

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Outline**

Course Prefix and Number: GEO 200

Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Geography

Course Description: Studies major elements of the natural environment, including earth-sun relationship, land forms, weather and climate, natural vegetation and soils. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites

Co-requisites: ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Understand the global energy budget and the role of atmospheric and oceanic circulation in redistributing solar energy.
- b. Understand how climate affects the formation and distribution of landforms.
- c. Understand how climate and soil types affect the distribution of life on Earth.
- d. Understand the role of disturbance and natural hazards in the global ecosystem.
- e. Understand and interpret complex materials.
- f. Weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted.
- g. Access needed information effectively and efficiently.
- h. Use logical and mathematical reasoning within the context of various disciplines.
- i. Reason by deduction, induction, and analogy.

Major Topics to Be Included: The course will cover the patterns of physical phenomena on the Earth's surface and the processes that create those patterns. These include:

1. Atmospheric phenomena: including Earth-sun relations, climate classification and weather phenomena;
2. Hydro-spherical phenomena: including characteristics of oceans, estuaries, rivers and lakes
3. Landforms: including the characteristics and distribution of characteristic features of the land surface
4. Soils: including the distribution of soil types
5. Bio-geographic phenomena: including patterns of plant and animal distributions and the factors that limit those distributions.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2006