Course Title: Introduction to Physical Geography

Catalog Description:
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.

Prerequisites or Necessary Entry Skills/Knowledge:
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.

Topics to be Covered
Cartography
Spatial Data Analysis
Atmosphere
Weather
Climates and Climate Change
Lithosphere
Plate Tectonics
Rock Formation
Landscapes
Soils
Glaciation
| Hydrosphere                          |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|  |  |
| Ocean Circulation                   |  |  |
| Fresh Water Cycle                   |  |  |
| Coast Lines                         |  |  |
| Biosphere                           |  |  |
| Ecosystems                          |  |  |
| Biomes                              |  |  |

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- 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

**Is this course part of a transfer pathway:** Yes ☐ No ☒

*If yes, please list the competencies below*

Revised Date: 1/1/2022