

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

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Emrick

CLASS HOURS: T - R Lecture 8:30 A – 9:45 A (section 19845) (honors section 47500)

T Lab 12:00 P – 2:45 P (section 19847) (honors section 47501)

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. Exams will be taken in the computer testing center located in HTI-143. The date windows for these exams are listed in the lecture schedule below. In addition, you will find the operating hours of the testing center listed at the end of this syllabus. There are sixteen 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.

<u>GRADING:</u>	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		
<u>Labs (16 x 5)</u>	<u>80 points</u>		
TOTAL	860 points		

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES

DATE	READINGS	LECTURE	LAB
WEEK 1			
Tu 20 Jan	Chap 1 (pp. 1-15) (pp. 23-28) * Lab A - Intl System of Units will be done as a take-home lab this week and is due at the end of lab on Feb 03.	Introduction/Earth Grid	Lab C – Geographic Grid and Time
Th 22 Jan	Chap 2 (pp. 31-43)	Portraying the Earth (maps)	
WEEK 2			
Tu 27 Jan	Chap 1 (pp. 15-23)	Earth – Sun Relationships	Lab B – Earth-Sun Relationships
Th 29 Jan	Chap 3	Structure of the Atmosphere	
WEEK 3			
Tu 03 Feb	Chap 4	Heat and Temperature	Lab E – Intro. to Geographic Tools – Topographic Maps
Th 05 Feb	Chap 4	Heat and Temperature	
WEEK 4			
Tu 10 Feb	Chap 4	Global Heating	Lab F – Atmosphere and Climate
Th 12 Feb	Chap 5	Air Pressure and Wind	
WEEK 5			
Tu 17 Feb	Chap 5	Winds and Ocean Currents	Lab G - Atmosphere and Climate
Th 19 Feb	Chap 6	Humidity and Precipitation	

WEEK 6

Tu 24 Feb	Chap 6	Humidity and Precipitation	Lab H - Atmosphere and Climate
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Th 26 Feb	Chap 7	Air Masses and Fronts	
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WEEK 7

Tu 03 Mar	Chap 7	Atmospheric Disturbances	Lab I – Atmosphere and Climate
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Th 05 Mar	Chap 7	Atmospheric Disturbances	
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WEEK 8

Tu 10 Mar	Chap 10 (pp. 274-279)	Vegetation Distribution	Lab L – Desert Biogeography
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Th 12 Mar	Chap 10 (pp. 274-279)	Vegetation Distribution	
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WEEK 9

Tu Mar 17			
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SPRING BREAK

Th Mar 19			
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WEEK 10

Tu 24 Mar	Chaps 10 & 11 (pp. 263-273) (pp. 285-291) (pp. 301-322)	Ecosystems and Biomes	“Plant Politics” Film Lab
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Th 26 Mar		Ecosystems and Biomes	
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WEEK 11

Tu 31 Mar		Island Biogeography	Lab F – Intro. To Geographic Tools – Contour Lines and Profiles
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Th 02 Apr	Chap 13	Earth’s Crust	
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WEEK 12

Tu 07 Apr	Chap 13	Earth’s Crust	Plate Tectonics Lec.
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Th 09 Apr	Chap 14	Plate Tectonics	
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WEEK 13

Tu 14 Apr	Chap 14	Diastrophism	Lab M – Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, & Diastrophism
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Th 16 Apr	Chap 15	Rock Weathering	
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WEEK 14

Tu 21 Apr	Chap 16	Fluvial Processes	Fluvial Lec
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Th 23 Apr	Chap 16	Fluvial Processes	
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WEEK 15

Tu 28 Apr	Chap 18	Desert Processes	Lab N - Desert Landforms
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Th 30 Apr		Lab Q – Desert Landforms	
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WEEK 16

Tu 05 May	Chap 19	Glacial Processes	Glacial Landforms Lec.
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Th 07 May		Lab P – Glacial Landforms	
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WEEK 17

Th 14 May		EXAM V	(8:00 am - 9:50 am)
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- - Lab periods with an asterisk (*) symbol signify that a lab quiz will be given at the beginning of that period..

EXAM SCHEDULE:

EXAM I	Chapters 1, 2, 3	Friday, Jan 30 through Monday, Feb 2 !!!
EXAM II	Chapters 4, 5, 6	Friday, Feb 27 through Monday, Mar 2 !!!
EXAM III	Chapters 7, 10, 11	Friday, Mar 27 through Monday, Mar 30 !!!
EXAM IV	Chapters 13, 14, 15	Friday, Apr 17 through Monday, Apr 20 !!!

HTI-143 TESTING HOURS:

Monday – Thursday	8:00am to 10:00pm
Friday	8:00am to 9:30pm
Saturday – Sunday	10:30am to 4:00pm

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.