**Area Studies – Ch. 1 Notes**

**Section 1**

Two main types of geography:

Physical – Study of the earth itself (earthquakes, floods, land forms)

Human – study of people –(cultures, populations, languages)

Five themes of geography:

**Location**: where is something on the Earth?

(absolute location/relative location)

**Place**: features and distinctions of a particular spot on Earth

(Either physical characteristics/human characteristics)

**Regions**: area/group with common characteristics (perception)

Formal region – Well-recognized boundries

(a state, country, Sheboygan County, Eastern Wisconsin Conference)

Functional region – A city or industry is the focal point of the area

(Washington DC, Wisconsin Dells, Erie Canal)

Perceptual region-an area with similar characteristics, but the boundaries are vague

(Up North, the Sunbelt, “the region”- NW Indiana)

**Movement:** people/goods/ideas moving between places

**Human/Environment Interaction**: how humans change their environment

(building a dam, irrigation systems, radiation from a nuclear disaster, global warming)

**Section 2 - Main Idea is land creation (Primary landforms)**

The Earth has different layers – core mantle, crust

Top layer (the crust) is moving (Plate tectonics) (Continental Drift)

This movement creates new land forms, or changes existing landforms

(earthquakes, volcanoes, fault lines, tsunamis, sea floor spreading, mountain ranges)

Areas near plate boundaries are most likely places for “land changes” to occur

(Ring of Fire, Greece-Turkey, Northern India) **page 47**.

**Section 3 – Main idea is land weathering (Secondary landforms)**

Different types of weathering:

Mechanical – frost wedging, tree roots

Chemical – a. Carbonic acid created from carbon dioxide – dissolves limestone (stalagmites)

b. Acid rain formed from pollution or volcanic activity

Grave stones are good examples of Primary vs. secondary landforms (Granite – marble – limestone) and erosion.

Erosion – Three main types

Water (Grand Canyon; Lake Delton, WI; contoured cropland on hillsides; Mississippi Delta

Wind – Sand dunes, dust bowl, sandstorms (Iraq, Afghanistan)

Glacier – kettles; moraines

**KEY IDEA: Two processes (land creation and land weathering – erosion) are constantly working against each other. A never-ending process!**