



# **GEOG 1301.001 - Physical Geography**

**Course Syllabus: Spring 2020**

---

*"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."*

**Instructor: Jeff Isom**

**Office:** Humanities 124

**Phone:** 903-434-8255 (Humanities Faculty Secretary)

**Email:** jisom@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	none	11am-12pm	none	11am-12pm	none	email

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.***

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours. Lecture. Three hours of class each week.

An introductory survey course emphasizing the function of geophysical systems, and ways in which the physical environment integrates with global human activity, both directly and indirectly. These influences act through climate, landforms, soils, and vegetation.

**Prerequisite:** none

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the completion of Physical Geography, the students will:

1. Describe the use of models and the analysis of various Earth systems.
2. Understand the geographer's field of vision and the uses of cartography.
3. Analyze earth-sun relationships and describe how they effect daylight, seasons, and time for various places on Earth.
4. Define weather data, interpret a weather map and the use of weather instruments to collect and record data about local temperature, humidity, pressure, and wind conditions.
5. Analyze the controls, distribution, and classification of world climates.
6. Analyze the characteristics of different climate categories and describe the unique flora, fauna, and soils of each.
7. Identify the characteristics of landforms and rocks that relate to specific tectonic and magmatic processes.
8. Examine gradation, weathering and mass movement; and identify landforms by the erosion of water, wind, and ice; and describe the characteristics of each.

## **Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Grades will be based on the following scale:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

59% and below = F

Incomplete grades will only be given under special conditions upon consultation with the instructor prior to final exams. If an incomplete grade is given, the remaining coursework must be completed within a specified period of time, usually six weeks from the end of the semester. If the work is not completed within the given time the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Required Instructional Material:** Petersen, Sack, & Gabler. Fundamentals of Physical Geography. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2015. Publisher: Cengage ISBN-13: 978-1133606536

**Optional Instructional Materials:** Instructor Handouts

**Minimum Technology Requirements:** None

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** None

**Course Structure and Overview:** The primary objective is for you to describe how the physical and human geography of a region can be unique yet also share many qualities with other regions. Although you will learn the locations of key places and landforms in order to become globally-aware citizens, *this course's objective is not to promote or reward memorization*. The objective is to provide a geographical context for world events, to make spatial connections, and to understand the importance of geographical contexts in our everyday lives. By the end of this course you should be able to read and synthesize maps as well as synthesize your assigned readings.

**Lectures & Discussions:**

1. Lecture – The majority of the information in this course will be delivered in the form of lecture. Because of this, it is strongly recommended that the students attend all classes and be attentive. Due to the amount of material that will be covered this semester it is suggested that the students take notes from the lecture
2. Reading – The textbook, as well as outside readings to be announced in class, provides a supplement and framework for the lecture material. The students are responsible for reading the corresponding material prior to the lectures, so the students will be prepared for class.
3. Class Discussion – Class discussion, ranging from informal talks to organized discussion days, will be an important part of the class. It is vital that the students participate with class discussions in order to receive the maximum benefit from the course.
4. Instructional Aids – Varied instructional aids, including audio-visual, supplementary documents and readings, and Internet assignments will be used to furnish additional information for class.

**Tests/Exams:** Exams – 6 Exams during semester. The information of the exams are drawn primarily from the lecture material, but can include any information from the textbook, supplemental readings, or instructional aids. At the end of the semester the lowest exam grade (not including the comprehensive Final Exam) will be dropped. Because of this, no make-up exams will be given.

**Assignments:**

Read each chapter, define Terms for Review (TR) and answer Questions for Review (QR), as defined in schedule. Review chapters, Terms for Review, and Questions for Review to prepare for each exam.  
Other Course Requirements: None

**Communications:** encourage you to come see me during office hours or directly after class. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your exams, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you cannot attend my office hours you may set-up an alternative time to meet. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours M-F between 8 am and 5 pm and within 48 hours on the weekends. **In your email, include your first and last name and that you are enrolled in Geography 1301.**

**Institutional/Course Policy:** Attendance is expected. Students are expected to attend all classes. Regular class attendance is necessary for maximum success in college. Please be on time and be prepared. You will be less prepared for exams if you miss lecture; you are responsible for obtaining class notes from those students who attended a lecture you missed.

**NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population's page on the NTCC website.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

## Tentative Course Timeline

GEOG 1301 Spring T/R Schedule		Assignment
21 Jan	Orientation. Introduction to Physical Geography	
23 Jan	Ch 1 Earth Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
28 Jan	Ch 2 Mapping	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>30 Jan</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
4 Feb	Ch 3 Solar Energy and Temperature	Read Ch; TR, QR
6 Feb	Ch 4 Pressure, Winds, and Circulation	Read Ch; TR, QR
11 Feb	Ch 5 Humidity and Condensation	Read Ch; TR, QR
13 Feb	Ch 5 Precipitation	Read Ch; TR, QR
18 Feb	Ch 6 Air Masses	Read Ch; TR, QR
20 Feb	Ch 6 Weather Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>25 Feb</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
27 Feb	Ch 7 Climate Classification	Read Ch; TR, QR
3 Mar	Ch 7 Tropical, Arid, and Temperate Climates	Read Ch; TR, QR
5 Mar	Ch 8 Continental, Polar, and Highland Climates	Read Ch; TR, QR
10 Mar	Ch 9 Biogeography and Soils	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>12 Mar</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	
<b>16-20 Mar</b>	<b>***** Spring Break *****</b>	
24 Mar	Ch 10 Earth Materials	Read Ch; TR, QR
26 Mar	Ch 10 Plate Tectonics	Read Ch; TR, QR
31 Mar	Ch 11 Volcanic and Tectonic Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
2 Apr	Ch 11 Volcanic and Tectonic Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
7 Apr	Ch 12 Weathering and Mass Wasting	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>9 Apr</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>	
14 Apr	Ch 13 Water Resources	Read Ch; TR, QR
8 Apr	Ch 14 Fluvial Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
16 Apr	Ch 15 Arid Region Landforms and Eolian Systems	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>21 Apr</b>	<b>Exam 5</b>	
23 Apr	Ch 16 Glacial Systems and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
28 Apr	Ch 16 Glacial Systems and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
30 Apr	Ch 17 Coastal Processes and Landforms	Read Ch; TR, QR
<b>5 May</b>	<b>Exam 6</b>	
<b>7 May</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

- TR = Terms for Review
- QR = Questions for Review
- Ch = Chapter