

REEDLEY COLLEGE - COURSE SYLLABUS & INFORMATION

Course Title and Number: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (GEOG 5)

Term: Fall 2016

Class Meetings: TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 13.30 to 14.45; PHY 76

Credit Hours: 3 (all lecture)

Course Description: Description and interpretation of the physical features of the Earth. A systematic approach to the study of earth-sun relations, weather, climate, and natural vegetation.

Instructor: Professor Bill Kastanes

Office Location: Room #259, Academic Village I (Madera Centre); CCI 209 (Reedley College)

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Office Hours: MON & WED - 12.30 to 13.30 (Madera Centre); TUE & THU - 12.00 to 13.00 (Reedley College);
FRI - 9.00 to 10.00 (VIRTUAL); or by appointment

TEXTBOOKS, READING LISTS, ETC

Required: Petersen, Sack, & Gabler (2017). *Physical Geography, 11th Edition*. Cengage Learning: Mason, Ohio.

Recommended: Any world atlas; periodicals focusing on current issues and events.

The student is expected to read the text, especially the parts that correspond to the material discussed in class. Also, the student ought to be aware of current events through the reading of or listening to news media, books, publications, etc.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (a) identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climates, and natural vegetation regions;
- (b) analyze and solve problems in physical geography, including those requiring computation; and
- (c) describe the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Class Attendance/Participation: Attendance is critical for this course and is taken during each class session. The student is expected to attend every class session and is responsible for any material missed in class. Importantly, a student who is absent for at least two weeks of class meetings during the first nine weeks of the term may be withdrawn from the course.

Student Conduct: The student is responsible for proper behaviour and courtesy towards fellow students and the instructor during class. The student ought to remain in his/her seat during the entire class session and tardiness to class must be avoided. Sleeping, conversing with fellow students, leaving before a class session ends, etc, shall not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour by a student shall result in removal from class and perhaps withdrawal from the course. Moreover, mobile telephones, electronic devices, etc, ought to be disengaged and put away during class.

Academic Dishonesty: If the student is found cheating or plagiarising at any time during the course, s/he shall receive a grade of "zero" for the assignment may be subject to further disciplinary action by the college.

Academic Support: The college provides various support services that are available to the student. If the student has a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc) per the American With disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the instructor ought to be contacted as soon as possible.

Furthermore, per Title V Regulation 58170(e), the instructor is referring each student in need of academic support to tutorial services. The reasons for this is for the student to master the content, the study skills, and the basic skills of the course through the use of trained peer tutors.

Importantly, proper COMMUNICATION is vital for positive student-instructor relationships. The instructor ought to be contacted as soon as possible if any serious issues emerge during the semester.

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course syllabus and general information document.

GRADING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Unit Exams: There are five (5) unit exams given during this course. Each exam is worth 100 points and shall be composed of either: (a) only multiple-choice questions; OR (b) multiple-choice questions and a written portion. Notes used by the student during an exam are restricted to a 3" by 5" index card; both sides of the card can be used. The student is required to bring to the exam either one blank Scantron, Form Number 882-E, **OR** one blank Scantron, Form 886-E (886-E Lovas is also acceptable), which is also known as a "Mini Essay Book". These can be purchased at the College Bookshop.

An exam shall be given at the end of each unit below and be based on the following tentative course schedule:

<u>Unit I:</u> Intro to Geography; Representations of Earth	Chapters 1 & 2	Weeks 1 to 4
<u>Unit II:</u> Earth-Sun Relationships; Atmosphere/Temperature	Chapters 3 & 4	Weeks 5 to 8
<u>Unit III:</u> Atmospheric Pressure/Winds; Moisture/Precipitation	Chapters 5 & 6	Weeks 8 to 11
<u>Unit IV:</u> Air Masses/Weather Systems; Global Climate Change	Chapters 7 & 8	Weeks 12 to 14
<u>Unit V:</u> Low Latitude, Arid, Middle Latitude, and Polar Climates	Chapters 8, 9 & 10	Weeks 15 to 17

Make-up Final Exam: In the occurrence of the student missing one of the five unit exams, s/he shall be allowed to take a comprehensive make-up exam during Final Exam Week. Moreover, if a student wishes to replace a previous score of 50 points or less on a unit exam, s/he may take the final exam. The exam is closed book/atlas/notes, etc., and shall be given on Thursday, 15 December, 13.00 to 14.50.

Map Exercises: There are six (6) brief map exercises given during this course, with each worth 20 points. The final letter grade of the course shall be based on five exercises, thus a maximum of 120 points can be earned with the completion of all six assignments. Administration of the exercises shall be spaced appropriately throughout the term. The purpose of these exercises is to help the student improve his/her mental map of the world. Importantly, an incomplete exercise or one submitted after the due date shall be assigned a score of zero (0). The regions for the exercises are:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) World (Physical Features) | (3) Latin America (Countries) | (5) Asia (Countries) |
| (2) Europe (Countries) | (4) Africa (Countries) | (6) United States (States) |

The lists of places to be plotted onto the maps are provided on the instructor's Blackboard website. The individual maps for completing each exercise may be purchased at the College Bookshop.

Final Letter Grade Determination: All grades during this course are determined using a point system. The final letter grade for the student shall be based on the following point distribution and marking system:

<u>Course Activities</u>		<u>Final Letter Grade</u>	
Unit Exams	500 points	540 points and greater	A
Map Exercises	100 points	480 to 539 points	B
(a maximum of 120 points can be earned)		420 to 479 points	C
	-----	360 to 419 points	D
	600 points	0 to 359 points	F

Make-up Policy: There are no make-up exams. A student who misses a unit exam shall have the opportunity to take the make-up final exam, which is comprehensive.

Course Withdrawal: The following deadlines ought to be noted in regards to withdrawal from the course.

- The last day to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a "W" is the end of the 3rd Week in person: Friday 2 September; via Webadvisor: Monday 5 September
- The last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" is Friday 14 October, the end of the 9th Week.

A final letter grade of "incomplete" is given only under "extraordinary" circumstances.

Pass/No Pass Policy: A student who is enrolled in this course with the pass/no pass option is expected to complete all course work. A minimum final letter grade of "C" is needed for a passing grade. The last day to change a class from a pass/no pass basis to a letter grade one, or vice versa, is Friday, 9 September (end of 4th Week).

School Holiday: Thanksgiving Day (THU 24 NOV)