Physical Geography
Geography 105
Winter 2014 Syllabus
Walla Walla Community College

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

Location
- 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, 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, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10:30 am – 11:20 am
- Wednesday, 10:30 am – 12:20 am (LABS)
- No class on Monday, January 20 (MLK’s Day)
- No class on Monday, February 17 (Presidents’ Day)
- No class on Tuesday, February 25 (Advising Day)
- Last class is on Tuesday, March 18
- Final exam is on Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am – 12:20 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, 0/5th
- Labs, 1/5th
- Quizzes, 1/5th
- Exams, 1/5th each
- Final Exam, 1/5th
- Grade Table where x is the percent of points earned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>x range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>( \infty \geq x \geq 93 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90 &gt; x \geq 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>80 &gt; x \geq 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>70 &gt; x \geq 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87 &gt; x \geq 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77 &gt; x \geq 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 &gt; x \geq 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 &gt; x \geq 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83 &gt; x \geq 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73 &gt; x \geq 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 &gt; x \geq -\infty</td>
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</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 course. This includes reading the chapters covered in class, studying for quizzes and tests, and completing the labs.

Labs
- Most Wednesday
- 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
- Two 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 6 – January 10
Chapter 1 – Introduction to Physical Geography
Chapter 2 – The Geographers’ Tools

Week #2, January 13 – January 17
Chapter 3 – Earth-Sun Geometry and the Seasons

Week #3, January 20 – January 24
No class Monday, January 20
Chapter 4 – The Global Energy System

Week #4, January 27 – January 31
Exam #1 on Monday, January 27 (Chapters 1-4)
Chapter 5 – Global Temperature Patterns

Week #5, February 3 – February 7
Chapter 6 – Atmospheric Pressure, Wind, and Global Circulation

Week #6, February 10 – February 14
Chapter 7 – Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

Week #7, February 17 – February 21
No class Monday, February 17
Chapter 8 – Air Masses and Cyclonic Weather Systems (p188-193, 201-217)

Week #8, February 24 – February 28
Exam #2 on Monday, February 24 (Chapters 5-8)
No class Tuesday, February 25
Chapter 12 – Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time

Week #9, March 3 – March 7
Chapter 12 – Earth’s Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time
Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms

Week #10, March 10 – March 14
Chapter 13 – Tectonic Processes and Landforms
Chapter 14 – Weathering and Mass Movements

Week #11, March 17 – March 21
Last Class Tuesday, March 19
Final Exam on Thursday, March 20 (Chapters 1-8, 12-14)

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