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Geography (GEOG) 1510 Physical Geography (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Geography 1]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 and Math 1050 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog 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).

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: McKnight, Tom L. *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*. 11th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2013. Print.

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, a successful student will 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)

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I The Field of Geography: Content, Method, and Point of View
A. Geography and Science
B. Numbers and Measurement systems

Unit II The Earth: Shape, Planetary Relations, and Representation on Maps
A. Earth's Environmental Spheres
B. Earth and the Solar System

C. Earth-Sun Relations and the Seasons

Unit III The Tools of Geography

- A. Globes
- B. Maps and Map Essentials
- C. Map Construction
- D. The Systematic Concept of Geography
- E. The Regional Concept of Geography

Unit IV The Physical Elements of Geography

- A. The Elements of Weather and Climate
 - 1. Air temperature
 - 2. Atmospheric pressure and winds
 - 3. Atmospheric moisture and precipitation
 - 4. Air masses, fronts, and storms
- B. Climatic Types and Their Distribution
 - 1. The Koopen system of classification
 - 2. The tropical rainy climates (A)
 - 3. The dry climates (B)
 - 4. The humid mesothermal climates (C)
 - 5. The humid microthermal climates (D)
 - 6. The polar climates (E)
- C. Processes Concerned with the Origin of Landforms
 - 1. Earth materials and the tectonic processes
 - 2. The agents and processes of gradation
- D. Landforms
 - 1. Plains
 - 2. Plateaus
 - 3. Hill lands
 - 4. Mountains
 - 5. Physical regions of the United States
- E. Earth Resources
 - 1. Water resources
 - 2. Vegetation cover and animal life
 - 3. The nature and classification of soils

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Completing required reading
3. Written work

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture-Discussion periods
2. Exercises in the construction and utilization of maps
3. Frequent use of visual teaching materials
4. Written and oral studies of selected topics in physical geography

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Unit tests including:
 - a. multiple choice
 - b. matching
 - c. true or false
 - d. essay
2. Outside reports
3. Chapter quizzes

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220600: Geography
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable

Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	NO
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSB1: CSU Area B1 IG5A: IGETC Area 5A LNS: Local GE Natural Science