Geog 1301 Physical Geography

Course Syllabus: Fall 2020

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	none	none	none	none	none	ONLINE

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Catalog Course Description (include prerequisites): 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.

Required Textbook(s):
Lehr, Paul E., R. Will Burnett, and Herbert Zim. Weather.

Golden Guide, St. Martin's Press: New York, 1985. isbn 1-58238-159-3

Rhodes, Frank H.T. Geology. Golden Guide, St. Martin's Press: New York, 1991. isbn 1-58238-143-7

Tomikel, John. Earth Processes and Environments. Allegheny Press: Elgin, PA, 2000. isbn 0910042-80-2 [primary textbook-provided ONLINE in Blackboard as PDF]

Publisher: St. Martin's Press

ISBN Number: see above and below

Recommended Reading(s):
Zim, Herbert, et. al. Rocks, Gems and Minerals. Golden Guide, St. Martin's Press: New York, 2001. isbn 1-58238-132-1

Adams, George F. and Jerome Wyckoff. Landforms. Golden Press: New York, 1971.

Alexander, Taylor R. and George S. Fichter. Ecology. Golden Press: New York, 1973.

Young, Allen M. Tropical Rainforests. Golden Guide, St. Martin's Press: New York, 2001. isbn 1-58238-080-5

Voss, Gilbert L. Oceanography. Golden Press: New York, 1972.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

Exemplary Educational Objectives:
N/A

SCANS Skills:
N/A

Lectures & Discussions:
The course content will be taught seven thematic units. Each unit will involve reading of the primary texts (the reading chapters and assigned pages will be noted in the class schedule), class lectures in PowerPoint, and discussions, and analysis of videos and/or websites.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:
Discussion Exercises: There will be four discussion exercises in the course—each will be worth up to 50 points credit. Failure to turn in exercises will result in the loss of two letter grades as the discussions count 20% of the potential class credit.

Assessment of Student Performance: Seven examinations will be administered via Blackboard—an ONLINE learning format. Generally the Blackboard site will be available from networked home computers as well as school computers and labs. Students will need to establish a working account in Blackboard. You will receive instructions. One significant benefit of this system is that students will have the opportunity to complete practice exams prior to taking actual examinations for credit. The highest six exam scores will be averaged with the final examination to produce the final cumulative exam grade. Additionally there will be four discussion exercises where students post original essays to forums in Moodle class site. Each will be worth 50 points for a total potential discussion credit of up to 200 points. Utilizing the above criteria, the highest total points earned will be 1000 points.

Tests/Exams:
The course is made up of seven units. For each unit content is provided. Each unit will have a practice exam (two attempts available). Students should take these to prepare for the actual exam. The practice exam scores will not count in the final grading. Each of the units below has a 100-point examination associated with it. Additionally there will be a comprehensive final in the last days of the term. Collectively, exams will count x/800 points or 80% of the course grade.

Unit One: Earth Origins & Characteristics
Unit Two: Lithosphere
Unit Three: Hydrosphere

Unit Four: Ice and Glaciation
Unit Five: Atmospheric Processes
Unit Six: The Biosphere or the Ecosphere
Unit Seven: Man and Nature, Hazards & Global Warming
Final Comprehensive Exam (200 points)

Assignments:
In addition to textual readings, there will be posted websites and video links. Notes on most of the videos will be provided. Students should study these materials. There will also be four 50-point graded discussion exercises in the course. Discussions will constitute x/200 points, or 20% of the course grade. See schedule for details.

Other Course Requirements:
Every term a new course schedule will be posted in the course Blackboard site. It will show the dates when examinations and assignments are due. Please make a copy and familiarize yourself with the content.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:
Students are expected to print a copy of the course current schedule (posted in the Blackboard site every term) and to be familiar with the course syllabus. They are expected to keep up with the readings, view the video and web links, take the practice exams, and to take the examinations in a timely manner as outlined in the course schedule. Students are also expected to participate in the discussion exercises by conducting the necessary research and posting their original reflections (generally one page) in the appropriate discussion forum. They are expected to communicate with the instructor via the courses internal e-mail when they have questions and concerns.

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:
"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

Academic Ethics
The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

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 arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

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.

Other Course Policies:

Assessment of Student Performance: Seven unit examinations, and a comprehensive 200 point final examination will be administered via Blackboard—an ONLINE learning format. Generally the Blackboard site will be available from networked home computers as well as school computers and labs. Students will need to establish a working account in Blackboard. You will receive instructions. One significant benefit of this system is that students will have the opportunity to complete practice exams prior to taking actual examinations for credit. The highest six exam scores will be averaged with the final examination to produce the final grade. Utilizing the above criteria, the highest total points earned will be 800 points.

Attendance: Blackboard records when you log into the site. I will have a record of your participation and your scores on exams and practice exams.

Grading: Based on the above criteria, the grades will be computed as follows:

720-800 points	90-100%	A
640-719 points	80-89%	B
560-639 points	70-79 %	C
480-559 points	60-69%	D
0-479 points	under 59.9%	F