

Earth's Environments (PS)

GEOG - 1000 001

Course Description

A scientific and spatial understanding of natural processes that shape the surface of our planet and the systems that exist between the atmosphere, climate, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere within the context of the human environment.

Semester: All

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate geographic thinking and spatial communication using maps and another other geographic representations.
- Apply geospatial methods including maps, remotely sensed imagery, and the scientific method to explore changes in landscapes over time.
- Analyze the physical processes and systems that shape the patterns of Earth's surface including the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere.
- Compare the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface and processes driving these distributions.
- Explore how human actions modify the physical environment and how the physical environment affects human systems.
- Evaluate the changes that occur in the use, distribution, and importance of resources.

Course Prerequisites

None

General Education Information

PS

This course fulfills the above requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

Schedule of Topics

Note: Exact topics may vary depending of days of the week the course meets, holidays, and special events.

Week	Topics
1	Introduction/What is Physical Geography?
2	Position and Maps
3	Universe and Solar System
4	Earth Structure and Composition
5	Tectonic Theory
6	Tectonic Forces - Seismicity and the Wasatch
7	Tectonic Forces - Volcanism
8	Geographic Information Literacy
9	Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition

10	Freshwater Environments
11	Oceans and Coastal Environments
12	The Atmosphere and Weather
13	Severe Weather
14	Climate and Change
15	Biogeography
16	Research Conference and Presentations

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Chapter 1 Homework: Mapping "Our National Heritage" and "Distance and Scale"	Quiz	10
	Chapter 1 Quiz: Introduction to Physical Geography	Quiz	16
8/31/25	Getting to Know You	Discussion	15

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in any form or modality, as outlined in the college's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Cheating will be dealt with as harshly as allowed by the college. The first violation will include a zero score on all or part of the activity in question and a second violation may cause the student to fail the course.

All written work including answers for homework and quizzes, reflections, discussions, projects and ePortfolio attachments should be the student's own words. AI-generated content is NOT appropriate to submit as your own work.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.