



**BAKER COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**GEO 1050 Introduction to Geography**  
**3 Semester Credit Hours**

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**Student Learning Outcomes and Enabling Objectives**

1. Explain what geographers study.
  - a. Use longitude and latitude to identify locations on the Earth.
  - b. Compare and contrast various types of maps.
  - c. Discuss the impact of geographic technology on humans, including Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Information Systems (GIS).
2. Compare and contrast Earth's weather and climate systems.
  - a. Discuss how wind, temperature, and moisture form.
  - b. Differentiate between weather and climate.
  - c. Describe how wind, temperature, and moisture impact weather and climate.
  - d. Explore global warming and its impact on Earth.
3. Examine the Earth's physical origins.
  - a. Describe continental drift, plate tectonics, and mountain formation, including volcanoes.
  - b. Describe the Earth's spheres, including the atmosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere.
  - c. Differentiate between sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rock.
  - d. Discuss the rock cycle.
4. Examine the effects of weathering, erosion, and deposition.
  - a. Describe how wind and rain impact the surface of the Earth.
  - b. Discuss how different glaciers are formed and their impact on the surface of the Earth.
  - c. Describe how rivers are the result of erosion.
  - d. Discuss the relationship among erosion, deposition, soil, and landforms.
  - e. Discuss the weather cycle, including evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

5. Examine the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations in terms of physical, cultural, and economic factors.
  - a. Describe the general distribution of the world's population, and factors impacting the distribution.
  - b. Describe the general distribution of the world's population growth rates, and factors impacting the distribution.
  - c. Describe the world's general migration patterns, and factors impacting the patterns.
  - d. Compare and contrast migration terminology, such as emigration vs. immigration, push vs. pull factors, and refugees vs. asylum.
6. Discuss elements of culture, such as language and religion, including the origins, diffusion, and impacts they have on the places where they occur.
  - a. Describe the general distribution of the world's major language families, and their origin and diffusion.
  - b. Describe the general distribution of the world's major religions, and their origin and diffusion.
  - c. Describe the impact that languages have in terms of ethnicity, nationality, and the establishment of countries (i.e., states).
  - d. Describe the impact that religions have in terms of ethnicity, nationality, and the establishment of countries (i.e., states).
7. Examine elements of the world's economy, such as resource distribution, agricultural and industrial patterns, and urban systems, and how such are tied to levels of economic development.
  - a. Explain the concept of economic development, its characteristics, and how it is measured.
  - b. Describe the general distribution of the world's agricultural systems and its relationship to levels of development.
  - c. Describe the general distribution of the world's industrial systems and its relationship to levels of development.
  - d. Describe the general distribution of the world's urban systems and its general relationship to levels of development.
  - e. Describe the general distribution of the world's natural resources and its general relationship to levels of development.
8. Examine the characteristics of the world's political geography, and how political geography can influence the world's economic geography.
  - a. Describe the general distribution of the world's states (i.e., countries), and factors impacting the distribution.
  - b. Describe the similarities and differences of exclaves and enclaves as well as the cultural and economic ramifications of each.

- c. Assess the shapes of states (i.e., compact, fragmented, prorupt, etc.), and the cultural and economic ramifications of these factors.
- d. Compare and contrast the world's major supranational organizations (i.e., UN, EU, NATO, etc.).
- e. Describe the similarities and differences of the terms ethnicity and nationality, and their relevance to the world's political geography.

## **Big Ideas and Essential Questions**

### **Big Ideas**

- Geography
- Geographers
- Climate Systems
- Earth's Origins
- Weathering, Erosion, Deposition
- Human Population
- Culture
- World's Economy
- World's Political Economy

### **Essential Questions**

1. What do geographers study and why?
2. How do we compare and contrast Earth's weather and climate systems?
3. What makes up the Earth's physical origins?
4. What are the effects of weathering, erosion, and deposition?
5. What are the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations in terms of physical, cultural, and economic factors?
6. What are the elements of culture, such as language and religion, including the origins, diffusion, and impacts they have on the places where they occur?
7. How are elements of the world's economy, such as resource distribution, agricultural and industrial patterns, and urban systems, tied to levels of economic development?
8. What are the characteristics of the world's political geography, and how can political geography influence the world's economic geography?

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These SLOs are not approved for experiential credit.

**Effective: Fall 2023**