

Chemeketa Community College
4000 Lancaster Drive NE
PO Box 14007
Salem, Oregon 97309-7070

Course Outline

Course Identification GEG105 **Credits** 4 **Date** 5/05

Course Title: Physical Geography

Total Instructional Hours, for Course, per Term:

 33 Lecture Hours = 3 Credit(s)
 22 Laboratory Hours = 1 Credit(s)

Prerequisite Course(s):

None

Required Text(s):

McKnight and Hess, *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*, Current Edition,
plus lab manual to accompany text
Rand McNally, *Atlas of World Geography*, Current Edition

Course Description:

Focuses on the physical subsystems of the earth (atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere), with emphasis on human-environment relations. Includes basic map skills, latitude/longitude, weather, climate, biogeography, volcanism, erosion, and desert landscapes.

Performance Based Learner Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Locate important features on a map of North America or the world.
2. Identify the most important map elements and interpret information from a map.
3. Identify the significant lines of latitude and longitude and explain how they relate to the earth's changing seasons.
4. Differentiate the key characteristics of the world's major climate regions.
5. Employ the Koppen climate classification system to classify places in the proper climate category.
6. Diagram various atmospheric processes and explain how they operate.
7. Compare and contrast various land-shaping processes and describe how each alters the earth's surface.
8. Assess how a geographic perspective provides insight into understanding the earth's natural environment and apply that perspective to interpreting landscapes.

Course Content Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. The discipline of geography
 - B. The subfield of physical geography
- II. Map Reading (Limited Treatment)
 - A. Map interpretation
 - B. Map scale
- III. Geodesy
 - A. Earth-sun relationships
 - B. Latitude and longitude
 - C. Time zones
- IV. Climatology
 - A. Weather and climate
 - B. Air temperature
 - C. Atmospheric pressure and circulation
 - D. Atmospheric moisture and precipitation
 - E. Severe weather
 - F. Koppen climate classification
- V. Geomorphology
 - A. Internal processes (folding, faulting, volcanism)
 - B. External processes (weathering, gravity transfer, fluvial processes)
 - C. Desert landscapes
 - D. Coastal processes
 - E. Glacial landscapes
- VI. Vegetation (Limited Treatment)