



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

<http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography>

GEOG 1301: Physical Geography | Lecture | #17282

Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks (August 2019-December 2019)

In-Person | Ed Dev Ctr | M-W 5:30PM- 6:50 PM

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor:	Cullen Dunkerson	Office Phone:	713-718-7868
Office:	In Classroom only	Office Hours:	Email only
HCC Email:	cullen.dunkerson@hccs.edu		

Preferred method of contact: Email

I will respond to all emails within two business days; I will reply to non-urgent weekend messages on the following Monday.

Department of Anthropology and Geography Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Tomi Middleton
Tomi.Middleton@hccs.edu 713-718-5625

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 delighted that you have chosen this course. One of my passions is to know as much as I can about our home planet, and I can hardly wait to pass that on. I will present the information in the most exciting way I know, so that you can grasp the concepts and apply them now, and hopefully throughout your life as well. 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 tackle any questions you might have. My goal is for you to walk out of the course with a better understanding of your natural and social surroundings. Please visit me or contact me whenever you have a question.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

This course 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 course 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](#).

Canvas Learning Management System

This section will use [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

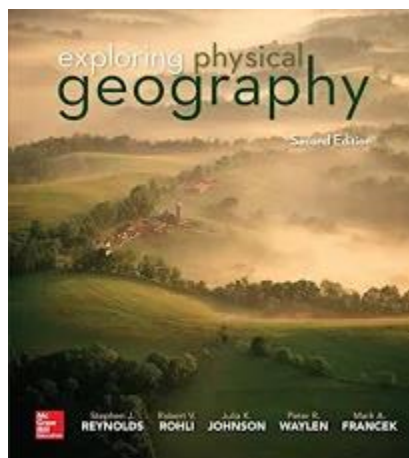
Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in 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



This textbook 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.

Students receiving Financial Aid MUST buy their digital textbooks from the HCC Bookstore website: <https://hccs.bncollege.com>

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

Temporary Free Access to E-Book

See the link in Canvas to get free access to the E-book for 14 days.

Other Instructional Resources

Publisher's Digital Workbook

The digital workbook will be used daily in class as if it were a hard copy book. Bring your laptops, tablets, etc. to class every day and have your book opened to the chapter that we will be discussing that day.

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)

The PSLOs for Geography can be found at the following link:

<http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography/more-about-geography-hcc>

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 a guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments

- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- 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
- Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

YOU WILL HAVE A TERM PAPER IN THIS COURSE AND TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AT A LATER DATE.

Exams

THERE WILL BE FOUR EXAMS IN THIS COURSE WHICH INCLUDES YOUR MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM.

In-Class Activities

All Exercises, group work, and activities will be done **IN THE CLASSROOM** and will count for points (see grading formula below)

Final Exam

Your **FINAL EXAM** will be on **Monday, December 9th, 2019 at 5:30 PM** and will cover the last few chapters of the digital textbook.

Grading Formula

Assignment	% of course grade	Points
Attendance/Exercises	4%	20
Group Project	9%	50
Term Paper	15%	80
Exams	18%	100 (x3)
Final Exam	18%	100
TOTAL	100%	550

Grades

495-550 points (90-100%) = A

440-494 points (80-89%) = B

385-439 points (70-79%) = C

330-384 points (60-69%) = D

329 points or below (below 60%) = F

Incomplete Policy:

An incomplete grade can only be given if the student has completed at least 2/3rds (roughly 67%) of all the graded coursework for the semester by the semester's end. Furthermore, an Incomplete can only be given under extreme emergency conditions accompanied by acceptable written documentation, given that the student has already completed 2/3rds of the graded coursework. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

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	Dates	Event	Topic / Assignments Due
1			Introduction/Chapter 1/Lat and Long Exercise
2			Class Assignment
3			Chapter 2/Chapter 3 *Exercise/Quiz
4			Chapter 4/Review Day
5		Exam 1	Chapter 6 *Exercise/Quiz
6			Chapter 7
7			Chapter 8/Review Day
8		Exam 2	Chapter 10 *Exercise/Quiz
9			Chapter 11/Chapter 12
10			Chapter 13/Chapter 15/Review Day
11		Exam 3	Chapter 16
12			Chapter 17/Chapter 18 *Exercise/Quiz
13			Documentary
14		Term Paper	FILM
15			SLO Assessment/Group Activity/Bonus Points
16		Exam 4	Final Exam

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**

Missed Assignments which include all in classroom assignments will get a "0" unless you have a valid excuse and I give you a chance to make it up.

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

Attendance is taken every class and points are given to students who have perfect attendance. If you miss several classes you will be dropped from the course.

Student Conduct

- Overall respect of fellow students and instructor is expected.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol, or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Eating, drinking, smoking and soliciting are not allowed in classrooms.
- Pets, telephones and other electronic devices that distract students are not allowed in classrooms (for example, **there is to be no text messaging taking place during class**). **Points will be deducted from your grade** if your phone rings in class **or** if you are seen texting. In fact, there will be no tolerance for texting in class – if you are caught texting in class, you will be told to leave.
- Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

Exams, Exercises, Quizzes, etc are all graded immediately for students to see their grades. You can ask me anytime what your current grade is and/or if you need to improve your score to pass the class.

Electronic Devices

You are adults and can decide how to use your electronic devices. That privilege ends as soon as you infringe upon a fellow student's right to a good learning environment. This means that if you are using your electronic devices in class in ways that disrupt others' ability to pay attention and learn (e.g. watching a video, listening to music, taking a phone call, etc.), you will be asked to leave class. • Please silence your phones before the start of class.

Geography Program Information

- Geography Program at HCC Learning Web:
<http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography>
- Geography Library Website:
<https://library.hccs.edu/geography>
- The HCC Anthropology and Geography Club meets several times a semester. Officer positions are available. Please contact Prof. 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
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- 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

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<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 long and short term conditions, 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

Anthropology and Geography Department Chair:

Mr. Bryant Evans, Department Chair

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