GEOG 1301 Physical Geography
This is a Texas Common Course Number

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 1301 Physical Geography (3)
This is a Texas Common Course Number.
This course introduces students to the processes that drive Earth’s physical systems. Students will explore the relationships among these physical systems, with emphasis on weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development, and human interactions with the physical environment. (3 Lec.)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4507015142

Sections of the course may be deleted or others added, as time allows.

RESOURCE MATERIALS/TEXT: Introducing Physical Geography, 6th edition, Author: Strahler, ISBN: 978-1-118-39620-9. WileyPlus Access code is suggested but not required. Outside readings and/or materials may be provided as topics arise. The textbook may be purchased through the campus bookstore or found at numerous outside stores such as amazon.com, half.com, etc. but it is the student's responsibility to have the book available for class and the instructor is not responsible for delivery of outside sources.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dusty Girard Soc. Sci. Dept. Phone: 972-860-4130

Email: Blackboard Mail or dgirard@dcccd.edu

COMMUNICATION and TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

I try to review all newly posted material at least once a day. While quizzes and exams should grade automatically, research papers and discussion posts are read for content and grades will be posted after an assignment is due. Also, you can expect me to respond to your e-mails normally within 24-48 hours during the week. Emails sent on Friday may not receive a response until Monday. Be aware that while this is my general and intended practice, it is subject to the changes and chances of life.

- Technical Requirements and Support (for eCampus users)
  - Geog 1301 requires access to a computer, the Internet and an active e-mail account (if applicable). Free access is also available in campus computer labs.
  - Software requirements are listed on http://ecampus.dcccd.edu.
  - To access eCampus use a lower case e followed by your student ID number for the username and password, i.e. e1234567. You will be able to change your password.
  - If you should have any technical difficulties, you may go to the http://ecampus.dcccd.edu. Click on the link “Web: Technical Support” and submit a ticket (the fastest way to get help) or call the number listed. Also alert your instructor concerning any technical problems. (if applicable). eCampus Student Tutorials are also available through this website.
Most of the things you need to know about Brookhaven College or the Dallas County
Community Colleges and distance education can be found online at:
http://www.brookhavencollege.edu and distance learning information at
http://online.dcccd.edu/

Basic skills for word processing and how to use of the Internet is required.

COURSE COMPETENCIES: The course focuses on the characteristics and spatial relationships of climate,
the water cycle, and ecosystems. Specifically by the time you have completed this course, you should be able
to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth’s physical
systems and processes.
2. Describe and explain the processes of Earth’s physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems,
geologic processes and landform development.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth’s physical systems.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions
with Earth’s physical systems.

IMPORTANT DATES:

*Note you must successfully complete Assignment 1 on or before the Census Date to be counted as
attending on the official roll. By completing Assignment 1 you are acknowledging that you have read
the entire syllabus.

November 9th: First Class Day

November 12th: Certification Date

November 26th – 27th: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 8th: Final Drop/Withdrawal Deadline

December 15th: Final Exams

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

**Unit I** - Understanding basic Earth concepts, the role of the atmosphere on systems and relationships between
Insolation and Temperature.
   - Chapter 1 The Earth as a Rotating Planet
   - Chapter 2 The Earth’s Global Energy balance
   - Chapter 3 Air Temperature
   - Chapter 4 Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
     Exam I - Due 11/17 by 11pm

**Unit II** - Understanding the role of atmosphere on local and global systems and weather patterns.
   - Chapter 5 Winds and Global Circulation
   - Chapter 6 Weather Systems
   - Chapter 7 Global Climates and Climate Change
     Exam II - Due 11/24 by 11pm

**Unit III** - Learning about climate regions and climate change as well as relationships between local and global
systems and life on the planet. Learning about plant and animal life and their relationships to each other.
   - Chapter 8 Biogeographical Processes
   - Chapter 9 Global Biogeography
   - Chapter 10 Global Soils
Exam III - Due 12/1 by 11pm

**Unit IV** - Understand the basic concepts of soil formation, plate tectonics, volcanism and internal and surface processes shaping the Earth.
- Chapter 11 Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics
- Chapter 12 Tectonic and Volcanic Landforms
- Chapter 13 Weathering and Mass Wasting
  Exam IV - Due 12/8 by 11pm

**Unit V** - Understand the basic concepts of weathering, water processes shaping the Earth. Learn concepts related to desert processes, glacial surfaces and structures, and coastal reshaping processes.
- Chapter 14 Freshwater of the Continents
- Chapter 15 Landforms Made by Running Water
- Chapter 16 Topography of Arid Lands
- Chapter 17 Glacial Modification of Terrain
  Exam V - Due 12/15 by 11pm (There is no comprehensive Final, this is your last exam)

**Assignments** (All due by 11pm on date specified)
- Assignment I - Due 11/11
- Video Discussion I – Due 11/12
- Extra Credit I – Due 11/18
- Video Discussion II – Due 11/19
- Video Discussion III – Due 11/25
- Volcano Paper - Due 12/3
- Extra Credit II – Due 12/9
- Desertification Paper - Due 12/10
- Extra Credit III – Due 12/15

All quizzes must be submitted by 12/14 by 11pm.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** This is an internet class. You will need to have access to a working computer with an internet connection and be able to complete and submit all work on or before the due dates. It is the student’s responsibility to submit items by the due date and have access to a computer with the internet. There are several options both public and private, therefore, internet connection problems are not an excuse to miss a due date. You may complete Exams and Assignments early but **No late work will be accepted. All due dates are posted at the beginning of the course and any items not submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero unless arrangements are made with the instructor.** You will need to complete the related research assignments and return them for a grade. All research papers will include a works cited section and if you are not clear on how to write a research paper, there are resources in the Orientation section. You may study and work together, however, assignments are graded and therefore should be original works (**copied or plagiarized work will receive a zero**). All research papers should be written in MLA or APA format and there are writing resources located in the class Orientation. **All assignments are read for content and it will be evident if the same or similar papers are turned in.**

**GRADING POLICIES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volcano Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Disc (3 @ 50 points)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 @ 50 points)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (5 @ 100 points)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points possible</td>
<td>1400</td>
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</tbody>
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To calculate your grade add all your accumulated points and divide by 1400 then multiply by 100.
Any Extra Credit completed will be added to your total points. Up to 30 additional points may be added.

Assignments and Exams will be graded using numeric values with the final submitted grade in letter form corresponding to the assigned numeric value:

100 - 89.5 = A  
89.4 - 79.5 = B  
79.4 - 69.5 = C  
69.4 - 59.5 = D  
Below 59.5 = F

**EVALUATION METHODS:** Five major examinations will be given at scheduled times throughout the semester. Dates of the examinations will be announced on the calendar. You may complete any Exams before the due date. There will be no make-ups taken after the time allotted for the exam has expired unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor and accommodations are made at the discretion of the instructor. Students not taking the exam will receive a grade of "0" once the deadline has passed. Exams may be taken early, but must be completed by the due date. Exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions.

Quizzes will be given for each unit, may be taken up to 3 times with the last submission counting as the grade for that unit. Meaning, if you obtain a score of 80 on the first, 94 on the second and 90 on the third, the grade recorded will be the LAST submission of 90. Quizzes are instrumental in preparing for exams and should be used for increased success on exams. Assignments will consist of discussion board postings and written research papers.

Quizzes and Exams have time limits and exceeding the time limit will result in a penalty. Once opened it must be submitted for a grade.

Exams = ONE attempt for a grade (unless there are technical problems).

Quizzes = THREE attempts with the LAST attempt being the grade recorded.

There will be opportunities for extra credit worth a total of 30 possible points located under the Assignments tab on the course menu.

All work is available and may be completed early, but not after a due date has passed unless prior arrangements are made and at the discretion of the instructor.

**DROP/WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which YOU must initiate; the instructor cannot do it for you. You may withdraw from a class in either the Admissions office or Advising Center. If you stop attending or are unable to complete this class and you do not withdraw before the official drop date, you will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of “F.” Students sometimes drop a class when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with the instructor if you feel you need to withdraw. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog.
https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=econ

**STOP BEFORE YOU DROP:** For students who enroll in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your college counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you
have accumulated six non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a "W." Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog. https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

**FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT:** Failure to attend classes could result in a loss of Financial Aid (FA). If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Students on an F-1 visa cannot withdraw from classes without jeopardizing their official status. If you are on an F-1 visa, you MUST NOT withdraw from any class without the permission of an International Student Advisor in the Multicultural Center, in Room S-136 or at 972-860-4192.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** A student shall be excused from attending classes, or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**ADA STATEMENT:** If you feel you may need special assistance or accommodation (such as help with taking notes, extra time on tests, etc.) because of any type of physical disability or learning difference, please contact the Special Services office in Room S136, at 972-860-4673 or by emailing bhcADAservices@dcccd.edu.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is punishable as stated in college policies. Please review the full Student Code of Conduct as listed in the college catalog for additional information. https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm.
Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of the Dallas County Community College District. This environment views students in a holistic manner, encouraging and inviting them to learn and grow independently. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities.

**REPEATING THIS COURSE:** Each college of the DCCCD charges additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and continuing education/workforce training courses will result in additional tuition being charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts included courses taken at any of the DCCCD colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. The District’s policy for tuition charges relating to a third attempt is in the college’s catalog. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm?loc=econ](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm?loc=econ)

**GRADE REPORTS:** Final grade reports are not mailed to students. You may obtain your final grades online at eConnect, [https://econnect.dcccd.edu/](https://econnect.dcccd.edu/). From the student menu, select "My Grades" under "My Personal Information." If you are not already logged in, you will be prompted to do so. Select the grade type you wish to review. Press the submit button and all grades for the selected grade type will be displayed.

**INSTRUCTOR’S RIGHT TO MODIFY:** The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course syllabus.

**FERPA:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. More information about the FERPA guidelines is available online in the college catalog at [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/privacy.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/privacy.cfm)

### Upcoming Emergency Drills

The Brookhaven College Police Department will run a series of emergency drills. The drills are as follows:

**2015**

* Sept. 9, 10:15 a.m. - Fire Drill; Buildings E and P
* Sept. 15, 3:10 p.m. - Intruder Lockdown Drill - College-wide
* Sept. 16, 10 a.m. - HAZMAT Drill; Building E
* Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m. - Bomb Threat Drill; Building X

**2016**

* Feb. 9, 3:10 p.m. - Tornado Drill - College-wide
* Feb. 11, 10:15 a.m. - Bomb Threat Drill; Building E
* Feb. 22, 4:15 p.m. - Fire Drill; Building S
* Feb. 23, 10:15 a.m. - Fire Drill; Buildings E and P
* March 3, 7:30 p.m. - HAZMAT Drill; Building K