Physical Geography
Geography 105
Winter 2012 Syllabus
Walla Walla Community College

Instructor
• Frank Skorina
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Location
• Room 107, except Tuesdays (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, flowing surface water, and landforms. 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, Wednesday, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9:30 am – 10:20 am
• Tuesdays, 9:30 am – 11:20 am (LABS)
• No class on Monday, January 16 (MLK’s Day)
• No class on Monday, February 20 (Presidents’ Day)
• No class on Wednesday, February 29 (Advising Day)
• Last class is on Tuesday, March 13
• Final exam is on Wednesday, March 14, 9:30 am – 11:20 am

Materials
• Discovering Physical Geography, First Edition by Alan F. Arbogast
• College Atlas of the World, Wiley/National Geographic, 2007 (optional)

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, 0/6th
• Labs, 1/6th
• Quizzes, 1/6th
• Exams, 1/6th each
• Final Exam, 1/6th

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$\infty \geq x \geq 93$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 &gt; x ≥ 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87 &gt; x ≥ 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83 &gt; x ≥ 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77 &gt; x ≥ 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73 &gt; x ≥ 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>70 &gt; x ≥ 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 &gt; x ≥ 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 &gt; x ≥ -\infty</td>
</tr>
</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.

Labs

• Most Tuesdays
• Required participation
• Grade will be based on participation and/or a lab report.

Quizzes

• Three or four times a week.
• Usually covers the previous day’s material.
• Graded out of 5.
• Approximately 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 2 – January 6
   No class Monday, January 2
   Chapter 1 – Introduction to Physical Geography
   Chapter 2 – The Geographers’ Tools
Week #2, January 9 – January 13
   Chapter 3 – Earth-Sun Geometry and the Seasons
Week #3, January 16 – January 20
   No class Monday, January 16
   Chapter 4 – The Global Energy System
   Exam #1 on Friday, January 20 (Chapters 1-4)
Week #4, January 23 – January 27
   Chapter 5 – Global Temperature Patterns
Week #5, January 30 – February 3
   Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Pressure, Wind, and Global Circulation
Week #6, February 6 – February 10
   Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
Week #7, February 13 – February 17
   Chapter 8 – Air Masses and Cyclonic Weather Systems (p188-193, 201-217)
   Exam #2 on Friday, February 17 (Chapters 5-8)
Week #8, February 20 – February 24
   No class Monday, February 20
   Chapter 12 – Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time
Week #9, February 27 – March 2
   Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms
   No class Wednesday, February 29
   Exam #3 on Friday, March 2 (Chapters 12-13)
Week #10, March 5 – March 9
   Chapter 15 – Fluvial Systems and Landforms
Week #11, March 12 – March 14
   Review/Make-up
   Final Exam on Wednesday, March 14 (Chapters 1-8, 12, 13, 15)

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