Syllabus for UWXGE100 Physical Geography and the Environment

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

Focus on concepts and processes that explain physical systems on Earth and the relationship between humans and their natural environment. Themes in Physical Geography include Earth/Sun relationships, weather dynamics, the biosphere (ecology, biomes, conservation), and the lithosphere (mountain-building, rocks, rivers, glaciers).

Students complete assignments in Canvas: assignments may be derived from textbook resources and instructor-created activities designed to better understand the natural world (such as weather patterns, rocks, soil properties or river dynamics) and how it applies to their daily life.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Analyze how Earth-Sun relations affect daylight, seasons, time, and humans.
- Find locations using the global grid of latitude and longitude.
- Interpret a weather map to predict the local temperature, humidity, pressure and wind conditions.
- Recognize the complexities involved in local weather patterns.
- Describe how Solar radiation effects Earth’s atmosphere/surface and human distribution.
- Relate the Global Atmospheric Circulation with wind systems and ocean currents.
- Differentiate weather and climate from region to region.
- Explain water in the atmosphere and processes of condensation, cloud formation, precipitation.
- Discuss hydrologic cycle in terms of surface water, soil moisture, groundwater, and water conservation.
- Identify landforms and rocks that relate to specific tectonic and rock cycle processes.

- Describe physical processes responsible for shaping landscapes due to water and ice.
- Explain soil development processes and the tools used in soil analysis.
- Classify vegetation on Earth according to their biomes.
- Describe the diversity in different ecosystems and the impact human activity has on those ecosystems.

Course Requirements/Components

Achieve Assignments (30%)

Chapter Learning Curve, Reading Assignment, Homework activities, Story Map Assignment

Short Answer/Essay Assignments (35%)

End of Lecture short quiz, Critical thinking essay questions, Assigned videos

Hands-On Assignments (35%)

NOAA webpage navigation, Rock Identification, Climate Graphs, Field Trip Assignment, Soil Collection activity

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range
A	93% - 100%
A-	90% - 92%
B+	87% - 89%
B	83% - 86%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	77% - 79%
C	73% - 76%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	67% - 69%
D	60% - 66%
F	59% and under