



GEOGRAPHY 5
FALL SEMESTER 2012
Physical Geography: Environmental Conditions
9:00-9:50am MWF (Section 52552)
Room PHY 76

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Barry Warmerdam Phone: 638-3641, x3256
Office: CCI 216 E-mail: barry.warmerdam@reedleycollege.edu
Office Hours: W 1-3, TH 2-3 Website: RC Blackboard

Drop Deadline: October 12 **Holidays:** September 3 (M); November 12 (M), 23 (F)

Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 125, 126, and Math 101.

TEXTBOOK:

Physical Geography, 10th Edition (Petersen, 2012)

A major key to success in this course is to be able to read and understand the textbook. It is vitally important that you have a copy of the textbook.

You must also be motivated enough to work independently. **You** are expected to work on this course outside the classroom. **You** have to provide your own time and effort to do the work, and that the only one telling you to do that, once you are off campus, is **YOU!**

DO NOT remain in this class if you cannot or will not get a copy of the text, **or** if you can't make yourself do the necessary work.

It is important that you **organize your time** so that you have several hours per week dedicated solely to working on this course. To be successful, you should expect to attend class regularly *and* to spend **at least 6 hours per week** on Geography 5 **on your own time**. It is recommended that you use a *calendar* to block out time to be used for this course.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon *successful* completion of this course, students will be able to

- (1) Identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climate, and natural vegetation regions
- (2) Analyze and solve problems in physical geography, including those requiring computation
- (3) Describe the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth

GRADING:

Grades will be assigned based on the points that you **earn** during the semester.

Grades will be assigned according to this scale: 90-100% = 360 to 400 points = A
80-89% = 320 to 359 points = B
70-79% = 280 to 319 points = C
60-69% = 240 to 279 points = D
0-59% = 0 to 239 points = F

Exams constitute 75% of the semester grade. Assignments constitute 25% of the semester grade.

Total Possible Points: 3 Best Exams x 100 pts = 300 points
4 Assignments x 25 pts = 100 points
TOTAL = 400 points

There will be four exams. The lowest exam score will be dropped. *Your three best exam scores* will be used in calculating your grade. One assignment will be collected *in each unit*.

Here are the **exam dates**:

Exam #1: September 10 (M)
Exam #2: October 8 (M)
Exam #3: November 9 (F)
Exam #4: See Finals Week Schedule

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!!!

NO EXTRA CREDIT!!!

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE:

Unit One: Chapters 2 & 3 (Petersen)

- A. The Earth
 - 1. size and shape
 - 2. latitude, longitude, GPS
 - 3. rotation and time zones
- B. Earth-Sun Relations
 - 1. solar fusion
 - 2. solar radiation
 - 3. revolution and seasons
- C. EXAM #1

Unit Two: Chapters 4 & 5 (Petersen)

- D. Atmosphere, Pollution, Oceans, and Energy
 - 1. composition of the atmosphere
 - 2. structure of the atmosphere, ozone layer
 - 3. sources of pollution
 - 4. structure and circulation of oceans
 - 5. types of energy and energy transfer
- E. Radiation Balance
 - 1. incoming radiation
 - 2. terrestrial radiation
- F. Temperature
 - 1. temperature scales
 - 2. global temperature distribution
- G. Atmospheric Circulation
 - 1. pressure and wind
 - 2. global pressure patterns
 - 3. global wind patterns
 - 4. upper air circulation
- H. EXAM #2

Unit Three: Chapters 6 & 7 (Petersen)

- I. Humidity, Clouds, Precipitation
 - 1. types of humidity
 - 2. fog formation
 - 3. adiabatic lifting
 - 4. types of clouds
 - 5. precipitation processes
- J. Storm Systems
 - 1. thunderstorms
 - 2. midlatitude cyclones
 - 3. tornadoes
 - 4. tropical storms and hurricanes
- K. EXAM #3

Unit Four: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 (Petersen)

- L. World Climates
 - 1. the Koppen climate system
 - 2. global climate pattern
 - 3. climate change and global warming
- M. World Vegetation Regions
 - 1. biomes
 - 2. climate and vegetation
 - 3. global vegetation distribution
- N. EXAM #4

Cell Phones, I-Pods: These are **not** to be used in room PHY 76. **Turn them off or do not bring them at all!!!!!!** Ten points will be subtracted for each cell phone or I-Pod violation that you commit. If I see you *touching* a cell phone, that is a violation. If I see a cell phone *on your table*, that is a violation. If you refuse to put a cell phone or I-Pod away, you may be expelled from the classroom and may receive a “0” on your exam if it happens during an examination period.

Note: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance: Roll will be taken every class meeting, as required by law. Regular attendance is beneficial for most students, but no points will be added to, or subtracted from, your semester grade for attendance alone.

Criteria for Instructor Drop:

1. *Poor Start:* If you **miss** any class session during Unit 1, **and fail** Exam #1, I will drop you.
2. *Excessive Absence:* If you miss four or more class periods, I have **the right** to drop you even if you are passing the class.