



Physical Geography (Lecture)

GEO 131 – PCI1

Spring 2022

Number of Credits: 3

Instructor: Professor Tashman

Lecture Meeting Times: 1/31 – 4/30,
Wednesdays 6-9 PM (classroom TBD)
Video lectures will be played at times designated
by your facility.

Contact Me: We will be communicating through
JPay each week, in addition to having
opportunities to communicate in the classroom.

Lecture (GEO 131) Description

The course works with maps and grid systems. Map exercises are used all semester to enhance the textbook. Other topics include meteorology, atmospheric sciences, earth materials and a range of tectonic and landscape subjects.

Students will develop a scientific skill-set to understand the four strands of scientific investigation: content, process, communication, and the nature of science. Students will use the critical thinking to evaluate scientific information, data, and current issues in physical geography. The foundation for physical geography will be constructed using the four strands of scientific investigation. The fundamental concepts in physical geography, like mapping, landform analysis, plate tectonics, and climate change are presented in context with current issues. The students will compare the content and process through communications with their peers and the instructor ultimately understanding the nature of science. The four strands will improve the student's scientific literacy which will support the enduring understanding of the building blocks of physical geography. This course is designed for people interested in introductory science and geographical issues using their computational skills.

Upon completing this course students will retain a skill-set derived from critical thinking and physical geography methodology as it relates to spatiotemporal context. This skill-set can be used in classes following physical geography, and in problem solving needs through-out their lives. Although this course is an introductory class, introductory does not translate into easy. This course does not require

background knowledge in physical geography. It will require effort to build the scientific foundation and the philosophical underpinnings of critical thinking and scientific thought. Students will have to spend time studying the material to succeed and there is a simple rule or algorithm for determining weekly studying habits. For this course, you should expect to study (credit hours) X (grade expectations). In other words, if you want to get a 3.0 out of this class, then you would study (3.0 credit hours) X (3.0 grade expectation) = 9 hours a week. You are responsible for the resulting grade that you shall receive.

Lecture Goals

Upon completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand how the nature of science is a result of the content, process, and communication; and, how this process is self-correcting.
- Identify the big ideas in scientific discourse as they relate to physical geography.
- Integrate information of natural geological processes that govern the natural world.
- Understand the integrated nature of geological, physical, chemical, and biological systems
- Understand the connection between landforms, climate patterns, and the distribution of living organisms.
- Understand how the mechanisms of evolutionary change, geographic change, and climate change have on natural populations.
- Understand factors affecting global climate change and human impact on the environment as it relates to geography and living systems.

Lecture Objectives

The course goals and objectives incorporate specific General Education Outcomes (GEOs) established by the JC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. These goals are in concert with four-year colleges and universities and reflect input from the professional communities we serve. GEOs guarantee students achieve goals necessary for graduation credit, transferability, and professional skills needed in many certification programs. The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include the following:

Essential Competencies

1. Think critically and act responsibly
2. Work productively with others (if available), recognizing individual contributions to group success
3. Exhibit technological literacy

The General Education Outcomes addressed in this class are:

GEO 4: Demonstrate scientific reasoning

Textbook

Physical Geography: The Global Environment, 5E; 2015. Mason, Burt, Muller, DeBlij.

Lecture Grading Procedures

Your lecture grade will be based on the number of points you accumulate throughout the semester multiplied by a weighted percentage. There are 200 possible points in this course. The breakdown of points is as follows:

- **Exams (150 Points, 75% of your grade):** There are four exams in this course. Each exam is worth 50 points, and the lowest exam score is dropped at the end of the semester. **All exams must be handwritten on the exam pages I have provided you in the course packet.**
- **Activities (50 Points, 25% of your grade):** Five assignments will be given throughout the semester. These may consist of in-class activities, JPay activities, or assignments that I have sent along with your course pack.

Item	Points	% of Grade
Exams (4 @ 50 pts each; lowest 1 dropped)	150	75%
Activities (≈5 @ 10 pts)	50	25.0%

Total Points 200 pts

GEO 131/133 (Lab and Lecture) Grading Scale

Extra Credit is not available in GEO 131 or 133. Focus your time and energy on completing assignments and studying for exams.

Grading Scale - Grades will be rounded to the nearest percent. Grades may be curved at the instructor's discretion.

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	90-100%
3.5	85-89.9%
3.0	80-84.9%
2.5	75-79.9%
2.0	70-74.9%
1.5	65-69.9%
1.0	60-64.9%
0.5	55-59.9%
0.0	0-54.9%

Makeup and Late Assignments Policy

There are no make-up assignments in this class.

Assignments must be turned in by designated due dates, which are listed at the end of the syllabus and on the lecture schedule. If you are unable to return the required assignments on the designated due date, it is your responsibility to tell your instructor in advance, otherwise a 0 will be given for that assignment.

Please keep in mind that it takes a lot of time to grade your assignments. I will not accept multiple assignments at the end of the semester that should have been turned in earlier. It is your responsibility to turn in your work on time.

Lecture Calendar

Note: This time frame for the subject of each lecture is only approximate and may vary from what is listed below. Homework pickup days will be strictly adhered to by Jackson College.

LESSON #	VIDEO TOPIC & ASSIGNMENTS	READINGS (UNIT)	ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 1	Introduction to Physical Geography	1	Lab 1
WEEK 2	Minerals and Rocks	28, 29	Lab 2 Activity 1
WEEK 3	Plate Tectonics	30	Lab 3 EXAM 1 (units 1, 28, 29, and 30) – Due Week 4
WEEK 4	Mapping the Earth's Surface The Earth-Sun Relationship	3, 4	Lab 4 Activity 2
WEEK 5	Radiation Composition of the Atmosphere	5, 6	Lab 5 EXAM 2 (units 3, 4, 5, and 6) – Due Week 6
3/7 – 3/13	NO CLASS: MID-SEMESTER BREAK		
WEEK 6	Air Pressure, Winds, and Circulation	8	Lab 6 Activity 3
WEEK 7	Precipitation, Air Masses, and Fronts	12	Lab 7 Clouds Activity (4)
WEEK 8	Weather Systems (Hurricanes)	13	Lab 8 EXAM 3 (units 8, 12, and 13) – Due Week 9

LESSON #	VIDEO TOPIC & ASSIGNMENTS	READINGS (UNIT)	ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 9	Natural Climate Change Global Warming and Human Impacts on Climate	18 19	Lab 9 Activity 5 Start EXAM 4 (units 18 and 19)
WEEK 10	Global Warming and Human Impacts on Climate continued.	19	No lab 😊 Finish and turn in EXAM 4 in class (units 18 and 19)

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation
- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarizing in any form
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Copying
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others
- Altering graded work
- Falsifying data
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical
- Allowing your work to be submitted by others

If it is determined that work has been copied from the textbook, copied from an outside source, copied from another students' work, or work has been done by another student for a student, etc. a 0 will be given for assignments in question.

Course Management

Consequences/Procedures - A faculty member who suspects a student of academic dishonesty may penalize the student by taking appropriate action up to and including assigning a failing grade for the paper, project, report, exam or the course itself. Instructors should document instances of academic dishonesty in writing to the Dean of Faculty.

Incompletes - Consistent with JC policy, incompletes are granted with instructor permission only in situations where a student is passing the course after 90% completion of curriculum and encounters an unusual emergency that prevents them from completing coursework.

Student Appeal Process - In the event of a dispute, both students and faculty should follow the Conflict Resolution Policy. The policy is presented in the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the student handbook. **The first step of this process is to set up a scheduled conference with the instructor to discuss the issues of concern.**

Where to Get Help

You can reach me during scheduled meetings times or via JPay.

Feel free to work together if your unit or facility allows. However, all individual work must be in your own words and will not be the same as any other student's work in the class because this is considered copying which is a form of plagiarism. All copied work will receive a 0.

My goal is to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in GEO 131/133.

Student Responsibilities

Contribute to a courteous learning environment – Our class interactions are valuable because science is a social exercise. Please be polite and ask questions often. **Disrespectful behavior will be dealt with summarily** focusing on clarity and understanding. Students are expected to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.

Study - This is a difficult course that will take significant study time. You will need to use the text and take extensive notes. Review notes and do study questions to prep for exams. I expect you all to study at least 2 hours outside of class interactions using a variety of methods.

Collaboration

While JC encourages students to collaborate in study groups, work teams, and with lab groups, each student should take responsibility for accurately representing their own contribution.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be based on e-mail correspondence and assignments turned in on the due dates. Your job is to turn in materials on time and to contact me when necessary (for instance, respond to my JPay pop quizzes before the end of each week, and turn in weekly assignments on time), and you will be marked present for GEO 131/133.

Distance Learning:

Just as in a traditional classroom course, regular class participation and keeping up on the reading and assignments is strongly correlated with survival in college. It is my recommendation that you plan to do your assignments and take your exams BEFORE the last day they are due. If problems occur, there is time to fix them before the deadline.

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, I will be monitoring student participation on a regular basis and officially reporting student activity throughout the term to assure compliance with college policy and federal regulations. It is imperative that you contact your Success Navigator immediately if you desire to drop or withdraw from the course. Being withdrawn from a course can have an impact on financial aid, billing, athletic eligibility, and housing status. As a college student you are responsible for how your participation impacts your academic progress; the accountability lies with you.

Utilizing JPAY Email Services

All JPays are closely monitored by the MDOC. It is expected all communication will be related to the student's education and coursework. No personal information may be shared. Personal information is considered inappropriate and will be flagged. A student may be removed from the Jackson College Corrections Education Program for violation of this policy.

JPays may not include attachments, including photos, videos, or other material.

Students will use JPay to communicate with the instructor throughout the semester. The instructor will add the student to their JPay account.

The expectations for communication between instructors and students in a specific course are:

- 1) Students will communicate questions or seek clarification on course-related content only
- 2) Students will only share questions related to their own coursework. Other students or their work will not be discussed in JPays.
- 3) Instructors will normally respond to student JPays within 24 business hours.
- 4) Instructors may use JPay to provide feedback to students on course assignments
- 5) Students are expected to use professional communication skills in their JPays to instructors: clear, concise writing; correct spelling and language appropriate to an academic setting.

Please be sure to put the instructor's last name and course information, i.e. Tashman, GEO 131, in the first line of the JPay.

Absence Policy

Students are expected to submit all work by times designated by Jackson College and your facility. Late assignments are not accepted in this class. If you are unable to return the required assignments on the designated due date, it is your responsibility to tell your instructor *in advance*, otherwise a 0 will be given for that assignment.

Caveat

Some revisions may be necessary during the course. Jackson College will close in the case of inclement weather; your instructor may fall ill; other events may prevent the schedule from being strictly adhered to. Students will be made aware as soon as possible in such cases.

Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
MONDAY 1/31	CLASSES BEGIN
3/7 - 3/13	NO CLASS: MID-SEMESTER BREAK
SATURDAY 4/30	LAST DAY OF CLASS