

Physical Geography 110

Course Outline

Mr. C. Matheson

Sept. 2020-Jan 2021

Course Description

The world of geography is incredibly immense, complex, and wide-ranging. This course is designed to help students acquire some of the geographer's skills while developing a greater understanding of our home planet and how we interact with it.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Approx. # of Weeks</u>
Unit 1 – <i>The Nature of Physical Geography</i>	2 weeks
- Framework	
- Characteristics	
- Development of ideas (Geologic Time Scale, Uniformitarianism, Catastrophism, Gaia Hypothesis)	
Unit 2 – <i>The Earth in Space</i>	3 weeks
- Pondering size	
- Our solar system	
- Big Bang and Steady-State theories	
- Origins of the solar system	
- Origins of the earth	
- Earth's place in the universe	
- Movement (galaxies, earth, etc.)	
- Earth's axis and rotation	
- Time and time zones	
Unit 3 – <i>Map Interpretation</i>	2 weeks
- Basic map skills	
- Topographic map interpretation	
Unit 4 – <i>The Structure of the Earth</i>	3 weeks
- Earth's layers (crust, mantle, core)	
- Uncovering the earth's interior	
- Meteorites as evidence of the earth's interior	
- Seismology	
Unit 5 – <i>From Continental Drift to Plate Tectonics</i>	3 weeks
- Minerals and rocks of the earth's crust	
- Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rock	
- Oceans and continents	
- Major processes	

- Zones of activity
- Mid-Ocean ridges
- Faults
- Collision and subduction zones
- Assembly and break-up of continents

Unit 6 – *Shaping the Land*

3 weeks

- Denudational processes and weathering
- Erosion and deposition
- Major landform regions
- Landscapes
- Glaciation

**Texts: *Planet Earth – A Physical Geography*
*The Canadian Landscape, 3rd Edition***

Evaluation

Term Work

50%

- Unit Tests/Quizzes
- Labs/Case Studies
- Presentations/Projects
- In class assignments

Non-Traditional Term Project (*Due week of January 25-29*)

10%

Class Mark/Notebook

20%

Final Evaluation

20%