Physical Geography
Geography 105
Winter 2008 Syllabus
Walla Walla Community College

Instructor
- Frank Skorina
- Office in room 40, way in the back
- frank.skorina@wwcc.edu
- 527-4578 (w)
- 301-3839 (c)

Course Description
Physical geography is the study of the natural processes that shape the surface of
the Earth and life on it. Physical geography is key to understanding how Earth
functions. This course will cover the Earth-Sun relationship, atmosphere, weather,
climates, plant geography, soils, the internal Earth, tectonic processes, weathering,
groundwater, and glaciation. Location of data is important in physical geography so
maps will be used extensively. This course serves as an introduction to physical
processes that shape our environment.

Class Schedule
- Mondays, Room 225, 9:30 am – 10:20 am
- Tuesdays, Room 225, 9:30 am – 10:20 am
- Wednesdays, Room 225, 9:30 am – 11:20 am (labs)
- Thursdays, Room 218, 9:30 am – 10:20 am
- Fridays, Room 225, 9:30 am – 10:20 am
- No class on Monday, January 21 (Martin L. King Day)
- No class on Monday, February 18 (Presidents’ Day)
- No class on Wednesday, March 5 (Advising Day)
- Last class is on Tuesday, March 18
- Final exam is on Friday, March 21, Room 225, 9:30 am – 11:20 am

Required Materials
- Discovering Physical Geography, First Edition by Alan F. Arbogast

Accommodations
If you have a disability and need accommodations, please see the instructor after
class or contact Claudia Angus, Coordinator of Disability Support Services at 527-
4262.
Grading

- Homework, 0%
- Daily Reports, 10%
- Labs, 20%
- Quizzes, 15%
- Exams, 55%

Grade Table where $x$ is the percent of points earned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>$x$</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$\infty \geq x \geq 93$</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87 &gt; $x$ ≥ 83</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77 &gt; $x$ ≥ 73</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 &gt; $x$ ≥ 60</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 &gt; $x$ ≥ 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>87 &gt; $x$ ≥ 83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>77 &gt; $x$ ≥ 73</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>67 &gt; $x$ ≥ 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Homework

- Homework is not part of your grade.
- Don’t get your hopes up because near-daily work out of class will be required to get the most out of this class. This includes reading the chapters covered in class, studying for quizzes and tests, and completing the labs.

Daily Reports

- Your opportunity to give feedback and to ask questions pertaining to the class.
- Full credit for completed report with on-time attendance.
- Half credit for completed report with late attendance.

Labs

- Most Wednesdays
- Required participation
- Grade will be based on participation and/or a lab report.

Quizzes

- Some number of announced and unannounced quizzes
- Top 80% of the quizzes will count towards the grade.

Exams

- Three exams during the quarter
- One comprehensive final exam

Expectations

- Be engaged by attending and participating.
- Keep up with the material by reading and rereading the chapters and asking questions.
Weekly Schedule

Week #1, January 7 – January 11
Chapter 1 – Introduction to Physical Geography
Chapter 2 – The Geographers’ Tools

Week #2, January 14 – January 18
Chapter 3 – Earth-Sun Geometry and the Seasons

Week #3, January 21 – January 25
No class Monday, January 21
Chapter 4 – The Global Energy System
Chapter 5 – Global Temperature Patterns

Week #4, January 28 – February 1
**Exam #1** on Monday, January 28 (Chapters 1-5)
Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Pressure, Wind, and Global Circulation

Week #5, February 4 – February 8
Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
Chapter 8 – Air Masses and Cyclonic Weather Systems

Week #6, February 11 – February 15
Chapter 9 – Global Climates
**Exam #2** on Friday, February 15 (Chapters 6-9)

Week #7, February 18 – February 22
No class Monday, February 18
Chapter 10 – Plant Geography
Chapter 11 – The Global Distribution and Character of Soils

Week #8, February 25 – February 29
Chapter 12 – Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time
Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms

Week #9, March 3 – March 7
Chapter 14 – Weathering and Mass Movement
No class Wednesday, March 5
**Exam #3** on Friday, March 7 (Chapters 10-14)

Week #10, March 10 – March 14
Chapter 15 – Groundwater and Karst Landscapes
Chapter 16 – Fluvial Systems and Landforms

Week #11, March 17 – March 21
Chapter 17 – Glacial Geomorphology: Processes and Landforms
No classes Wednesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 20
**Final Exam** on Friday, March 21 (Chapters 1-17)

Disclaimer
Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time.