

GEOG 5

Physical Geography: Environmental Conditions

Reedley College

Spring, 2020

50200 - Tues, Thurs 8am-9:15am

50201 - Mon, Wed 5:30-6:45pm PHY 76

Instructor: Emanuel Delgado

(Preferred pronouns: he/him)

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Office: BUS 48

Office Hours held in the Tutorial Center in the Library: Mon. & Wed. 11:00am-1:30p

Textbook:

Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

By Darrel Hess and Dennis Tasa

You may check out a copy at the Library Circulation for 2-hour increments.

No prerequisites, co-requisites.

Advisories: Eligibility for Mathematics 201. (A, CSU-GE, UC, I)

GOEG 5 Description:

This course is an investigation and interpretation of the physical features of the earth. A systematic approach of the sun-earth relations, science of maps, weather and climate, the hydrosphere, natural vegetation and global warming.

Instructional objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Assess and analyze the role of energy in environmental systems.
- B. Examine and comprehend the earth's physical features and their relationships with the biological environment.
- C. Demonstrate comprehension of various maps.
- D. Use an atlas and various types of maps for research.
- E. Use books, newspapers, periodicals, and the Internet for research.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the students will:

- Analyze and solve problems in physical geography, including those requiring computation.
- Identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climates, and natural vegetation regions.
- Understand the relationship between the earth and sun and its effect on seasons.
- Understand energy transfer related to food webs, photosynthesis, and the spatial distribution of plants and animals

Important Dates

- January 24 (F) - last day to drop full-term class for full refund
- January 31 (F) - last day to register or drop full-term class to avoid "W" - census date
- February 21 (F) - change the class from pass to no-pass
- March 13 (F) - last day to drop
- January 20, February 21, - Holidays no classes held

Course Conduct and Policies:

- Respect yourselves, your classmates, and your professor. By respecting each other and each of our ideas, whether we agree with them or not, we create an environment conducive to our growth as student geographers while allowing others to do the same. **Disruptive, disrespectful, or harassing behavior toward other students or the professor seriously hinder the learning process and will not be tolerated.**
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION POLICY: Look up Reedley College Catalog. Don't do it!
- Arrive on time and attend each class meeting. Arriving after I begin or leaving before the class ends is not acceptable unless properly documented. You may be dropped for excessive absences.
- If absent, ANY missed information is the student's responsibility. Prepare yourself early by exchanging contact information with at least two classmates. You can create a supportive network with fellow students that can help you succeed in the class. **The ultimate responsibility to add or drop a class is on the student.**

Technology

- Phones are to be silenced or turned off and put away, with the exception of an emergency. If you violate this policy, I'll ask you to leave.
- Check in with me if you want to use your laptops in class. You may use laptops only for note taking. No social media (FB, IG, Twitter, etc.) and no browsing/surfing the net. **If you abuse this verbal agreement, you will no longer be permitted to use your laptop in class.** There are limited outlets in the classroom, so try to bring your laptop fully charged.
- **Late policy:** Assignments are due on the given date and are considered late if they are turned in after. You may turn in late assignments for a portion of the grade. You lose more points the longer it takes for you to turn in late assignments.

Study Tips

- Read assigned reading before coming to class
- Take notes as you read and write down questions for class.
 - Read the introduction and summary first
 - Peruse through the chapter, writing down main topics (headings) in an outline(outline).
 - Then read the entire assignment
 - Highlight and look up unknown vocabulary words
- Take thoroughly written lecture notes
- Participate in class
 - Ask questions from your reading relating to the lecture
 - Collaborate with other students (add to their discussion)
- Read and type your notes after class. (Repetition will help the knowledge stay fresh).

Grading Rubric

1. Reading Assignments (10 total 5 points each)
2. Writing exercises (10 total, 10 points each)
3. In class assignments (10 total, 10 points each)
4. Participation (100 points for the entire semester)
5. Research Project (100 points)
6. Quizzes (10 total 10 points each)
7. 1 mid-term (50 points)
8. Final Exam (100 points)

Grade Scale

630-700	= A (90%-100%)
560-629	= B (80%-89%)
490-559	= C (70%-79%)
420-700	= D (60%-69%)
Less than 419	= F (0%-59%)

Course Assessment

Reading Assignments:

You will also be assigned reading questions (5 points each chapter) where you will answer **every other odd number** at the end of each chapter we cover in the required textbook.

Writing Exercises:

You will be assigned to write 1-page, double spaced essays focusing on specific topics covered in the week's reading assignment and/or class lecture. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage you to engage and develop your familiarity with course content by reading and writing on a regular basis and to prepare you for the final Research Project

In Class Assignments:

You will be given handouts with readings and problems or questions about the topic we are covering in class. You must use the readings, which provide examples, to answer the questions and find solutions to the problems given in each assignment. (10 points each)

Participation

You are required to participate in class discussions, activities, and assignments. You should come to class prepared. Read the assigned readings, prepare reading notes, listen to lecture or class discussion, think about the content, and critically engage with the class discussion. When I ask a question, you should be answering. If you don't understand, ask clarifying questions. You are encouraged to express your **RELEVANT** personal knowledge and experiences in order to enrich class discussion. **Attendance** will also count for part of your participation points because you will obviously lose the opportunity to participate in class if you are absent

Quizzes and Mid Term exams:

Quizzes will be given between or after each chapter at the beginning of class to assess your ability to define key geographic characteristics of Earth, and understand the main environmental conditions of Earth. These quizzes will be used to make the Mid-term exams, which are not cumulative and will be taken in class, unless you, the students, and I arrange a more appropriate alternative.

Final Research Project

Living in the city, we're often busy living our lives, working, going to school. Many of us get in our cars and jump on the freeway and often get stuck in traffic. At this speed, we miss or ignore many environmental landscapes. You are assigned to go out and explore these landscapes, apply some of the topics that we are covering in class, and write a research essay. (40 points) You will then research a National Geographic article related to class topics of a different location you would like to visit or live in. More details to come. (40 points). You are also required to **make a 3-5 minute Power Point presentation on your topic** at the end of the semester. More details to come (Oral PowerPoint presentation is worth 20 points). You may use one Writing Exercise as part of your final essay as long as you expand your topic coherently.

Extra Credit:

Students may earn extra credit points for attending environmental meetings that deal with course-related subject matter. Volunteering with a non-profit organization that deals with social, environmental or geographic issues is another way to earn extra credit. Go on trips to the local mountains or park environments. To receive extra-credit, you will be expected to show proof of attendance and write a 1 page reflection paper. Each event/meeting/field trip and reflection paper is worth 5 points. Four events (20 points total) is the maximum extra credit allowed for the course.

Final Exam

Like the midterms, the Final exam will evaluate your understanding of the remainder of the course content. The format will be announced 1-2 weeks before the exam. The exam will be held in class and is not cumulative.

Tentative Course Schedule (Subject to change based on our progression)

All exams and quizzes will be announced at least two days in advance. Format will be announced the day prior to the quiz/exam.

<u>Week 1 Intro to Geography and Earth Systems</u>	Ch 1
<u>Week 2 Earth-Sun Relations</u>	Ch 1
<u>Week 3 (Quiz on Ch. 1) Portraying Earth: Maps</u>	Ch 2
<u>Week 4 Portraying Earth: Geographic technologies</u>	Ch 2
<u>Week 5 (Quiz on Ch. 2) Introduction to the Atmosphere</u>	Ch 3
<u>Week 6 (Quiz on Ch. 3) Insolation and Temperature</u>	Ch 4
<u>Week 7 Insolation and Temperature</u>	Ch 4
<u>Week 8 (Midterm) Atmospheric Pressure and Wind</u>	Ch 5
<u>Week 9 (Quiz on Ch. 5) Atmospheric Moisture</u>	Ch 6
<u>Week 10 The Hydrosphere</u>	Ch 9
<u>Week 11 (Quiz on Ch. 6 & 9) Atmospheric Disturbances</u>	Ch 7
<u>Week 12 Spring Break (April 6-11)</u>	
<u>Week 13 Presentations</u>	
<u>Week 14 Presentations</u>	
<u>Week 15 Global Climates and Climate Change</u>	Ch 8
<u>Week 16 (Quiz Ch. 8) Final thoughts</u>	

Plagiarism and Cheating

I will not tolerate cheating. You will receive a zero for cheating in any assignment, quiz or exam. It is also a violation of the Reedley College academic honesty/dishonesty policy (see page 10 of the Reedley College Catalog). It is your responsibility to be aware and familiarize yourself with this policy.

Disabilities

A student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Disabled Students Program & Services. For students who have already been determined eligible for DSS services, please provide the instructor with the proper form from DSPS in a timely manner, at the beginning of the semester and at least one week prior to the verified and identified need.

Student Support Services

The following services are available for your benefit. Get to know your campus and all the student services they provide. You pay for them with your student fees, so take advantage of them. Career Planning Center

1. Counseling Center & Student Development
2. Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)
3. Financial Aid
4. Health Center
5. Transfer Center

6. Tutorial Center

Reedley College Tutorial Center **Location:** Reedley College Library **Phone:** (559)6380358
Tutorial service is free.

Syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.