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| **GEOG 1301.082TR - Physical Geography**  **Course Syllabus:** Spring 1 – 8 Week – (January 16 – March 8, 2024) example: Fall 2011 | | | | | | |
| ***“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”***  **Instructor: Jeff Isom, Associate Professor**  **Office:** Online  **Phone:** Online  **Email:** jisom@ntcc.edu | | | | | | |
| **Office Hours** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Online** |
|  | Online | Online | Online | Online | Online | Online |

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.***

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours. Online. Three hours of class each week.  
An introductory survey course emphasizing the function of geophysical systems, and ways in which the physical environment integrates with global human activity, both directly and indirectly. These influences act through climate, landforms, soils, and vegetation.

**Prerequisite:** none

# Student Learning Outcomes:

# By the completion of Physical Geography, the students will:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth’s physical systems and processes.
* Describe and explain the processes of Earth’s physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth’s physical systems.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth’s physical systems.

# Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the following scale:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

59% and below = F

Incomplete grades will only be given under special conditions upon consultation with the instructor prior to final exams. If an incomplete grade is given, the remaining coursework must be completed within a specified period, usually six weeks from the end of the semester. If the work is not completed within the given time the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Required Instructional Material**: Cengage: MindTap Earth Sciences, 1 term (6 months) Instant Access for Textbook Petersen/Sack/Gabler’s Physical Geography, 12th Edition, ISBN: 9780357142547

This class is participating in Inclusive Access provided by the NTCC Bookstore. A discounted textbook fee has been applied to your student billing account, **no additional purchase** for this textbook requirement is necessary. This includes your required MindTap materials and access to your E-book textbook.

To register for your MindTap course materials, you simply need to go to Blackboard and the first MindTap assignment and register. No access code is needed this semester. Please use your NTCC email to register to help tech support should you have any trouble in the course.

You will be given the opportunity to opt out of these materials, but you will NOT be able to successfully complete this course without internet and MindTap Access.

**Instructional Materials:** Instructor Handouts and Websites (URL) via Blackboard

# Minimum Technology Requirements: You must have access to a computer and internet to take this course.

# Required Computer Literacy Skills: Ability to use Blackboard and Microsoft Office programs, which are provided free to all enrolled NTCC students.

# Course Structure and Overview: The primary objective is for you to describe how the physical geography of a region can be unique yet also share many qualities with other regions. Although you will learn the locations of key places and landforms to become globally aware citizens, this course’s objective is not to promote or reward memorization but to instill a deeper understanding of our Environmental Systems. The purpose of this course is to provide a geographical context for natural events, to make spatial connections, and to understand the importance of geographical contexts in our everyday lives. By the end of this course, you should be able to read and synthesize maps as well as comprehend the natural hazards and changes of the Earth system that occur daily across the globe.

# Weekly Modules are used within Blackboard, accompanied by the Textbook publisher’s Cengage MindTap website. Students will complete various assignments for each assigned chapter (module). Students will read textbook chapters and answer questions on the reading with assignments, exercises, and quizzes listed in Blackboard/ MindTap, Participate in Discussion threads on Blackboard, and complete Topic “case study” assignments.

# Grades are based on completion of each module by DUE DATE. Late assignments are penalized 10%.

# Communication: Direct email is the best way to communicate with Professor. In your email, include your first and last name and the geography course you are enrolled in ( GEOG 1301-Physical Geography).

**Faculty-student interaction and student-student interaction –**

Online Class Discussion – Periodic Class discussion, ranging from informal discussions to organized discussion topics will be an important part of the class. It is vital that the students **participate** in the discussions to receive the maximum benefit from the course. Students will be expected to participate in discussions based on instructor-initiated questions, using the Discussion Board function of Blackboard. Critical comments from the instructor on student responses to discussion questions will be delivered as private emails and not posted to the Discussion Board. The instructor will periodically ‘intervene’ in the Discussion Board to re-direct, correct, or elaborate on the interactive class discussions. Discussion scores are posted on the Blackboard site according to an appropriately time schedule to give students clear indication of their progress. Discussion Topics will be on relevant Current Events of the Topics we are studying.

**Expectations and Feedback –** Occasional Instructor Announcements are posted on the Blackboard course site to remind students of certain due dates, changes, discussions topics, and any new course material provided via the course Blackboard site. The instructor will provide email feedback as needed to students concerning the completion and assessed quality of written assignments, and quizzes. Quizzes, Discussions, and Exercise scores are posted on the Blackboard site according to an appropriately time schedule to give students clear indication of their progress. Additional student-instructor interaction will be available via email or through appointment only.

**Contact Professor via NTCC Email with any questions/concerns. One-on-One meetings such as Zoom, Telephone, can be arranged with a scheduled time/date.**

# NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

# ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population’s page on the NTCC website[.](http://www.ntcc.edu/index.php?module=Pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=111&pid=1)

# Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered “eligible students.” In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child’s college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as “directory information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.