Introduction to Geography

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the principles and methods of geographic inquiry.

Prerequisite: ENG 100, RDG 100

3.0 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus
Geography studies anything and everything that can be put on a map and compared across the map, so it is called the "spatial" science. Geography is a broad field covering both physical and cultural aspects of Earth's surface. It borrows from almost all disciplines of academic study. In this class, you will learn about maps (geography's tools), Earth's geology and natural resources, Earth's population patterns, Earth's cultural patterns, Earth's political patterns, and much more.

Text and References

GEO 101 CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

All courses approved for the general education core curriculum help students develop a knowledge of the discipline of Geography, analytical and technical competencies, and/or intellectual and critical thinking.

This course develops intellectual and critical thinking by demonstrating an ability to synthesize information, identify and formulate questions or problems, and appreciate the contested and provisional nature of geographical knowledge. This course applies critical thinking skills for students through discussion boards, chapter reviews and other writing assignments in which they must answer a set of questions/criteria posed to them and create responses combining their personal opinions, general explanation of these opinions in their own words, and specific book/source information to explain their general explanations.
This course develops analytical and technical competencies by demonstrating comprehension of the diversity of techniques and approaches involved in reviewing and analyzing geographical information.

This course develops knowledge of the discipline of Geography by demonstrating comprehension of the nature of change within human and physical environments. Develop understanding of the physical processes that shape the varied landscapes of the earth. Apply understanding of key geographical concepts (space, time, place, landscape, scale, environment, and mobility) in different situations.

Course Goals
The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives.

1. Define Geography.
2. Learn the evolution of Geography.
3. Understand the three universal spatial concepts: location, direction, and distance.
4. Understand the five fundamental themes in geography, namely, location, place, relationships within places, movement, and regions.
5. Use the tools of geography: maps.
6. Read different types of maps.
7. Master the Geographic Grid: latitude and longitude.
8. Understand GPS (Global Positioning Systems) technology.
11. Learn about the earth’s crust and its layers.
12. Identify the three types of rocks: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic.
13. Learn about Tectonic Forces.
15. Understand how weather and climate affect our world.
16. Learn about the earth’s energy budget.
17. How differences in air pressure affect weather conditions.
18. Learn the three types of precipitation: convectional, Orographic, and cyclonic.
19. Identify the great generator of the main weather elements of temperature, moistures, and atmospheric pressure as solar energy.
20. Comprehend the difference between renewable resources and nonrenewable resources.
21. Learn technology to manage our earth’s resources.
22. Learn how population growth is measured and it’s affect on our world.
23. Be introduced to the changing demographics in our world.
24. Learn the components of cultures.
25. Be introduced to religions of the world.
26. Understand how language and religion are transmitters of culture.
27. Understand that spatial interaction is the term used to describe the interdependence between geographic areas.
29. Learn how politics affect geography.
30. Understand supranationalism.
31. Understand how geography plays a role in local and political organizations.
32. Understand the three economic systems: subsistence, commercial, and planned.
33. Understand the economic stages of production, namely, primary activities, secondary industries, and tertiary activities, and quaternary and quinary activities.
34. Learn the main components of a city.
35. Describe and understand the relative location theory.
36. Understand the differences between a metropolitan area and megalopolis.
37. Define a primate city.
38. Sketch and label a diagram of the biosphere.
39. And describe the hydrological cycle.
40. Understand the discipline of biogeography.
41. Describe a functional region.
42. Explain the difference between a formal region and functional region.
43. Decipher between a geographical realm, region, and concept.
44. Understand geometric projections.
45. Identify taxonomy of a soil and climate.

Student Contributions
Students are expected to be fully prepared for class by completing all reading assignments in full before the class session. Attendance is a critical factor to success in this class as lecture will enhance students understanding of reading assignments.

Course Evaluation
Your final grade for the course will be determined by the average of all exam/test/quiz scores and completion of all required assignments. Your instructor will share specific details regarding scoring procedures and due dates.

Course Schedule
The class meets for 3 lecture/presentation hours per week. The content will be introduced in the same order as they are listed in the course goal section. The content goals will be finished in a varied manner.

ADA STATEMENT
The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student’s responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the TCL Student Handbook, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.
ATTENDANCE

- The College’s statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.
  - Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
  - Students taking an online/internet class must sign in and communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
  - Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.
  - In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.
  - When a student exceeds the allowed absences; the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdrawal the student with a grade of “W”, “WP”, or “WF” depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student’s progress up to the last date of attendance or
  - Under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.
  - Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.
  - A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.
  - A copy of TCL’s STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL) is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTC TV, WSGS TV, WJW TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. [www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp](http://www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp)

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE ALERT

Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to [www.tcl.edu](http://www.tcl.edu). On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to [www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp](http://www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp)

GRADING METHODOLOGY

The final grade must be 70 or more in order to pass the course and progress in the program. Students absent from an examination or presentation will receive a “0” grade for the examination unless other arrangements
are made with the individual instructor prior to the examination or presentation day or on the examination or presentation day before the test/presentation is scheduled to be given.

The student is responsible for notifying the instructor for the reason of the absence. It is also the responsibility of the student to contact the appropriate instructor to arrange to make up the examination. Arrangements may be completed by telephone.

If the instructor is not available, a message should be left on the instructor’s voice mail AND with another member of the faculty or administrative assistant. The make-up exam will be scheduled and the instructor will decide the method of examination. Messages sent by other students are unacceptable.

Revised: 9/24/2012

Reviewed/Approved by Dean of Arts & Sciences 9/24/2012