

Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology and Geography Department

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

GEOG 1301: Physical Geography | Lecture | #13011

Fall 2019 | 12 Weeks (September 2019-December 2019)

In-Person | Alief-Hayes Campus Room B213 | Tu/Th 6:00-7:50 p.m.

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Estela Turbiville Office Phone: 979-676-1321

Office: Alief-Hayes Campus Office Hours: By Appointment Only

HCC Email: [estela.turbiville@hccs.edu](mailto:estela.turbiville@hccs.edu) Campus Location: Alief-Hayes Room B213

Preferred method of contact: Email or text

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](mailto: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

## 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.](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

## Canvas Learning Management System

This section will use [Canvas](file:///C:\Users\Matt%20Webster\AppData\Local\Temp\Canvas) (<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**](https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/) **OR** [**CHROME**](https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html) **AS THE INTERNET BROWSER**.

### HCC Online Information and Policies

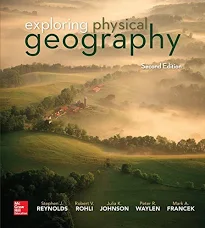
Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

### 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 Textbook

In this class, you will use the digital textbook to access Chapter readings and assignments. The digital textbook assignments must be completed by the designated deadline. Upon submission of the digital textbook assignments, grades will be updated in the gradebook.

### Opt-Out

Please remember that you are required to have the 2/e of Exploring Physical Geography by Reynolds, et al for this class. When you enrolled in this class, there were some added course fees that you paid, and those course fees went towards having full access to the required e-text for this course. This is available/accessible through our Canvas course shell. There are numerous advantages to this - first and foremost, you have immediate and convenient access to this text from the very beginning of the semester. It is also a more cost-efficient option than many other ways in which you can obtain the textbook. That said, if you have already obtained a copy of the book or you would like to obtain it in a different way, you may do so as long as you take the action of 'opting-out' within 2 weeks from the beginning of class.

To opt-out, you will need to do so via the 'Course Materials' link in our Canvas homepage. If you opt-out, the fees you paid initially for this class will not be reimbursed right away. However, they should most likely be processed by the bookstore and reimbursed into your student account within approximately a month of you opting-out. Remember that if you decide to opt out, that it is your responsibility to do so within 2 weeks of the beginning of the semester - otherwise, it will be too late to opt-out. Also remember that you still need to obtain the textbook for this course in some manner if you choose to opt-out of the e-text made available within this course. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### 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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) 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](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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

# Assignments, Exams, and Activities

## Written Assignment

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT:**The writing assignment is 20% of the course grade.  The writing assignment instructions will be provided within the first 2 weeks of class. However, a few major points about the paper need to be made here:

* **TURN IN ON CANVAS ONLY.**Any handwritten papers will automatically receive a score of ZERO.
* **Late papers lose 10 points each actual day that is late**. If a paper is more than 5 days late, it can receive a 50% at most. *The late penalty still applies even if the reason for the paper being late involves software or other computer problems.*
* **Papers will receive a score of zero if *all or part* of the writing from another author is copied into your paper.**More details about plagiarism will be explained at a later date.

## Exams

**3 EXAMS**: Each exam is 10% (a weighted score) of the course grade and will predominantly consist of multiple-choice questions, along with several true/false questions. The vast majority, but not all, of the exam questions come from the lecture slides and assignments. Not all of the lecture slides will come from the textbook.

## Assignments and In-Class Assignments

Each chapter will have approximately 2 assignments each week. These chapter assignments are completed online are due by the end of each week (Saturday). Some class sessions will include an in-class assignment that may be due at the end of the class period or at the beginning of the following scheduled class time. If you miss class on the day there is an assignment that is due at the end of the class period, your score will be zero for the assignment. Thus, there are no make-up assignments for in-class assignments.

## Final Exam

The Final Exam is 20% of the course grade.  It has the same format as the first 3 exams. The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time.

## Grading Formula

**The final grade for this course will be distributed as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Percentage** |
| Attendance/Participation (22 class periods) | 5% |
| Assignments (In-Class and Homework) | 25% |
| 3 Exams (10% each) | 30% |
| 1 Writing Assignment | 20% |
| 1 Final Exam | 20% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

### 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/**](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

# Course Calendar

| **Week** | **Dates** | **Event** | **Topic / Assignments Due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 09/24-09/26 |  | Chapter 1: Nature of Physical Geography  In-Class Assignments |
| 2 | 10/01-10/03 |  | Chapter 2: Energy & Matter in the Atmosphere  Chapter 3: Atmospheric Motion / In-Class Assignment |
| 3 | 10/08-10/10 | Exam 1 | Exam 1  Chapter 4: Atmospheric Moisture |
| 4 | 10/15-10/17 |  | Chapter 5: Weather Systems and Severe Weather |
| 5 | 10/22-10/24 |  | Chapter 6: Atmos.-Ocean-Cryos. Interactions  Chapter 7: Climates around the World – In-Class Assignment |
| 6 | 10/29-10/31 | Exam 2  Essays Due | Exam 2  Chapter 8: Water Resources - Essays due NOV. 2nd via Canvas. |
| 7 | 11/05-11/07 |  | Chapter 9: Understanding Landscapes |
| 8 | 11/12-11/14 |  | Chapter 10: Plate Tectonics |
| 9 | 11/19-11/21 | Exam 3 | Exam 3  Chapter 11: Volcanoes, Deformation, Earthquakes |
| 10 | 11/26 |  | Chapter 12: Weathering and Mass Wasting  Thanksgiving Holiday |
| 11 | 12/03-12/05 |  | Chapter 13: Streams and Flooding |
| 12 | 12/10 | Final Exam | 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

## The acceptable excuses for missing exam, assignment, or attendance check days are:

1. College-sponsored activities: This usually relates to class-related field trips and conferences. *An official written document from the sponsoring group or person must be shown prior to taking the make-up exam.*
2. Jury duty and court appearances: An official note from the court/judge must be shown.
3. Family emergency/death in the family: A letter from a parent or spouse confirming the emergency situation must be shown. The letter must indicate their willingness to be called over the phone by me, and must come with a phone number, as they will be contacted. The student will not be able to take the exam until a family member has been contacted and the situation confirmed. An obituary or funeral program is not sufficient unless you are specifically mentioned as a participant or surviving family member. This is the only case where a parent or spouse will not need to be contacted by me.
4. Severe personal illness or injury: If you are sick enough to miss an exam, you are sick enough to seek medical attention. Thus official documentation from a doctor or hospital must be shown, indicating that the student was ill or injured on the exact day of the exam. *Any claims of illness/injury without a doctor’s excuse note are not acceptable for making up an exam.*
5. Atypical work-related duties: Work-related emergencies or unexpected work activities. For example, being called for active duty while serving in the military. A written note from a supervisor will be needed afterwards.

## 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

The attendance/participation grade is a weighted score for each day of attendance totaling 5% of the course grade.   This semester, the class meets face to face 22 times.  Attendance will be taken at each class. Class time is from 6:00 – 7:50, if you leave early you will be counted absent.

 Students are expected to attend every class meeting during the course of the semester. You are also expected to be in class on time.

Withdrawals

Should a student feel that they are not able to continue with the class, It is the sole responsibility of the student to drop or withdraw from this course. The instructor will not drop/withdraw any student under any circumstances. Failure to officially drop or withdraw will result in the student receiving an “F” for the course.

**The last day for student withdrawals is November 11, 2019**. This must be done prior to 4:30 PM on that date in order to receive a “W” on your transcript. If you must withdraw after the drop date, you will need to show your instructor written approval from a counselor or adviser before you could potentially be dropped from the course.

 If you do not initiate a withdrawal and stop attending class, it will likely result in you receiving an “F” for the course. 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.

“Course Repeat” Policy. Students who take a course for a third time (or more) will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor/counselor about opportunities for tutoring/other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal or if you are not receiving passing grades.

**Early Alert**

Early Alert Notification: HCC utilizes an Early Alert system managed by the HCC counselors to provide outreach and intervention to students who may be at risk of withdrawal or failure. Referrals to this system are typically made by a faculty member. If a professor is concerned about a student's performance in class, that student may be referred to Early Alert for counseling intervention.

## Student Conduct

Overall, respect of fellow students and instructor is expected. College students are expected to maintain an environment conducive to learning in a lecture room.

Please do not cause any unnecessary distractions. I reserve the right to ask someone causing such a distraction to leave the lecture room.

Anyone making a habit of coming late, or leaving class early, or frequently leaving & returning during class time, will be permanently removed from the class.

Avoid talking as the lecture begins and avoid preparing to leave before the lecture ends.

No conversations (texting, whispering, or otherwise continuous conversations) during lectures.

## Electronic Devices

Laptops for (note-taking only) are allowed. However, this is a learning environment and laptops and pads should be used solely to access the course and course material.

This is a late afternoon/evening class. As such, the instructor recognizes that emergencies may arise. Thus, students do not need to turn phones off but please set your phones to vibrate. Avoid sleeping, working on unrelated materials, reading newspapers, magazines, etc, during class. If you have plans to leave class before it is over, inform me before class. You may bring food and drinks so long as you are not causing distractions with them.

**Our Class is a Discrimination-Free Zone: Discrimination and discriminatory remarks against any student based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, or veteran status will not be tolerated. This applies for interacting with classmates both in the classroom and outside the classroom and is grounds for immediate permanent dismissal from the class.**

## Instructor’s Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

When contacting the instructor, the instructor will respond within 48 hours. In-class Assignments and Exams will be graded a week from the date assignments/exams were completed.

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) 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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-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](mailto: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  
Email: bryant.evans@hccs.edu  
Telephone: 713.718.5828