BUTTE COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

I. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

GEOG 2 - Physical Geography **3 Unit(s)**

Prerequisite(s): NONE
Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level III
Transfer Status: CSU/UC
51 hours Lecture

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 and human 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). (C-ID GEOG 110).

II. **OBJECTIVES**

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

A. Demonstrate an understanding of the size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes.
B. Demonstrate an understanding of the atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth's surface environments.
C. Demonstrate an understanding of the global distribution of the world's major climates, ecosystems, and physiographic (landform) features.
D. Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns.
E. Apply a working knowledge of the terminology of physical geography.
F. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and practical experience using the tools and concepts of physical geography.

III. **COURSE CONTENT**

A. **Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule**

Lecture

Topics	Hours
1. The size, shape, and movements of the Earth in space and their importance to environmental patterns and processes	11.00
2. The atmospheric, geomorphological, and biotic processes that shape the Earth's surface environments	10.00
3. The global distribution of the world's major climates, ecosystems, physiographic (landform) features	10.00
4. The basic tools of geographic inquiry	10.00
5. Basic concepts of physical geography in the analysis of real-world variations in environmental patterns	10.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

A. Lecture
B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
C. Discussion
D. Demonstrations
E. Multimedia Presentations
F. Periodical research

V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

A. Exams/Tests
B. Quizzes
C. A 2,500 word written requirement will be integrated into the course through both homework assignments and essay exams.

VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Reading Assignments
   1. Read the article (handed out in class) focusing on tectonic plate movement. Be prepared to discuss how tectonic plate activity contributes to continental drift.
   2. Read the chapter in your text dealing with the formation of landforms. Focus on erosion; be prepared to discuss "erosion" as this active force contributes to shaping landforms.

B. Writing Assignments
   1. Write a short essay (300 words) summarizing the "global warming" debate. Provide a survey of research concerning global warming. Focus on actual research—not political opinion. Pay close attention to paleo-climate data.
   2. Write a 5 page research paper on prevailing weather systems associated with western North America. In your paper, explain how these patterns are disrupted during El Nino conditions.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments
   1. Attend our field trip to Lassen National Park. Be prepared to take notes on various aspects of volcanic activity. Pick a particular land form feature shaped by volcanic activity (e.g. mud flow, cinder cone, and so forth) and be prepared to discuss you selection in class.
   2. Attend our field trip to the Museum of Natural History in Chico. Describe their display on the formation of the local northern California Cascade Range. Discuss your findings in class.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

A. Gabler, Robert E. Essentials of Physical Geography. 8th Edition. Thomson, 2007.
B. McKnight. Physical Geography. 9th Edition. Pearson, 2008.

Created/Revised by: Michael Findlay
Date: 03/04/2013