Date Prepared: 01-26-06 **Effective Date:** Spring '06

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER:** GEO 200 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

2. **COURSE TITLE:** INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

3. **PREREQUISITES:** English placement for English 111 and satisfactory completion of English 1 and 4 if required by reading placement test. Co-requisite: English 5 and English 107 if recommended by reading placement test.

4. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Studies major elements of the natural environment including earth sun relationship, land forms, weather and climate, natural vegetation and soils. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps.

5. **CONTENT:** The course will cover the patterns of physical phenomena on the Earth's surface and the processes that create those patterns. These include:

   a. Atmospheric phenomena: including Earth-sun relations, climate classification and weather phenomena;
   b. Hydro-spherical phenomena: including characteristics of oceans, estuaries, rivers and lakes
   c. Landforms: including the characteristics and distribution of characteristic features of the land surface
   d. Soils: including the distribution of soil types
   e. Bio-geographic phenomena: including patterns of plant and animal distributions and the factors that limit those distributions.

6. **GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

   Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:
   a. Understand the global energy budget and the role of atmospheric and oceanic circulation in redistributing solar energy.
   b. Understand how climate affects the formation and distribution of landforms.
   c. Understand how climate and soil types affect the distribution of life on Earth.
   d. Understand the role of disturbance and natural hazards in the global ecosystem.
   e. Understand and interpret complex materials.
   f. Weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted.
   g. Access needed information effectively and efficiently.
   h. Use logical and mathematical reasoning within the context of various disciplines.
   i. Reason by deduction, induction and analogy.