I. GEO 102 Principles of Physical Geography II – 4 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

Physical Geography II is the second part of a two-part sequence. This course focuses on the student of natural landscapes. It is designed to provide students with a general introduction to the dynamic interrelationships between climate, soils, vegetation, geomorphic features, and underlying geology on the natural landscape.

III. Prerequisite

GEO 101

IV. Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V. Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the broad subject matter of physical geography through a survey of the natural landscape components.
2. To encourage students to develop an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of the natural landscape within the earth system.
3. To enhance an understanding of the spatial distributions associated with the physical features and processes which comprise the natural landscape.
4. To demonstrate the dynamic interaction between physical and human systems, especially those related to natural hazards.

VI. Course Outline of Topics

1. Introduction to Natural Landscape Study – Landscapes and Landforms, Physiography and Physiographic Realms, Gradational Forces and Tectonic Forces
2. Role of Climate in Natural Landscape Study – Climate Classification and Regionalization, Hypothetical Climate Model, Relationships between Biotic Systems and Global Climates
3. Role of Soils in Natural Landscape Study – Soil Formation, Processes, and Properties
4. Soil Classification and Regionalization
5. Role of Vegetation in Natural Landscape Study – Principal Terrestrial Biomes
6. Geologic Foundations in Natural Landscape Study – Major Rock Types, Rock (Geochemical) Cycle
7. Continental Drift – Plate Tectonics, lithosphere and Asthenosphere
8. Tectonic Landscape – Volcanism, Faulting and Folding, Earthquakes
9. Pacific Ring of Fire
10. Africa Rift Valley
11. San Andreas Fault
12. New Madrid Fault
14. Arid Landscapes – Climate, Vegetation, and Soils Associated with Arid Landscapes, Weathering, Wind as a Geoprophic Agent, Degradational and Aggradational Landforms
15. Glacial Landscapes – Climate, Vegetation, and Soils Associated with Glacial Landscapes, Late Cenozoic Ice Age, Selected Glacial Landforms
17. Physiography of North America – Regionalization of Climate, Vegetation, Soils and Landforms Across North America

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Written exams

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.
IX. **Statement on Discrimination/Harassment**

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

X. **Americans with Disabilities**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.