3  | Structure of the Atmosphere             | <b>Lab E</b> – Intro. to Geographic Tools – Topographic Maps |
| Wed 04 Feb    |   | <b>EXAM I</b>                           | <b>Lab E</b> – Intro. to Geographic Tools – Topographic Maps |
| Fri 06 Feb    | Chap 4  | Heat and Temperature                    | Heat and Temperature   |
| <b>WEEK 4</b> |   |   |  |
| Mon 09 Feb    | Chap 4  | Global Heating                          | <b>Lab G</b> – Atmosphere and Climate                        |
| Wed 11 Feb    | Chap 4  | Global Heating                          | <b>Lab G</b> – Atmosphere and Climate                        |
| Fri 13 Feb    | Chap 5  | Atmospheric Pressure                    |  |

**WEEK 5**

Mon 16 Feb

**PRESIDENTS DAY – NO CLASS**

Wed 18 Feb Chap 5

Winds and Ocean  
Currents**Lab G** - Atmosphere and Climate

Fri 20 Feb Chap 5

Winds and Ocean  
Currents**Lab G** - Atmosphere and Climate**WEEK 6**

Mon 23 Feb Chap 6

Humidity and Precipitation

Wed 25 Feb Chap 7

**Lab H** - Atmosphere and Climate

Fri 27 Feb

Humidity and Precipitation **Lab H** - Atmosphere and Climate**WEEK 7**

Mon 02 Mar Chap 7

**EXAM II**Air Masses and Fronts Atmospheric  
Disturbances

Wed 04 Mar Chap 7

Atmospheric Disturbances

Fri 06 Mar

**Lab I** – Atmosphere and Climate**WEEK 8**Mon 09 Mar Chap 10  
(pp. 274-279)

Hurricanes

Vegetation Distribution

Wed 11 Mar Chap 10  
(pp. 274-279)

Vegetation Distribution

Fri 13 Mar

**Lab L** – Desert Biogeography**WEEK 9**

Mon 16 Mar

**SPRING BREAK**

Wed 18 Mar

Fri 20 Mar

**WEEK 10**Mon 23 Mar Chaps 10 & 11  
(pp. 263-273)  
(pp. 285-291)  
(pp. 301-322)

Ecosystems and Biomes

“Plant Politics” Film **Lab**

Wed 25 Mar

Ecosystems and Biomes

Fri 27 Mar

**EXAM III**

**WEEK 11**

Mon 30 Mar Chap 13

Earth's Crust

Wed 01 Apr

**Lab F** – Intro. To Geographic Tools – Contour Lines and Profiles

Fri 03 Apr Chap 13

Earth's Crust

**WEEK 12**

Mon 06 Apr Chap 14

Plate Tectonics

Wed 08 Apr Chap 14

Plate Tectonics

Fri 10 Apr

**Lab M** – Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, & Diastrophism**WEEK 13**

Mon 13 Apr Chap 14

Diastrophism

Wed 15 Apr Chap 15

Rock Weathering

Mass Wasting

Fri 17 Apr

**EXAM IV****WEEK 14**

Mon 20 Apr Chap 16

Fluvial Processes and  
Landforms**Lab N** – Fluvial Landforms

Wed 22 Apr

Fri 24 Apr

**WEEK 15**

Mon 27 Apr Chap 18

Desert Processes and  
Landforms**Lab Q** – Desert Landforms

Wed 29 Apr

Fri 01 May

**WEEK 16**

Mon 04 May Chap 19

Glacial Processes and  
Landforms**Lab P** – Glacial Landforms

Wed 06 May

Fri 07 May

**WEEK 17**

Wed 13 May

**EXAM V** (9:00 am - 10:50 am)**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:**

**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 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. These policies include GCC's regulations involving academic misconduct, student conduct, and the use of electronic devices.

**USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS:** Taping of classroom lectures is not allowed as it violates the academic freedom of fellow students. As stated in the student handbook, exceptions can be made for "students with disabilities that render them unable to take adequate lecture notes". Cell phone use, including texting, is strictly forbidden in class. Cell phones must be turned off and stowed away where they will not be a distraction. Cell phones may be kept on vibrate to alert students in the case of an emergency. Violations of this policy may be cause for disciplinary action. Personal music players must be turned off before entering the classroom.