

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

**The American University of Rome
Mathematics and Science Program**

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	Physical Geography
Course Number:	ENV 102
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	None

Course description

This course introduces the physical elements and processes responsible for: weather and climate, vegetation, soils, plate tectonics, landforms, their distributions, and their significance to humans. This special session of Physical Geography examines these processes as they are expressed in the context of the Italian Peninsula and larger Mediterranean region.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- Christopherson, R., S. Cunha, and C. Thomsen. 2017 Geosystems Core. Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
ISBN: 9780321834744

Recommended Readings (subject to change)

Provided online through AUR - Learning Management System (LMS) & Shared bibliographic library in Zotero

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Introduce students to the field of geography and how spatial analysis distinguishes it from the other physical sciences.
2. Expose students to the natural processes that drive the physical environments of the Earth and how they shape the planet.
3. Introduce the scientific method and analytical tools as they are applied to Spatial Analysis and the study of Physical Geography.
4. Engage students in an analysis of how these physical processes impact the people and environments of the Earth, with special attention to Italy and the Mediterranean Region.
5. Introduce the processes of weather and climate, and the arguments and evidence for global climate change.
6. Expose students to the distinctive landforms resulting from the natural processes of the Earth, with special attention to the landforms of Italy and the Mediterranean Region.

Course Learning Activities

- In-class and on-site lectures: Lectures will provide guided observation, analysis, and discussion of relevant topics and issues. [CLO 1-7]
- In class discussions: Students will participate in discussions; sustain their views and ideas using the appropriate geographical lexicon. [CLO 1-9]
- Out of class reading assignments: Students will read the assigned texts for specified class sessions in preparation for seminar style discussion. [CLO 1-8]
- Laboratory Exercises & Field Trip Worksheet. Students will compile geographic data on physical phenomena designed to enhance their understanding of the processes that shape the Earth and will analyze and map the resultant data and results. [CLO 1-7]
- Written and Oral presentations: Students will present the results of their laboratory exercises through a written laboratory report and as an oral presentation to the class. The presentation will use appropriate technology and/or media. [CLO 8-9]
- Exams: Students will take two exams using the AUR Learning Management System. [CLO 1-8]

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Laboratory Exercises (4, 10% each)	40%
Field Trip Worksheet - Botanical Garden	10%
Laboratory exercises	10%
Exams/Online Assignments (2)	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Summer Session I	
Class Meetings	Discussion Topic
Week 1:	
Session 1	Geography, Earth Systems, & Maps
Week 2:	
Session 2	Geographic Tools: GIS, Remote Sensing, & GPS LAB 1: Mapping Italy
Session 3	The Atmosphere I - Composition & Processes
Session 4	LAB 1 - Due Before Class (Submit through LMS) The Atmosphere II - Weather & Climate
Session 5	LAB 2: Weather & Climate of Italy
Week 3:	
Session 6	LAB 2 - Due Before Class (Submit through LMS) The Hydrosphere I
Session 7	The Hydrosphere II
Session 8	Biosphere I - Ecology <u>Exam 1 - Earth Systems, Geographic Tools, The Atmosphere, Hydrosphere & The Biosphere (Online thru LMS)</u>
Session 9	<u>Exam 1 - Due Before Class</u> LAB 3: The Environments of Italy
Week 4:	
Session 10	LAB 3 - Due Before Class (Submit through LMS) Biosphere - Flora & Fauna (Field Trip – Orto Botanico)
Session 11	Lithosphere - Internal Processes, Tectonics, & the Rock Cycle
Session 12	Volcanoes & Earthquakes
Session 13	LAB 4: Volcanoes and Earthquakes in Italy
Week 5:	
Session 14	LAB 4 - Due Before Class (Submit through LMS) Soils, & Erosion
Session 15	Fluvial Processes
Session 16	Landforms <u>Exam 2 - Lithosphere, Tectonics, Earthquakes & Volcanoes, Soils, Erosion, Fluvial Processes & Landforms (Online thru LMS)</u>
Session 17	<u>Exam 2 - Due Before Class</u> Course Summary & LAB Wrap up - The Class Physical Geography Map of Italy

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		