CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
GEOG 1301
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
Semester Hours Credit: 3

INSTRUCTOR: ____________________

I. INTRODUCTION

A. 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. This course is occupationally related and it serves as preparation for careers in geography, teaching, aviation science, the earth sciences, the social sciences, hydrological sciences, urban planning, business, and perhaps other fields as well.

C. Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and empirical and quantitative skills.

- Critical thinking skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Social responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Empirical and quantitative skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

D. Prerequisite: None

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.

B. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

C. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

D. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATION
A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon:

1. Examinations
2. Written work
3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point/percentage-to-Grade Ratio</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;89-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;79-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;69-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;59-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;59</td>
<td>F</td>
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VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Course Withdrawal: It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from 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 a Central Texas College Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. Please refer to the current CTC catalog for specific withdrawal requirements and processes.

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

C. Incomplete Grade: an “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. 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.

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

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

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

Material from the following chapters will be covered during the semester. The specific material within each chapter and the ordering of the chapters will be at the instructor’s discretion.

A. Chapter 1: Essentials of Geography

B. Chapter 2: Solar Energy to Earth and the Seasons

C. Chapter 3: Earth’s Atmosphere

D. Chapter 4: Atmospheric Energy and Global Temperatures

E. Chapter 5: Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulations

F. Chapter 6: Water and Atmospheric Moisture

G. Chapter 7: Weather

H. Chapter 8: Water Resources

I. Chapter 9: Earth’s Climatic Regions

J. Chapter 10: Climate Change

K. Chapter 11: The Dynamic Planet

L. Chapter 12: Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism