

GEOGRAPHY 101
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

REQUIRED TEXTS: INTRODUCING PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY 4th ed.
by STRAHLER and STRAHLER
GEOLOGIC MAP OF MONTANA

This course presents an introduction to the Earth's physical geographical features. These features are the Earth's structural and erosional processes, surface and ground water processes, ocean processes, and atmospheric processes. The course presents a study of these processes, how they affect man and how man affects them.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the concepts underlying the Earth's structural and erosional processes.
2. To understand the concepts underlying the Earth's water processes.
3. To understand the concepts underlying the Earth's ocean processes.
4. To understand the concepts underlying the Earth's atmospheric processes.

COURSE CONTENT:

Sept. 10

WEATHER and CLIMATES

chapters 1-7

The universe, Earth-Sun relationships, Composition & structure of the atmosphere, Radiation & heat balance, Surface temperatures. Air pressure & winds, Atmospheric circulation patterns Hydrosphere, Precipitation air masses & fronts, weather systems, forecasting, Climate classifications, A&B climates, C climates, D&E climates, climatic changes and impacts, global ecosystems.

OCTOBER 8 TEST 1 covering chapters 1-7

OCT. 13

EARTH MATERIALS

chapters 10-14

Soils, earth's interior, Rocks & minerals, Plate tectonics, Volcanism, Earthquakes, weathering and mass wasting, fresh water on the continents.

OCT. 29 TEST 2 covering chapters 10-14

NOV. 3

LANDFORMS

chapters 15-18

landforms made by running water, rock structures, waves and wind, glaciers.

Dec. 8 TEST 3 chapters 15-18

DEC. 10 MAKE UP EXAMS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must complete all exams and quizzes. A series of three unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. A missed quiz cannot be made up.

GRADING:

Assessed Outcomes: Exams will be structured to test the students critical thinking abilities concerning the Geographical concepts outlined in the course objectives and to solve geographical problems.

Each exam will be scored on the basis of the percentage of correct answers. The percentage correct from all exams will be averaged to arrive at a final course grade according to the scale below. The percentage correct on the three quizzes will count as a fourth exam score.

85-100	A
70-84	B
55-69	C
41-54	D
0-40	

Exam and quiz questions will cover materials presented in lectures and reading assignments.

Students involved in cheating will receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Absences on exam days will result in a grade of zero for that exam except under the following conditions: (1) family emergency, (2) medical reasons. These exceptions must be accompanied by an excuse approved by the dean of students office. Make up exams will be scheduled on the last regular class meeting of the semester.

Under no conditions will exams be given prior to the scheduled exam dates.

If you are a student that needs assistance with your exam because of a handicap, please let me know so that we can jointly arrange a specialized procedure with Student Support Services.

Electronic devices: Calculators and tape recorders are allowed. Cell phones are not to be used as they are disrupting to other students. Please turn cell phones off during class periods.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Thomas Zwick

OFFICE: science building room 212

PHONE: 657-2028

OFFICE HOURS: please make an appointment for all office hours