NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
GEO 200 – INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Examines the global patterns and processes of the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere. Explores Earth's physical systems and the interrelationships among them through studying Earth-Sun geometry, climate and weather phenomena, landforms, biomes, and environmental change. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course emphasizes scientific inquiry and the scientific method in the study of Earth's natural systems. The course presents a survey of foundational knowledge essential for understanding Earth systems and human-environment relations.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Critical Thinking
- Analyze the interrelationships among Earth systems

Quantitative Literacy
- Read and interpret maps, climographs, and cross-sections
- Construct representations of spatial data such as cross-sections or surface data charts
- Interpret data and construct explanatory hypotheses

Civic Engagement
- Evaluate impacts of human activity on the environment

Written Communication
- Conduct analysis through written and/or oral communication

Scientific Literacy
- Describe the scientific methods that lead to scientific knowledge
- Demonstrate empirical thinking to explain the physical science basis for theories such as plate tectonics, global energy balance, and global climate change

Major Topics to be Included

- The Science of Physical Geography
- The Lithosphere
- The Hydrosphere
- The Atmosphere
- Climate Change
- Biosphere