**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

# **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Number: PHSC 1404

Course Title: Physical Geography

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Division/Discipline: Academics/Physical Science

Course Description: This course is a study of the geographic factors of our physical environment, including climate, terrain, soils, land-forms, the seas, economic sources, cartographic elements and an introduction to regional studies.

# **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

# **COLLEGE POLICIES**

## Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

## Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. The student is responsible for learning the rules of, and avoiding instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism. Information about academic integrity is located in the Student Handbook.

## The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the College educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and College Policy & Procedure Manual. (Most up-to-date documents are available on the College webpage.)

## Any student seeking an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is to notify Student Support Services via email at disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu.

# **COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM**

This course gives introductory student’s basic understanding of Physical Geography. The course is designed as an overview of the Earth’s global environment and focuses on the interaction of the various physical phenomena in nature. The course is divided into three sections. Part one discusses Energy pattern and the atmosphere. Part two focuses on Water and Weather. Part three discusses Tectonics and Weathering.

Physical Geography is an approved general education course at Barton Community College.

This course transfers for credit to many Kansas Regent Universities, and may be used to help fulfill program requirements. The transferability of all college courses will vary among institutions, and perhaps even among departments, colleges, or programs within an institution. Institutional requirements may also change without prior notification. It is the student's responsibility to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions to insure that the courses the student enrolls in are the most appropriate set of courses for the transfer program.

# **ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Course Outcomes, Competencies, and Supplemental Competencies:

## Identify the processes and patterns related to the atmosphere, the water, weather, climate, and landforms of the Earth-Atmosphere system.

1. Define the Science of Geography and its disciplines.
2. Explain the Sun’s interaction with the Earth.
3. Identify the pathways of solar radiation through the atmosphere and its interaction with the surface.
4. Explain the development of the Earth’s atmosphere.
5. Diagram and explain the levels of the Earth’s atmosphere.
6. Define temperature and sensible heat.
7. Distinguish between marine and continental climates.
8. Explain the climate classification systems.
9. Explain the driving forces in the atmosphere.
10. Identify the conditions for precipitation formation.
11. Identify and explain the classes of clouds.
12. Identify atmospheric lifting mechanisms.
13. Describe the effects local conditions have on weather.
14. Explain the formation of violent weather.
15. Illustrate the hydrologic cycle.
16. Explain the distribution of Earth’s water.
17. Diagram Earth’s geologic layers.
18. Explain Earthquakes and Volcanism.

## Describe the interrelationships in the environment.

1. Identify the sources of pollution and its effect on the environment.
2. Explain variable factors that can influence temperature.
3. Explain the geologic cycle.
4. Explain plate tectonic theory.
5. Describe the weathering process.

# **INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS**

# **TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

# **REFERENCES**

# **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION**

# **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

# **COURSE OUTLINE**