



COURSE OUTLINE : GEOG 101
D Credit – Degree Applicable
COURSE ID 004077
Cyclical Review: October 2018
Revision: September 2021

COURSE DISCIPLINE : GEOG

COURSE NUMBER : 101

COURSE TITLE (FULL) : Physical Geography

COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Phys Geog

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM C-ID : GEOG 110 – Introduction to Physical Geography

ACADEMIC SENATE DISCIPLINE: Geography

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

GEOG 101 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).

Total Lecture Units:3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours:54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours:

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 100 or ESL 151.



ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	Read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories to identify topic, thesis, support, transitions, conclusion, audience, and tone;	Yes
2	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories for the comprehension of difficult content and the identification of main ideas and (topic-based) evidence;	Yes
3	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate student compositions for unity, development, use of evidence, interpretation, coherence, and variety of sentence form;	Yes
4	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write a summary of a contemporary article or story with correct citation techniques;	Yes
5	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, demonstrating a basic understanding of essay organization;	Yes
6	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that addresses the topic, is directed by a thesis statement, uses appropriate textual evidence, develops logical interpretations, and concludes with some compelling observations;	Yes
7	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that integrates the ideas of others (i.e., authors) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting with correct citation techniques;	Yes
8	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that generates novel ideas (those that add to the conversation rather than repeating the author's ideas) related to the topic and the readings;	Yes
9	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write compositions (e.g., summaries and argumentative essays) that are easy to read and follow, though some errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or diction may exist;	Yes
10	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	proofread and edit essays for content, language, citation, and formatting problems.	Yes
11	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	Read and critically analyze various academic readings;	Yes
12	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	summarize readings;	Yes
13	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	organize fully-developed essays in both expository and argumentative modes;	Yes



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14	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	compose a 500 to 550-word essay which: summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage; includes a clear thesis statement; uses evidence to support the thesis; shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion;	Yes
15	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	revise writing to eliminate errors in syntax, and grammatical constructions;	Yes
16	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	employ basic library research techniques;	Yes
17	ESL	151	Reading and Composition V	compose one research paper (1,000 words) or two short research papers (500-700 words each) with citations.	Yes

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 Identify the importance of solar energy to the earth system and its resulting effects on weather, climate, hydrology, and other external earth processes;
- 2 assess the complex interactions between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere;
- 3 describe the interaction between human activities and these earth spheres.
- 4 explain the earth’s place in space and the complex interactions between the earth and sun;
- 5 evaluate the functions of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere including internal and external earth processes and their impact on landforms.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 differentiate between the complex interactions among the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere;
- 2 critically assess the impact of human activities upon these earth spheres including climate change;
- 3 explain the spatial aspects of the world's biophysical environment.

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Introduction to Geography • The nature of geography • The geographical viewpoint	1	0	1



2	<p>Earth-Sun Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth's place in space and geometry • The motions and positions of the earth in space • Revolution • Rotation • Orientation in space • The seasons • Solstices • Equinoxes • Latitude, Longitude and Time Zones 	3	0	3
3	<p>The Geographical Aspects of Weather and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The composition of the atmosphere • The structure of the atmosphere • The elements of weather • Solar radiation • The nature of solar radiation • The reception of solar radiation at the outer boundary of the earth's atmosphere • The passage of solar radiation through the earth's surface • The reception of solar radiation at the earth's surface • The geographical distribution of solar radiation at the earth's surface • Air temperature • The absorption of terrestrial radiation in the earth's atmosphere • The greenhouse effect • The geographical distribution of air temperature • Atmospheric moisture and precipitation • The phases of water • Humidity • Condensation processes • Precipitation processes • The geographical distribution of precipitation • Atmospheric pressure and wind • Geographical distribution of pressure • Relation of wind to pressure • The earth's surface winds • Local winds • Air masses and cyclonic storms • Air masses and fronts • Atmospheric disturbances 	18	0	18



4	The Geographical Aspects of Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The modified Köppen classification of climate • Tropical climates • Dry climates • Mesothermal climates • Microthermal climates • Polar climates • Highland climates 	6	0	6
5	Natural Vegetation and Characteristic Fauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls on vegetation and fauna • The world’s major biomes • Geographical distribution of biomes • Some key historical migrations of fauna 	4	0	4
6	The Geographical Aspect of Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors of soil formation • Characteristics of soil • Soil classes • Geographical distribution of soils 	2	0	2
7	The Geographical Aspects of Landforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal structure of the earth • Plate tectonics • Endogeneous energy in the creation of landforms • Diastrophism • Plate tectonics • Exogeneous energy in the creation of landforms • Weathering of rock • Gradation of running water • Gradation by glaciers • Gradation by ocean waves • Gradation by wind • Gradation by mass wasting 	20	0	20
				54

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 creating content in preparation for in-class group presentations (e.g., create PowerPoint presentation on Los Angeles weather);
- 2 research and writing assignment addressing a topic relative to the course content (e.g., essay explaining the impacts of climate change);
- 3 online lessons completed with approved LMS (e.g., online lesson on atmospheric layers).



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METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 unit quizzes and exams;
- 2 mid-term exams:
- 3 research papers (e.g., paper exploring the effects of climate change on Los Angeles);
- 4 student presentations (e.g., group presentation on local weather observations);
- 5 student projects (e.g., research poster on post-fire debris flows);
- 6 online assignments (e.g., online lesson on earth’s atmospheric layers);
- 7 final examination.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
McKnight’s Physical Geography	Required	Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall	12	Print	Hess, Darrel	9780134195421	2017