

Montgomery County Community College  
GEO 135  
Physical Geography  
3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This introduction to the science of physical geography describes the patterns of natural features on the earth. Topics will include location, landforms, hydrology, weather, climates, biological regions and human-environment interactions.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- MAT 011 Beginning Algebra or MAT 011B Beginning Algebra with Review of Arithmetic with a minimum grade of "C"

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Display a general knowledge of important locations.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Topographic Map Interpretation	Maps Written Examinations Location Quizzes
2. Interpret thematic and topographic maps.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Topographic Map Interpretation	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments
3. Apply the scientific method.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Explain the processes which shape patterns of landforms.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Topographic Map Interpretation	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments
5. Explain the distributions of landforms, climates and ecosystems on the earth.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments
6. Explain systems of sunlight, weather, climate, vegetation and soils visible on the earth's surface.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments
8. Identify regional natural resources and limitations for human activity.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments
9. Relate natural spatial patterns to their daily lives.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Maps Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Topographic Map Interpretation	Maps Written Examinations Written Assignments

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Course Introduction
2. Topographic Maps
3. The Earth Size, Structure & Shape
4. Plate Tectonic Theory
5. Diastrophic Landforms
6. Volcanic Landforms
7. Tectonic Risks & Resources
8. Weathering
9. Wasting

10. Ground Water
11. Fluvial Systems
12. Glacial Landscapes
13. The Ocean Basin
14. Coastal Landforms
15. Desert Landforms
16. Earth-Sun Geometry
17. Atmosphere and Radiation
18. Air Temperature and Pressure
19. Winds
20. Moisture
21. Weather
22. Climates
23. Ecosystems
24. Soils
25. Forests and Forestry
26. Parklands and Grasslands
27. Other Biomes

#### LEARNING MATERIALS:

Gabler, Robert E., et al. (2009). *Essentials of Physical Geography* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Saunders College Publishing.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

#### COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Debbie Levin	Date: 9/1998
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: B. Gottfried	Date: 12/3/1998
Revised by: Wayne Brew and Samuel Wallace	Date: 4/2010
Revised by: Samuel Wallace	Date: 4/2011
Interim VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 5/17/2011
Revised by: Samuel Wallace	Date: 6/25/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 9/3/2012
Revised by: Samuel Wallace	Date: 5/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 5/28/2013
Revised by: Samuel Clay Wallace	Date: 11/26/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/4/2017

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. F. W. S.", located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*