GPH 111 - INTRO TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SPRING 2010 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Emrick
CLASS HOURS: M-W-F Lecture 9:00 A – 9:50 A (section 23842)
M-W-F Lab 10:00 A – 10:50 A (section 23852)
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OFFICE: 05-105 OFFICE HOURS: M W F 1:00 P – 2:00 P
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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 ten 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.

GRADING:	**Points**	**Total Points**	**Letter Grade**
Exam I	100 points	930 – 837	A
Exam II	100 points	836 – 744	B
Exam III	100 points	743 – 651	C

Exam IV	100 points	652 – 558	D
Exam V	100 points	Fewer than 558	F
Lab Quizzes (14 x 20)	280 points		
Labs (15 x 10)	150 points		
TOTAL	930 points		

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES

DATE	READINGS	LECTURE	LAB
WEEK 1			
Mon 18 Jan		**MLK HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**	
	*__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 04.		
Wed 20 Jan	Chap 1	Introduction/Earth Grid	**Lab C** – Geographic Grid and Time
Fri 22 Jan	(pp.1-15)		
	(pp. 23-28)		
WEEK 2			
Mon 25 Jan	Chap 1	Earth – Sun Relationships	**Lab B** – Earth-Sun Relationships
Wed 27 Jan	(pp.15-23)		
Fri 29 Jan	Chap 2	Portraying the Earth	
	(pp. 31-43)	(maps)	
WEEK 3			
Mon 01 Feb	Chap 3	Structure of the	**Lab E** – Intro. to Geographic Tools
Wed 03 Feb		Atmosphere	– Topographic Maps
Fri 05 Feb		**EXAM I**	
	Chap 4	Heat and Temperature	
WEEK 4			
Mon 08 Feb	Chap 4	Global Heating	**Lab G** – Atmosphere and Climate
Wed 10 Feb			
Fri 12 Feb	Chap 5	Atmospheric Pressure	
WEEK 5			
Mon 15 Feb		**PRESIDENTS DAY – NO CLASS**	
Wed 17 Feb	Chap 5	Winds and Ocean	**Lab G** - Atmosphere and Climate
Fri 19 Feb		Currents	
WEEK 6			
Mon 22 Feb	Chap 6	Humidity and Precipitation	**Lab H** - Atmosphere and Climate
Wed 24 Feb			
Fri 26 Feb			
WEEK 7			

Mon 01 Mar	Chap 7	**EXAM II**	**Lab I** – Atmosphere and Climate
Wed 03 Mar		Air Masses and Fronts	
Fri 05 Mar		Atmospheric Disturbances	
WEEK 8			
Mon 08 Mar	Chap 10	Hurricanes	**Lab L** – Desert Biogeography
Wed 10 Mar	(pp. 274-279)		
Fri 12 Mar		Vegetation Distribution	
WEEK 9			
Mon 15 Mar			
Wed 17 Mar		**SPRING BREAK**	
Fri 19 Mar			
WEEK 10			
Mon 22 Mar	Chaps 10 & 11	Ecosystems and Biomes	"Plant Politics" Film **Lab**
Wed 24 Mar	(pp. 263-273)		
Fri 26 Mar	(pp. 285-291)	**EXAM III**	
	(pp. 301-322)		
WEEK 11			
Mon 29 Mar	Chap 13	Earth's Crust	**Lab F** – Intro. To Geographic Tools
Wed 31 Mar		Earth's Crust	– Contour Lines and Profiles
Fri 02 Apr			
WEEK 12			
Mon 05 Apr	Chap 14	Plate Tectonics	**Lab M** – Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes,
Wed 07 Apr			& Diastrophism
Fri 09 Apr			
WEEK 13			
Mon 12 Apr	Chap 14	Diastrophism	Mass Wasting
Wed 14 Apr	Chap 15	Rock Weathering	
Fri 16 Apr		**EXAM IV**	
WEEK 14			
Mon 19 Apr	Chap 16	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	**Lab N** – Fluvial Landforms
Wed 21 Apr			
Fri 23 Apr			
WEEK 15			
Mon 26 Apr	Chap 18	Desert Processes and Landforms	**Lab Q** – Desert Landforms
Wed 28 Apr			
Fri 30 Apr			
WEEK 16			
Mon 03 May	Chap 19	Glacial Processes and Landforms	**Lab P** – Glacial Landforms
Wed 05 May			
Fri 07 May			

WEEK 17

Mon 10 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:

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 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 Disability Resources and Services Center (845-3080), located in the TDS 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.