



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Anthropology and Geography Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/geography/>

GEOG 1301: Physical Geography | Lecture | #16898

Spring 2020 | 8 Weeks (March 23-May 17, 2020)

HCC Eagle Online - Canvas

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor:	Bryant Evans	Office Phone:	713-718-5828
Office:	Spring Branch Campus, 901C	Office Hours:	Mondays, 9-11 AM (CST)
HCC Email:	bryant.evans@hccs.edu		

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

bryant.evans@hccs.edu

I will respond to all emails within two business days; I will reply to messages sent over the weekend on the following Monday.

What's Exciting About This Course

Physical geography allows us to explore the dynamic nature of our amazing planet earth. Through this class, you will have an opportunity to expand your knowledge about the four great interconnected spheres that help define our planet. This class equips you with a deeper understanding of the science behind the physical forces that impact the earth while providing a greater awareness of the relevance physical geography has in our everyday lives. For example, we experience weather on a daily basis – after taking this class, you will have a more complete understanding of the elements that influence the weather conditions we experience. Taking a physical geography class therefore serves as a window in making the world a more meaningful place to each of us.

My Personal Welcome

Welcome! I'm very happy that you have decided to take this course. Geography is a subject that has immense relevance to our every day lives, and offers us unique opportunities to understand the world through a spatial perspective. The information in this class will be presented in an engaging and interactive way, which will hopefully facilitate your learning and grasping of the key elements of Physical Geography. This will allow for you to apply these critical concepts now and hopefully well after you have taken this course. As you read and wrestle with new ideas and facts that may challenge you, I am available to support you. The fastest way to reach me is by my HCC email. The best way to really discuss issues is in person, and I'm available during posted office hours to help answer questions you might have. My goal is for you to walk out of the course with a better understanding of the world around you. Please visit or contact me any time you may have a question.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

This class requires college-level reading and writing skills. Research indicates that you are most likely to succeed if you have already taken and passed ENGL 1301. The minimum requirements for enrollment in this class include placement in college-level reading (or take INRW 0420 or ESOL 0360 as a co-requisite). If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied these prerequisites, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

Eagle Online Canvas Learning Management System

This course will use [Eagle Online Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. In this class, we will utilize Canvas to communicate the material, hold class discussions, and as a medium to complete other assignments and quizzes. Please note that **all exams will be taken at designated HCC Campus locations on designated testing weekends.**

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas. It is recommended that you **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS YOUR BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

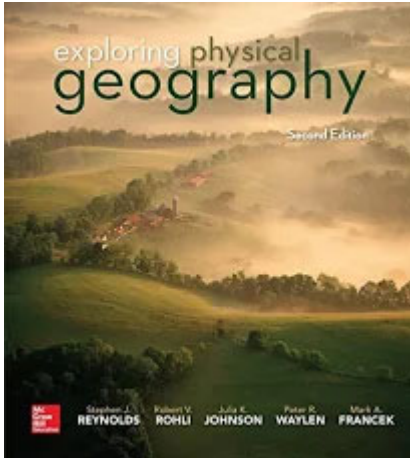
For fully online courses only: Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation. *No Online Orientation is needed for face-to-face classes.*
<http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Eagle Online Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course.
<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information



The textbook listed below is **required** for this course. **"Exploring Physical Geography** (2nd edition) by Reynolds et al (McGraw Hill).

This is a digital textbook (ebook) and you will receive instructions to access the book at the beginning of semester. Other (free) readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

The e-book for this course is "inclusive access", meaning that part of the fees you paid for this course when registering for it went towards the purchase of the textbook.

Paper copies of the textbook are available on reserve at following HCC libraries: Central, Eastside (Rustic Street), Spring Branch, Alief-Hayes, Stafford

Other Instructional Resources

Publisher's Digital Workbook

Accessing and reading the e-text will be the main goal in terms of publisher digital workbook access. Beyond that, please feel free to utilize the tools/resources available to you with your e-text access.

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Overview

This course introduces students to the processes that drive Earth's physical systems. Students will explore the relationships among these physical systems, with emphasis on weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development, and human interactions with the physical environment.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

Core Competencies – Courses offered at HCC which are taken within “core” status meet a set of stringent guidelines which will help the student advance core skills in foundational areas. Physical Geography meets a Life and Physical Sciences core requirement at HCC. Life and Physical Sciences core area courses “focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method” and “involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.” By taking a Life and Physical Sciences core offering, you will have the opportunity to further develop the following core competencies: critical thinking skills, communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and teamwork skills. Throughout the semester, assignments and assessments in this class will help measure your advancement in each of these core competencies.

Assignments as they relate to each of the core competencies:

Critical Thinking Skills - Examples may include, but are not limited to: research, reports, writings, use of Scientific Method, technology-based compilations or presentations which include analysis, analysis/solutions of problems/case studies, analysis of spatial data and patterns, justification of results, and explanation of reasoning.

Communication Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: Assignments which present a grammatically correct essay or speech, effectively organized with a thesis statement, introduction, body, conclusion, supportive reasoning, and appropriately documented evidence. If the assignment is an oral presentation, the assignment should also require effective verbal and nonverbal delivery. Visual design elements should be incorporated into any communication assignment. Visual elements may include graphs, tables, slides, or streaming video as examples.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: case studies, atlas exercises, reports, creating or analyzing tables and graphs related to statistical data, projects that utilize applied mathematics.

Teamwork Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: collaborative work on case studies, atlas exercises, reports, projects or presentations which measure not only the end result, but quality of contribution, cooperation, and self-management in the process of working on a team-based assignments.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Learn to explain and analyze spatial and temporal interrelationships, processes, and patterns of human and physical phenomena on the Earth's surface.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of local, regional, national, and international dimensions of geographic issues and translate this into becoming more empathetic and globally-informed citizens.
3. Interpret maps and geospatial tools as a means of applying a greater understanding of the dynamic interplay between environments, people, and places.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through written, oral, and graphic communication.
5. Develop problem solving, reasoning, and observational skills through geographic inquiry in preparation for continued education at a university and/or employment.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth's physical systems and processes.
2. Describe and explain the processes of Earth's physical systems: weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth's physical systems.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through interactions with Earth's physical systems.
5. Define geography, physical geography, and the earth's four interrelated spheres: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere.
6. Describe and understand geography in terms of flows, maps, and place.

Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scientific investigation as they apply to Earth's shape, seasons, weather, climate, climate regions, biomes, the interior of Earth, volcanoes, tectonic activity, flooding, and weathering.
- 2.1 Describe and explain the processes of Earth's physical systems: weather and climate, water, biomes, geologic processes and landform development.
- 3.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among the Earth's physical systems.
- 4.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the modifications humans make to the environment through the enhanced greenhouse effect, deforestation, pollution, and thinning of the ozone layer.
- 5.1 Define geography, physical geography, and the earth's four interrelated spheres: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere.
- 6.1 Describe and understand geography in terms of ocean current flows, wind flows, sediment flows, glacial flows, maps, and place.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as your guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Maintain an environment of mutual respect among students and between students and the instructor
- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before or after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Consistently arrive in class on time
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

As part of the requirements for Geography 1301, you will have a written course project. More details on the project will be provided to you soon after the semester has begun and the project will be worth 20% of your total grade.

In-Class Activities

It is very important for you to login to class each week and participate, not only in completing the quizzes and course project, but also in discussing course-related topics. For the most part, the online discussions will center around your responses and ideas about questions posed by either myself or your text. Your weekly discussions will be worth 15% of your course grade.

You will be taking multiple quizzes each week in our class. The questions on the quizzes will be over the material covered in that given week and will primarily serve as a review tool for the text readings you have been doing for our class. The quizzes will typically consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions and you will be provided with 30 minutes to complete each quiz. For most quizzes, you will have one attempt to complete it and need to complete it in one sitting. Collectively, they will account for 15% of your course grade.

Exams

You will be taking your tests on campus at HCC locations this semester for our class. The tests are to be taken on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday during our designated testing weekends. For more information on HCC Online testing times/locations, please check out the following link: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/proctoring-services/> Make sure to review the section that says "Face-to-Face Proctoring" and "Paper-Based Exams" for the specific information about campus locations and testing times. If you do not take the exams during the designated testing weekend period, then you will not be able to receive credit for it - there will be no exceptions. There will be no make-ups for the exam, and no excuses will be accepted for not completing the exam. You are expected to uphold the strictest standards of academic integrity on the exams - any evidence to the contrary will lead to disciplinary actions, including but not limited to receiving a zero for anyone involved in breaching the exam rules and guidelines.

Final Exam

The final exam will be over the last half of the course's material and will not be cumulative. As with the midterm, it will be taken on campus at a designated HCC location, and it will be worth 100 points, or 25% of your course grade.

Grading Formula

Course Project: 80 points = 20% of course grade
Online Discussions/Quizzes: 120 points = 30% of course grade
Midterm Exam: 100 points = 25% of course grade
Final Exam: 100 points = 25% of course grade
TOTAL: 400 points

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

WEEK	CONTENT
Week 1	Introduction (Chapter 1)
Week 2	Atmospheric Matter and Motion (Chapters 2 and 3)
Week 3	Atmospheric Moisture and Weather (Chapters 4 and 5)
Week 4	El Niño and Climate Change (Chapters 6 and 7)
MIDTERM	April 17, 18 or 19 at a designated HCC Campus Location
Week 5	Hydrosphere (Chapter 8)
Week 6	Lithosphere (Chapters 10 and 11)
Week 7	Biosphere (Chapters 16 and 18)
FINAL EXAM	May 8, 9 or 10 at a designated HCC Campus Location

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam during the course of the semester. A midterm score can't be a replacement for your final exam grade. Extra credit is not available in this course. Generally speaking, make-up assignments will not be allowed. Late assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for all information given out online. "I didn't know about the assignment because I didn't log in this week" is not an acceptable excuse. Your grade will be a reflection of your overall effort, participation and achievement in the course. More details on assignment grades can be found on our course page.

You will be given from 4-7 days to complete most online assignments. Canvas is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, so my assumption is that (even if you are ill) you will have the opportunity at some point to do the assigned work. The only excuse I will accept is that the Houston Community College network or Canvas itself has been down for a significant period of time. Network outages of an hour or two can happen on occasion and do not constitute "significant time". In other words, do not procrastinate until half an hour before any given week's assignments are due.

Academic Integrity

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

Obviously, I hope that you will be in this course from start to finish. However, if for any reason you can't finish, it is your responsibility as the student to initiate dropping or withdrawing from a course. If you do not contact me or your HCC online counselor, you risk not being dropped from the course (even if you stop attending) and you will continue to receive grades each week. The only exception to this is if there is no sign of any online activity (not logging in from the beginning of the semester, in which case the instructor reserves the right to drop the student). If it becomes necessary for you to withdraw, it is advisable to initiate the process by contacting your HCC online Counselor or me. You may also withdraw from class on your own after carefully reviewing your options prior to the deadline through the HCC Student Center. The last day for student withdrawals is **April 27th**.

If you do not initiate a withdrawal and stop attending class, it will likely result in you receiving an "F" for the course. This must be done prior to 4:00 PM on April 27th in order to receive a "W" on your transcript. The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you repeat the same course more than twice, you have to pay extra tuition. The Texas Legislature passed a law in 2007 limiting new students to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. For more information, you are encouraged to review the HCC 6 Drop Policy.

Student Conduct

The HCC Online Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the online student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as HCC online contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial

aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the Online Student Handbook by visiting this link: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/class-orientation--handbook/HCC-Online-Student-Handbook.pdf>

Two keys to a successful online environment include respect among all participants and open, fluid communication between the members of our community. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. However, remember that opinions are not always based on fact, and it is important to keep this distinction clear. Additionally, it is essential that you respect the opinions and ideas of your fellow classmates to help maintain a healthy online community.

Instructor’s Course-Specific Information

“8 Week Pace”. Please be aware that the 8 week semester is just like any regular term semester at HCC, only that it is condensed into a shorter time period. This means the pace for which we will cover the material will be more rigorous. Therefore, it is especially important to log in several times each week so as to provide yourself the opportunity to complete the assignments you are expected to complete within the given framework of time provided.

Electronic Devices

Please do not utilize electronic devices when taking exams on campus as you are not allowed to use them for your tests.

Geography Program Information

- Geography Program at HCC Learning Web: <http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography>
- HCC ANTH/GEOG Student Organization: The Anthropology and Geography Club meets several times a semester. Officer positions are available. Please contact Mr. Ramin Zamanian at ramin.zamanian@hccs.edu for more information and meeting dates.

HCC Policies

Here’s the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

Academic Information	Incomplete Grades
Academic Support	International Student Services
Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal	Health Awareness
Career Planning and Job Search	Libraries/Bookstore
Childcare	Police Services & Campus Safety
disAbility Support Services	Student Life at HCC
Electronic Devices	Student Rights and Responsibilities
Equal Educational Opportunity	Student Services
Financial Aid TV (FATV)	Testing
General Student Complaints	Transfer Planning
Grade of FX	Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

The Anthropology and Geography Department Chair phone number is 713-718-5828.
Chair: Bryant Evans, bryant.evans@hccs.edu