Outline of Instruction

Division: Science/Mathematics  Area: Geography
Course Number: GEOG 151  Course Name: Essentials of Physical Geography
Prerequisite: RDG 090 and ENGL 090 and MATH 090 or qualifying scores on ACT or COMPASS tests
Corequisite: NONE

Hours Required: Class: 60  Lab: 0  Credits: 4 (four)

Course Description/Purpose
An introductory study of geography's physical elements. Topics include sun-earth relationships, maps, plate tectonics, climate, landforms, erosion, soils, rocks and minerals.

Major Units

• Representations of the Earth
  Geographic Grid system, time zones, and remote sensing

• Earth as a Planet
  Solar system, seasons, and geologic time

• Atmosphere
  Composition, heat transfer, moisture, and environmental issues

• Lithosphere
  Soils, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, igneous activity, earthquakes, weathering, and mass movement

• Hydrosphere
  Groundwater, oceans, glaciers, lakes, fluvial processes, and environmental issues

Educational/Course Outcomes
Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive  Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize . . .

• the environmental effects of the spherical earth’s rotation, revolution and locate places on a geographic grid, express locations in terms of latitude and longitude, and calculate global time;

• the significance of temperature variations and moisture content on the dynamics of the earth’s atmosphere and how these relate to the weather and climate distribution on the earth;

• the interrelationships existing between climate, soil, and vegetation;
Cognitive Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize. . . (continued)

- the structure and composition of the earth’s interior including the concept of plate tectonics and the role it plays in the occurrence of crustal movement, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, formation of mineral deposits, and the origin of the continents and the earth itself;

- and understand the processes originating from both, within and outside the earth’s surface primarily those that influence the development of the earth’s surface features (landforms);

- and classify the major groups of earth materials, tectonic activities, and geomorphic processes;

- the significance of soils, water and air as important natural resources;

- and use established systems of classification to the components making up the earth’s surface and the type of landforms.

Performance Each student will be expected to Demonstrate/Practice. . .

- and locate places on a geographic grid, express locations in terms of latitude and longitude, and calculate global time.

- the use of contour maps to identify types of landforms.