

# MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

**DEPT. GEOG**

**COURSE NUMBER: 1101**

**NUMBER OF CREDITS: 4**

**Lecture: 4 Lab: 0 OJT 0**

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| <b>Course Title:</b>               |
| Introduction to Physical Geography |

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| <b>Catalog Description:</b>  |
| Introduction to Physical Geography studies the geographical distribution of the natural environment, with an emphasis on spatial data analysis, weather, climate, geological formations and the hydrosphere, to examine the relationship of people to their physical surroundings. |

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| <b>Prerequisites or Necessary Entry Skills/Knowledge:</b> |
| STSK 0095 or placement by multiple measures               |

**FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (*Leave blank if not applicable*)**

☒ Goal 10: People and the Environment: By meeting the following competencies:

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

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| <b>Topics to be Covered</b> |
| Cartography                 |
| Spatial Data Analysis       |
| Atmosphere                  |
| Weather                     |
| Climates and Climate Change |
| Lithosphere                 |
| Plate Tectonics             |
| Rock Formation              |
| Landscapes                  |
| Soils                       |
| Glaciation                  |

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| Hydrosphere       |
| Ocean Circulation |
| Fresh Water Cycle |
| Coast Lines       |
| Biosphere         |
| Ecosystems        |
| Biomes            |

| Student Learning Outcomes  |  |
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| Acquire and convey information through mapped data   |  |
| Identify the different spheres involved in earth processes                                 |  |
| Examine patterns in atmospheric condition data   |  |
| Delineate weather and climate  |  |
| Relate atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns  |  |
| Examine tectonic plate movement and landscape formation                                    |  |
| Delineate stages in the rock cycle   |  |
| Identify the results of glacial action on the landscape                                    |  |
| Delineate categories of soils  |  |
| Examine the causes and consequences of sea level rise                                      |  |
| Relate ecosystem and biome location to geological, hydrological and atmospheric processes. |  |
| Identify the consequences of the environment on human settlement patterns                  |  |

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| <b>Is this course part of a transfer pathway:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <i>*If yes, please list the competencies below</i>  |  |

Revised Date: 1/1/2022