Course Prefix and Number: GEO 200  Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Geography

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. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites
Co-requisites: ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:
Upon completing 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.

Major Topics to Be Included: The course will cover the patterns of physical phenomena on the Earth’s surface and the processes that create those patterns. These include:
1. Atmospheric phenomena: including Earth-sun relations, climate classification and weather phenomena;
2. Hydro-spherical phenomena: including characteristics of oceans, estuaries, rivers and lakes
3. Landforms: including the characteristics and distribution of characteristic features of the land surface
4. Soils: including the distribution of soil types
5. Bio-geographic phenomena: including patterns of plant and animal distributions and the factors that limit those distributions.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2006