

GEOG 102 Geography and Our Planetary Environment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory course in the study of the landscape of the earth. We introduce the basic principles of physical geography, identify some of the major geographical questions of current research, and provide a framework for future study. We reach beyond the simple idea that physical geography is knowledge of the names of landforms and places. We wish to understand the formative processes and how they have significance for human habitation of the planet.

The place names are the vocabulary. In this course we begin to construct the syntax of physical geography – how these places and features are linked together by processes, energy flow and mass flow.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The major objective of this course is to understand the linkage between all of the physical components of the planet system, how humans are affected by geographical processes, and how humans can modify geographic processes, either intentionally or unintentionally.

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE THE STUDENT WILL ACHIEVE A BASIS TO:

1/ understand the principles of planetary processes that affect their daily life. Examples include climate change, weather processes, floods and their impacts, the aesthetic attraction of the physical landscape, earthquakes and their human impact

2/ can understand the issues involved in making informed and articulate decisions in their future personal and professional life regarding the role humans play in environmental change. Examples include evaluation of the role climate deniers can play in policy formulation, design of flood management policies, design of conservation areas issues of environmental hazard and relief efforts

Grade Breakdown:

5 Quizzes (4% each)

2 Midterms (10% each)

4 Discussions (5% each)

Final Exam (40%)