I. INTRODUCTION

A. The geographic knowledge of the typical American is much less than that of nearly any other educated citizen anywhere else in the developed world. Geographic knowledge about our world is an essential skill for both the multinational business community and the ordinary voting citizen. We cannot afford to be geographically ignorant.

Geography presents the opportunity for the student to learn about and understand the physical world that surrounds him or her. Hopefully, the student will gain a broader perspective of his or her environment, seeing and understanding things which perhaps had been unnoticed before.

Geography is also about people and about their interaction with the environment. People are different because of the ways in which they have adapted to their physical world. Differences are not just in appearance, but also in the perceptions which people have of their world and their neighbors, their values, their beliefs, their needs, and their desires.

B. This course may satisfy the humanities and/or the Social/Behavioral requirement for many degree programs at various colleges and universities. This course may or may not transfer to a given college or university. The student has the responsibility to determine whether this course will be accepted at their target institution.

C. This course is occupationally related and it serves as preparation for careers in teaching, the social sciences, government service, business, and perhaps other fields as well.
II. OVERALL OR GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, Introduction to Geography, the student will be able to:

A. Locate on world and area maps the emphasized spatial relationships and arrangements. (C3, C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F8, F9, F10, F11, F13)

B. Identify and describe the properties, features, and materials of the Earth and its atmosphere, summarizing various important relationships. (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11, F12)

C. Explain the impact of humanity on the physical environment, and relate how the physical environment affects humanity. (C5, C6, C7, C15, F1, F2, F3, F5, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12)

D. Identify and explain the essential elements of culture. (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11)

E. Describe the distribution of humanity and infer the significance of their distribution. (C5, C6, C7, C15, F1, F5, F7, F10, F11, F12)

F. Distinguish and compare the various forms of human geographical interactions. (C5, C6, C7, C15, F1, F5, F7, F10, F1, F12)

G. Identify and discuss current world problems in the light of geographical perspectives. (C5, C6, C7, C15, F1, F2, F5, F8, F11, F12)

H. Analyze a region of the world and summarize its overall geographic attributes. (C5, C6, C7, C15, F1, F5, F7, F10, F11, F12)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

B. Supplemental handouts and readings as selected or prepared by your instructor.

C. Various and sundry selected audio-visual materials.
IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Your primary responsibility is to function as a college student, interested in putting forth the effort required to earn a passing grade in Introduction to Geography. You are to put into use all your learning skills, which have been acquired from past and present educational experiences, in order to carry out this requirement.

B. The syllabus contains the course outline, which breaks down the course into units. Your instructor will probably give you a schedule which will break down each unit into lecture days and reading assignments for that lecture. Reading assignments should be done prior to coming to lecture.

C. Each lecture is not self-contained. You may expect that basic concepts presented at the beginning of the course will be built upon day by day, added to, expanded upon, etc., so that with time you will have both specific and overall understandings. It is important to link together each piece in an attempt to achieve the comprehensive realizations which are essential to this course. Participation in class discussions is strongly suggested, and occasionally mandatory as it is an integral part of the course.

D. You are expected to maintain good class notes, since any materials discussed in class may be included on exams. Pay particular attention to those items that are stressed or emphasized. The text should be available for use and reference in class.

E. Regular attendance is essential for passing the course. Please consult the appropriate Central Texas College handbooks and catalogs for further information. The Board of Trustees has established specific guidelines; but, in general, excessive absences will result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of "F."

F. Talk with your instructor if you have questions about anything in lecture, or if you wish to ask about something that interests you. As with any social science course, not everything is necessarily factual. Much is open to interpretation and perhaps disagreement. Discussion and disagreements are welcomed as long as such are backed up with facts, not emotion. Communication must be two-way. Please be advised that your instructor may not necessarily subscribe to or believe any or all ideas or statements made in class.
V. EXAMINATIONS

Four hourly lecture exams are given during the semester. The final exam may NOT be missed. Make-up exams, if given at all, will only be given under extremely restrictive circumstances.

Unit Exam #1 100 Points
Unit Exam #2 100 Points
Unit Exam #3 100 Points
Unit Exam #4 100 Points
Final Exam 200 Points

Total lecture points 600 Points

Lecture exams will use the following types of questions, but not all types may be present on any given exam: true-false, multiple choice, matching, fill-ins, short essay-discussion, map location questions. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering the entire course.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

The final grade in GEOG 1300 is attained by adding together all points earned on all exams. The grade distribution scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>540-600</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480-539</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420-479</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360-419</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-359</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

A. Withdrawal from the Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund.
The withdrawal form must be signed by the student. Application for Withdrawal will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16-week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Length</th>
<th>Last Day to Withdraw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 8th week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 6th week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1/2 week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 4th week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W" provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application with the College before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" for nonattendance.

B. An Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

The following specific rules apply to absences: Each instructor shall keep a record of class attendance and shall determine when a student's absence is excused. An administrative withdrawal will be submitted when a student's absences exceed five class meetings. The instructor will note administrative withdrawals as the grade of "F Nonattendance" on the roll and record book. As a matter of policy, administrative excuses from classes are not provided for any reason. Regardless of the nature of the absence, students are responsible for completing all course work covered during any absence.

C. An Incomplete Grade: The College catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements for a course.... " Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of "I" is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.

D. Students are required to be in class on time.

E. Americans With Disabilities ACT (ADA): Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This
service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

G. ** Civility:** Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is, be respectful, and show civility to those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Minimal civility includes:

- Being in class on time.
- Staying in class for the entire class period.
- Informing the instructor prior to class that an unavoidable conflict requires your early departure from class, and thereafter positioning yourself close to the exit so that your departure causes a minimum disruption or distraction.
- Avoiding such uncivil conduct as talking, sleeping, reading papers or magazines, or working on some assignment which is not directly pertinent to the learning situation at hand; and
- Using socially acceptable language in classroom discussions and elsewhere in learning situations.

Additionally your instructor requires you to take personal responsibility for your actions.

H. The following specific rules apply to absences. Each instructor shall keep a record of class attendance. An administrative withdrawal **may** be submitted when a student’s absences exceed four (4) class meetings. The instructor will note administrative withdrawals as the grade of “F Non-attendance” on the roll and record book. As a matter of policy, administrative excuses from classes are not provided for any reason. Regardless of the nature of the absence, students are responsible for completing all course work covered during any absence.

I. For complete information consult the College Catalog and Student Handbook.
VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

A. **Unit One:** The Earth Science Tradition of Geography

1. **Unit Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Identify and discuss the themes of geography.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   b. Explain the importance of maps in geography.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   c. Identify the Earth's surface materials and discuss Earth's processes. (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   d. Identify the characteristics of the atmosphere and discuss their impact on the Earth and humanity.  
      (C3, C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F8, F9, F11, F13, F16)
   e. Locate assigned geographical features of the Earth's surface.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. Read the related text materials prior to the lecture  
   b. Lecture on topics  
   c. Discussion of selected topics and concepts  
   d. View, hear, and use selected audio-visual materials.

3. **Unit Outline:**

   a. Introduction  
      1. What is Geography  
      2. Evolution of the discipline  
      3. Some core geographic concepts  
      4. Geography's themes and standards  
      5. Organization of this book  
   b. Maps  
      1. Maps as the tools of geography  
      2. Locating points on a sphere  
      3. Map projections  
      4. Scale  
      5. Types of maps  
      6. Geographic information technologies  
      7. Integrating technology; geographic information systems  
   c. Physical Geography: Landforms  
      1. Earth materials  
      2. Geologic time  
      3. Movements of the continents  
      4. Tectonic forces  
      5. Gradational processes  
      6. Landform regions
B. **Unit Two**: The Atmosphere, Natural Resources and Population

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit the student will be able to:
   
a. Identify the characteristics of the atmosphere and discuss their impact on the Earth and humanity.  
   (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11)
   
b. Describe the factors that determine climate and discuss their impact on the Earth.  
   (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11)
   
c. Relate resources and geography to human needs and aspirations.  
   (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11)
   
d. Discuss the distribution of humanity and world population trends.  
   (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F10, F11)
   
e. Locate assigned geographical features of the Earth's surface.  
   (C3, C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F8, F9, F10, F11, F13, F16)

2. **Learning Activities**:

   a. Read the related text materials prior to the lecture  
   b. Lecture on topics  
   c. Discussion of selected topics and concepts  
   d. View, hear, and use selected audio-visual materials.

3. **Unit Outline**:

   a. Physical Geography: Weather and Climate  
   1. Air temperature  
   2. Air pressure and winds  
   3. Ocean currents  
   4. Moisture in the atmosphere  
   5. Climate regions  
   6. Climate change
   
b. The Geography of Natural Resources  
   1. Resource terminology  
   2. Energy resources and industrialization  
   3. Nonrenewable energy resources  
   4. Renewable energy resources  
   5. Nonfuel mineral resources  
   6. Land resources  
   7. Resource management
   
c. Population Geography  
   1. Population growth  
   2. Population definitions  
   3. The demographic transition  
   4. The demographic equation  
   5. World population distribution
6. Population density  
7. Population data and projections  
8. Population controls  
9. Gender and culture

C. **Unit Three**: The Culture-Environment Tradition

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   
   a. Identify the factors that comprise culture.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)  
   b. Describe the various human interactions from a geographical perspective.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)  
   c. Discuss the impact of politics on culture.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)  
   d. Relate geography to global politics.  
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)  
   e. Locate assigned geographical features of the Earth’s surface.  
      (C3, C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F8, F9, F10, F11, F13, F16)

2. **Learning Activities**:
   
   a. Read the related text materials prior to the lecture  
   b. Lecture on topics  
   c. Discussion of selected topics and concepts  
   d. View, hear, and use selected audio-visual materials.

3. **Unit Outline**:
   
   a. Cultural Geography  
      1. Components of culture  
      2. Interaction of people and environment  
      3. Subsystems of culture  
      4. Cultural change  
      5. Cultural diversity  
      6. Language  
      7. Religion  
      8. Ethnicity  
      9. Gender and culture  
     10. Other aspects of diversity  
   
   b. Spatial Interaction  
      1. Definition of spatial interaction  
      2. Distance and spatial interaction  
      3. Barriers to interaction  
      4. Spatial interactions and innovation
5. Individual activity space
6. Diffusion and innovation
7. Spatial interaction and technology
8. Migration
9. Globalization

c. Political Geography
   1. National political systems
   2. Cooperation among states
   3. Local and regional political organizations

D. **Unit Four**: The Location Tradition

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the kinds of livelihoods and the various historical changes that have occurred to them.
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   b. Discuss the impact of human settlement on culture.
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   c. Describe the functions and problems of cities.
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F11)
   d. Describe the human impact upon the environment.
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F10)
   e. Discuss the regional concept and the unification of geographic perspectives.
      (C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F10, F11)
   f. Locate assigned geographical features of the Earth’s surface.
      (C3, C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F8, F9, F10, F1, F13, F16)

2. **Learning Activities**:

   a. Read the related text materials prior to the lecture
   b. Lecture on topics
   c. Discussion of selected topics and concepts
   d. View, hear, and use selected audio-visual materials

3. **Unit Outline**:

   a. Economic Geography
      1. The classification of economic activity and economics
      2. Primary activities: agriculture
      3. Other primary activities
      4. Trade in primary activities
      5. Secondary activities manufacturing
      6. Tertiary and beyond
      7. Services in world trade
b. An Urban World
   1. An urbanizing world
   2. Origins and evolution of cities
   3. Functions of cities
   4. Systems of cities
   5. Inside the city
   6. Global urban diversity

c. Human Impact on the Environment
   1. Ecosystems
   2. Impact on water
   3. Impact on air and climate
   4. Impact on landforms
   5. Impact on plants and animals
   6. Solid waste disposal

d. The Regional Concept
   1. The nature of regions
   2. Part I: Regions in the earth science tradition
   3. Part II: Regions in the culture-environment tradition
   4. Part III: Regions in the locational tradition.