SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-25

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number:	GEOG1500
Course Title:	Physical Geography
Prerequisite:	None
Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to the processes that influence the natural environment we experience, with particular attention given to understanding the dynamics of weather, water, landscapes, and life on Earth. Lab must be taken concurrently and may incorporate outdoor activities including field trips in which you explore local flood-control settings to better understand how Lincoln prepares for these extreme events that result from interactions of weather, water, landscape, and vegetation in space and time.
Credit Hours:	4.0
Class Hours:	45
Lab Hours:	30
Total Contact Hours:	75

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will*:

A. Provide the knowledge base to allow students to understand geographic processes as they apply to the natural environment, and to understand natural-geographic settings and issues at a variety of scales.

B. Instruct students to use maps, data tables, and the resources of the library system.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to*:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the components and spatial aspects of the natural environment.

2. Explain processes affecting the natural environment and human-environment interactions at a variety of scales.

3. Make critical judgments concerning contemporary issues, such as natural hazards and environmental problems.

B. General Education Learning Outcomes

1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.
Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impact of actions.

2. GELO #5: Analytical, Quantitative, and Scientific Reasoning
Outcome: Apply mathematical and scientific methods to solve problems from an array of contexts and everyday situations.
Outcome: Effectively develop strategies, algorithms, or experiments (or performing experiments) to better describe the systems or to solve the problems.
Outcome: Manipulate formulas, data sets, graphs, tables, etc. in a way to produce a meaningful outcome.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

A. Basic Concepts of Geography and Physical Geography

B. Solar Energy and the Seasons
C. Earth's Atmosphere
D. Atmospheric Moisture and Water Resources
E. Weather and Severe Weather
F. Climate and Climate Change
G. Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes
H. Landscape Processes
I. Soils
J. Biogeography

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required Text(s):
1. Ritter, Michael E. *The Physical Environment: An Introduction to Physical Geography*. https://www.thephysicalenvironment.com/

B. Other resources:
1. Supplemental handouts supplied by instructor.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

A. Methods of presentation typically include some combination of the following:
1. Lectures
2. Class discussion
3. Individual/Group Projects
4. Video clips
5. Student presentations
6. Guest Lecturers

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation typically include some combination of the following:
1. Quizzes/Exams
2. Labs
3. Research papers
4. Book reviews
5. Short papers based on readings
6. Class discussions
7. Student Presentations (Group and/or Individual)
8. Other interactive activities
9. Attendance

B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner and within time frames allowed.
B. Regular attendance, reading, examinations, written assignments, discussion, and respectful behavior are all required course components.
C. In most cases, a minimum grade of C is required to transfer to four-year institutions. It is up to the student to be aware of academic issues such as this.