



(A Constituent College of Moi University)

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES EDUCATION**

FIRST YEAR SEMESTER 1 ACADEMIC YEAR: 2018/2019

Course Title: THE EARTH'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS

Course Code: GEO 110

Credit Hours: 3

Course Purpose

To introduce students to basic concepts of the Earth's Physical Environments.

Objectives

- i. To enable the learner conceptualize the Earth as an integral part of the solar system
- ii. To enable the learner conceptualize the biophysical environments of the earth
- iii. To enable the learner conceptualize the biophysical processes that operate within and between the Earth's subsystems.

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the learner should be able to:

- i. Comprehend the earth as an integral part of the universe
- ii. Distinguish among the different Earth's environments
- iii. Gain knowledge on the spatial character and operations of biophysical processes
- iv. Teach and describe the structure of the earth
- v. Assess world climates.

Course Content

The Earth in the universe; structure of the earth Introducing the spheres of the Earth; Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere and Biosphere. The structure and materials of the Earth; Nature and classification of common igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks; Landforms and formation processes; Tectonic theory and Global tectonics, Endogenic and Exogenic process, Associated landforms. The earth-sun relationships; Days and seasons. The structure of the atmosphere, Atmospheric processes, Pressure and wind patterns, Atmospheric moisture, Precipitation and rainfall distribution, Water bodies and their distribution; Plant and animal distribution , Factors influencing their distribution and relationships with earth's processes.

Course Outline

1. Scope and Concepts
 - i. Definitions
 - ii. Components
2. The Earth
 - i. Origin
 - ii. Structure
3. Earth Movements
 - i. Tectonic theory global tectonic
 - ii. Endogenic and Exogenic processes and resultant landforms

4. Landforms and Land-forming Processes
 - i. Folding
 - ii. Faulting
 - iii. Vulcanicity
5. Earth-Sun Relationship
 - i. Rotation
 - ii. Revolution
6. The Atmosphere
 - i. Composition
 - ii. Structure
 - iii. Function
7. Weather and Climate
 - i. Elements of weather and climate
 - ii. Pressure and wind patterns
 - iii. World climates
8. Biosphere
 - i. Water bodies on the earth surface
 - ii. The hydrological/water cycle
9. Biogeography
 - i. Concepts of ecosystem
 - ii. Plant-animal relationship in an ecosystem

Learning and Learning Methods

Discussion, explanation, discovery, observation

Instructional Materials/Equipment


White board, text books, LCD, handouts, pictures, maps


Course assessment


Type		Weighting
Continuous Assessment Test (1)	Week 5/6	15%
Continuous Assessment Test (2)	Week 9/10	15%
End of Semester Examination	Week 15/16	70%
Total		100%

Course Texts/References

1. Barry, R.G. & Chorley, R.J. (1972). *Atmosphere, Weather and Climate*. London: Methuen and Co. Ltd
2. Kaushik, A. (2009). *Perspectives in Environmental Studies 3rd edition*. New Delhi: New Age International Publishers
3. Otiende, J.E., Ezaza, W. P., & Boisvert, R. (eds) (2010). *An Introduction to Environmental Education*. Nairobi: Nairobi University Press
4. Strahler, A.N. (1965). *Physical Geography*. New York: Wiley.
5. Thornbury, W. D. (1969) *Principles of Geomorphology 2nd Edition*. New Delhi: International Publishers

Course Lecturer MORRIS M. MWATU Sign  Date 6-8-2018

COD DR. MANYA W. STEPHEN Sign  Date 7/8/2018

Dean Prof. Gaudyne Omulando Sign  Date 7/8/2018