Bemidji State University

GEOG 2100: Introduction to Physical Geography

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 03 - Natural Science, Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course is designed for the core curriculum program and provides an introduction to spatial patterns derived from earth system processes. The course provides a systematic survey of landforms, weather and climate, soils and vegetation. This course utilizes a combination of in class discussion and laboratory-like exercises to investigate these topics. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 3 & 10.]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/23/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Basic components of space: location, scale, and sense of place
2. Philosophical tensions underlying geographic study
3. Geographic data analysis
4. Basic workings of a generalized climate system. (Patterns of seasonality, temperature, and precipitation)
5. Causal mechanisms and geographic patterns of natural hazards
6. Plate tectonic and geomorphic processes shaping landscape patterns
7. Biogeographic controls on the distribution of biodiversity

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. differentiate among the basic components of space: location, scale, and sense of place.
2. explain some of the philosophical tensions that underlie geographic study.
3. analyze and interpret basic geographic data.
4. describe the basic workings of a generalized climate system and the human-altered components.
5. discuss the processes that produce generalized patterns of seasonality, temperature, and precipitation.
6. identify the mechanisms that cause natural hazards and their geographic patterns of distribution.
7. define a wide range of tectonic and geomorphic processes shaping landscape patterns.
8. outline the basics of plant succession and the biogeographic controls on the distribution of biodiversity.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 03 - Natural Science

1. Demonstrate understanding of scientific theories.
2. Formulate and test hypotheses by performing laboratory, simulation, or field experiments in at least two of the natural science disciplines. One of these experimental components should develop, in greater depth, students' laboratory experience in the collection of data, its statistical and graphical analysis, and an appreciation of its sources of error and uncertainty.
3. Evaluate societal issues from a natural science perspective, ask questions about the evidence presented, and make informed judgments about science-related topics and policies.

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted