C-ID Descriptor
Introduction to Physical Geography

Descriptor Details

- **Descriptor Title**: Introduction to Physical Geography
- **C-ID Number**: 110
- **Units**: 3.0
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General Description

This course is a spatial study of the Earth’s dynamic physical systems and processes. Topics include: Earth-sun geometry, weather, climate, water, landforms, soil, and the biosphere. Emphasis is on the interrelationships among environmental and human systems and processes and their resulting patterns and distributions. Tools of geographic inquiry are also briefly covered; they may include: maps, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Prerequisites

No information provided

Corequisites

None

Advisories

Elementary Algebra

Content

1. The size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes;
2. The atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth’s surface environments;
3. The global distribution of the world’s major climates, ecosystems, physiographic (landform) features;
4. The basic tools of geographic inquiry; and
5. Basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns.

Lab Activities

No information provided

Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth’s surface environments;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the global distribution of the world’s major climates, ecosystems, and physiographic (landform) features;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns; and
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and practical experience using the tools and concepts of physical geography (laboratory component).

Evaluation Methods

Objective and subjective midterm and final examinations. Written assignments, projects, and/or homework problems.

Textbooks

Geosystems (Christopherson)
Physical Geography (Hess)
Visualizing Physical Geography (Strahler)

Or other college level text as selected by the instructor