



South Central College

GEOG 100 Elements of Geography

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	The course will answer the question "What is Geography?" Therefore, this course provides students with an introduction to the basic themes of geography. The scope and nature of geographic inquiry is used to explore topics about the physical and human characteristics of the Earth's surface. Special emphasis is placed on the significance of humans, environment, and cultural processes in the organization of space on the earth's surface. Natural and cultural landscapes are very important components of this course and students will examine physiographic regions, climates, demography, and urban areas. Also, different environmental issues will be discussed. (Pre-requisite: Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090) (MNTC: 5 and 8; History/Social & Behavioral Sciences, Global Perspective)
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3

Pre/Corequisites

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090.

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Cultural Competence - Students will be able to demonstrate an attitude of personal curiosity, a rising knowledge of cultures, and an evolving range of skills for living and working among others with other worldviews and ways of life.

Course Competencies

1. Explain the various types of maps used as tools in geography.

Learning Objectives

Recognize how map projections are created and explain the concept of scale.

Describe the uses for both topographic and thematic maps and the symbols they use.
Discuss an overview of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Systems.

2. Express the regional concept as a key method for geographic studies.

Learning Objectives

Characterize how landforms, climate, and natural resources make up regions in the earth-science tradition.
Describe how language, population, and politics make up regions in the culture-environment tradition.
Define urban regions.

3. Describe how landforms are created by tectonic forces, weathering, and erosion.

Learning Objectives

Discuss the basic earth materials of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.
Explain how tectonic forces result in volcanism and deformation of the Earth's crust.
State the long-term effects of mechanical and chemical weathering on landforms.
Investigate the effects of water and wind that cause erosion and deposition.

4. Distinguish between weather and climate.

Learning Objectives

Summarize the weather components of air temperature, pressure, and movement.
State the impact of ocean currents on climate.
Explain how climate, soils, and vegetation are linked.
Identify the primary characteristics of tropical, dryland, humid, and arctic climates.
Define the greenhouse effect and its impact on global warming.

5. Identify nonrenewable and renewable natural resources.

Learning Objectives

Discuss the primary nonrenewable resources: oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear.
Be aware of the renewable resources: biomass, hydropower, solar, and wind.

6. Summarize the impact of human population growth on the earth.

Learning Objectives

Outline the common population definitions: birth rate, death rate, natural increase, and doubling times.
Discuss population density around the world and review population data and projections.
Investigate population control methods and how they are being used in various countries.

7. Define spatial interaction and how this applies to diffusion, migration, and globalization.

Learning Objectives

Give examples of how distance and barriers impact spatial interaction.
Explain how ideas spread out from its point of origin to new territories.
Describe the types of migration and list common incentives and barriers to migration.
Discuss the modern economic, political, and cultural factors that contribute to globalization.

8. Discuss the concepts of political, economic, and urban geography.

Learning Objectives

Illustrate the geographic characteristics of states to include the historical impact of boundaries.
Investigate the primary economic activities of agriculture, fishing, forestry, and mining.
Define the common elements of urban areas, such as city centers, suburbanization, and land use models.

9. Explain the human impact on the environment.

Learning Objectives

Provide examples of the human impact on water, including usage, pollution, and agriculture.
Identify the factors affecting air quality and explain the importance of the ozone layer.
Discuss human impact on plants and animals, such as habitat disruption, commercial exploitation, and exotic and endangered species.

SCC Accessibility Statement

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request
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and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

This material can be made available in alternative formats by contacting the Academic Support Center at 507-389-7222.