

## UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

### SECTION III. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES - INTERDISCIPLINARY

1. COURSE NUMBER: **GEOG 303i**

SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: Physical Geography of the Americas

Start Date: Summer 2008, new title

Formerly: Environmental Geography

Start Date: Summer 2006, new title

Formerly: The Earth's Biophysical Environment

Start Date: Fall 1996

2. COURSE FORMAT: Lecture (faculty) and lab sections (graduate assistant). Average lecture size: 70; average lab/discussion size: 15.
3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to understand: (a) how biogeophysical processes shape the surface of the Earth; (b) how the natural environment is dynamic, changing over various scales of time and space; (c) how climatology, geomorphology and biogeography are interconnected and interactive; and (d) how humans interact with the physical environment.
4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course answers the question: How do Earth's systems work, and how do they interconnect? Fundamental concepts underpinning biogeography, geomorphology, and climatology lay the groundwork for exploring the ways these systems are linked. Natural hazards serve as a major theme of the course by bridging natural and social systems.
5. REQUIRED READING: Christopherson, *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.
6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:
  - Exam 1 (20%)
  - Exam 2 (25%)
  - Exam 3 (25%)
  - Class Activities (15%)
  - Laboratory Exercises (15%)
7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None

8/31/07