

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

GEOG 22203 Physical Geography

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): None

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A survey of the spatial patterns of the earth's landforms, the processes of shaping them and humans' interaction with these landforms. (ACTS: GEOG 2223)

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe plate tectonics and tectonic forces (volcanism, diastrophism).
2. Identify processes of rock formation and landform development.
3. Describe processes and spatial patterns of weathering, mass movement and erosion.
4. Describe depositional processes of landform formation.
5. Describe cyclogenesis and its impact on humans.
6. Describe the major types of climates and identify their spatial distribution.
7. Describe the water cycle and the spatial distribution of water.
8. Identify and analyze aspects of human modification of the physical world (e.g., climate change).

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will participate in and lead class discussion regarding all aspects of the spatial analysis of the physical earth.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will study the entire global system and the impacts of human interaction with the physical world.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Tectonics, volcanism, diastrophism, the spatial distribution of associated landforms and their effects on humans
- B. The rock cycle and landform development
- C. Weathering, mass movement, erosion and depositional processes and the ways in which human activities accelerate or interrupt these natural processes
- D. The water cycle, the spatial distribution of water, ramifications of dam building and groundwater extraction and surface and groundwater pollution
- E. Concepts of wind, pressure, temperature, humidity, precipitation, the Coriolis effect and their spatial distribution
- F. Processes of hurricane and tornado formation, their spatial distribution and their impacts on humans and economies
- G. Cyclogenesis, the characteristics of weather fronts and weather predicting
- H. Major types of climates, their spatial distribution and associated vegetation
- I. Evidence, causes and consequences of climate change plus actions to avoid consequences.