Physical Geography
Geography 105
Winter 2009 Syllabus
Walla Walla Community College

Instructor
- Frank Skorina
- Office 040, frank.skorina@wwcc.edu
- 527-4578 (w), 301-3839 (c), 527-4480 (fax)

Location
- Room 222, except Wednesdays (room 225)

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, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:30 am – 9:20 am
- Wednesdays, 8:30 am – **10:20 am** (LABS)
- No class on Monday, January 19 (MLK’s Day)
- No class on Monday, February 16 (Presidents’ Day)
- No class on Thursday, March 5 (Advising Day)
- Last class is on Tuesday, March 17
- Final exam is on Thursday, March 19, 8:30 am – 10:20 am

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, the Disabilities Coordinator at claudia.angus@wwcc.edu or 509-527-4543.
Grading
- Homework, 0%
- Daily Reports, 10%
- Labs, 15%
- Quizzes, 15%
- Exams, 15% each
- Grade Table where $x$ is the percent of points earned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$\infty \geq x \geq 93$</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>$93 &gt; x \geq 90$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>$87 &gt; x \geq 83$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>$83 &gt; x \geq 80$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>$77 &gt; x \geq 73$</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>$73 &gt; x \geq 70$</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>$67 &gt; x \geq 60$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>$60 &gt; x \geq -\infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>$90 &gt; x \geq 87$</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>$80 &gt; x \geq 77$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>$70 &gt; x \geq 67$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 5 – January 9
  Chapter 1 – Introduction to Physical Geography
  Chapter 2 – The Geographers’ Tools

Week #2, January 12 – January 16
  Chapter 3 – Earth-Sun Geometry and the Seasons

Week #3, January 20 – January 23
  No class Monday, January 19
  Chapter 4 – The Global Energy System
  Exam #1 on Friday, January 23 (Chapters 1-4)

Week #4, January 26 – January 30
  Chapter 5 – Global Temperature Patterns
  Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Pressure, Wind, and Global Circulation

Week #5, February 2 – February 6
  Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

Week #6, February 9 – February 13
  Chapter 8 – Air Masses and Cyclonic Weather Systems
  Exam #2 on Friday, February 15 (Chapters 5-8)

Week #7, February 17 – February 20
  No class Monday, February 16
  Chapter 12 – Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time
  Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms

Week #8, February 23 – February 27
  Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms

Week #9, March 2 – March 6
  Chapter 14 – Weathering and Mass Movement
  No class Thursday, March 5
  Exam #3 on Friday, March 6 (Chapters 12-14)

Week #10, March 9 – March 13
  Chapter 17 – Glacial Geomorphology: Processes and Landforms

Week #11, March 16 – March 20
  Review/Make-up
  No classes Wednesday, March 18
  Final Exam on Thursday, March 19 (Chapters 1-8,12-14,17)

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