

**GEOG 1301**  
**Physical Geography**

**Western Texas College**  
**Department of Social Science**

- I. Basic Course Information
  - A. Course Description: This course introduces students to the processes that drive Earth's physical systems. Students will explore the relationships among these physical systems, with emphasis on weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development, and human interactions with the physical environment.
  - B. Prerequisites: Students should have a proficiency in reading.
- II. Student Learning Outcomes
  - A. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth's physical systems and processes.
  - B. Describe and explain the processes of Earth's physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development.
  - C. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth's physical systems.
  - D. Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth's physical systems.
- III. Major Course Requirements
  - A. Exams: There will be Five or Six Exams for the semester and questions may include any or all of the following: multiple choices fill in the blanks, short answer, maps, graphs, and essay.
  - B. Special Projects and map activities: There will be fifteen to twenty projects involving observing and recording weather phenomenon, creating and interpreting maps, graphing demographic data and reporting observations involving human behavior. Also included in this portion of the grade is the oral report on Traditional Cultures mentioned above.
  - C. Class Participation: This grade will be determined by how well and how positively the student contributes to class discussion.
- IV. Information on Books and Other Course Materials
  - A. Pidwirny, Michael. Fundamentals of Physical Geography (2nd ed). Only available from : [www.physicalgeography.net](http://www.physicalgeography.net) (This is an E-Text and Free).
- V. Other Policies: Please refer to the WTC Course [Catalog](#) for the following:
  - A. Campus Calendar
  - B. Final Exam schedule
  - C. How to drop a class
  - D. Withdrawal information

- E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
  - F. Students with disabilities.
- VI. Course Organization & Tentative Schedule\*

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Topics</b>                               | <b>Readings</b> |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| Week 1      | Introduction to the discipline of geography | Chapter 1       |
| Week 2      | Continued Introduction to geography         | Chapter 1       |
| Week 3      | Techniques of Geographic Analysis           | Chapter 2       |
| Week 4      | System Theory                               | Chapter 4       |
| Week 5      | The Gaia Hypothesis                         | Chapter 5       |
| Week 6      | Energy and Matter                           | Chapter 6       |
| Week 7      | Introduction to the Atmosphere              | Chapter 7       |
| Week 8      | Continuation regarding the Atmosphere       | Chapter 7       |
| Week 9      | Introduction to the Hydrosphere             | Chapter 8       |
| Week 10     | Continuation regarding the Hydrosphere      | Chapter 8       |
| Week 11     | Introduction to the Biosphere               | Chapter 9       |
| Week 12     | Continuation regarding the Biosphere        | Chapter 9       |
| Week 13     | Introduction to the Lithosphere             | Chapter 10      |
| Week 14     | Continuation regarding the Lithosphere      | Chapter 10      |
| Week 15     | Review                                      |                 |
| Week 16     | Final Exam                                  |                 |

\*Disclaimer: The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Last Modified: August 31, 2017