



# Alabama Community College System

## GEO 101 Principles of Physical Geography I

### **I. GEO 101 Principles of Physical Geography I—4 Semester Hours**

### **II. Course Description**

Physical Geography I is the first in a two-part sequence. Topics focus on the relationship between the earth and the sun and how that relationship affects weather, climate, and biomes. Laboratory is required.

### **III. Prerequisite**

As required by program

### **IV. Textbook**

Due to the varied selection of quality college-level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

### **V. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate the following outcomes:

1. Explain the Earth-Sun relationship.
2. Identify the parts of the hydrosphere as well as the parts of the Global Circulation Model, where they are located, and how the model affects the earth's weather.
3. Describe how atmospheric temperature, pressure, and moisture all interact to produce weather and climates.
4. Identify the attributes of climates and biomes and their global locations.

### **VI. Course Outline of Topics**

1. Introduction to the Earth
2. Geographical Grid and Mapping
3. Earth-Sun Relationship and Seasons
4. Energy for Earth
5. Composition of the Atmosphere
6. Atmospheric Temperature
7. Air Pressure and Wind

8. Atmospheric Moisture
9. Air Masses and Extreme Weather
10. Major Climates and Climate Types
11. Climate Change
12. Biomes and Biogeography

## **VII. Evaluation and Assessment**

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

## **VIII. Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

## **IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment**

It is the official policy of the Alabama Community College System and entities under its control, including all Colleges, that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of any impermissible criterion or characteristic, including, without limitation, race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, sex, age, or any other protected class as defined by federal and state law. (ACCS Policies 601.02 and 800.00)

## **X. Americans with Disabilities**

*The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.