

Introduction to Physical Geography, with Lab TCSU GEOG 130

A. Description

This course is a spatial study of the Earth's dynamic physical systems and processes. Topics include: Earth-sun geometry, weather, climate, water, landforms, soil, and the biosphere. Emphasis is on the interrelationships among environmental systems and processes and their resulting patterns and distributions. Tools of geographic inquiry are also briefly covered; they may include: maps, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The laboratory component includes practical exercises, experiments, observations, and data analysis designed to teach the scientific method.

B. Recommended Preparation

None specified

C. Prerequisites

None specified

D. Minimum Unit Requirement

3 semester units

E. Course Topics

1. The size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes;
2. The atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth's surface environments;
3. The global distribution of the world's major climates, ecosystems, and physiographic (landform) features;
4. Basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns; and
5. Understanding of the scientific method and practical experience using the tools and concepts of physical geography (laboratory component).

F. CAN Equivalent

CAN GEOG 6 (Equivalency ends Fall 2009)