

GEOG 5 –Physical Geography: Environmental Conditions  
51321- 100% online class  
Reedley College  
Fall, 2019

Instructor: Emanuel Delgado  
(Preferred pronouns: he/him)  
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Office: BUS 48B  
Lecture Hours:  
Online Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm-2:30pm

### **Supporting Materials:**

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, or advisories.

### **GOEG 5 Description:**

This course is an investigation and interpretation of the sun-earth relationship, science of maps, weather and climate, the hydrosphere, cycles and patterns in the biosphere, flora and fauna, soils, rocks, and minerals, weathering, mass wasting, erosion, and origin and types of land forms that provide insight into the nature of human's physical environment.

### **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.
- Describe the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth
- Identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climates, and natural vegetation regions.

### **Important Dates**

- August 23 (F) - last day to drop for full refund
- August 30 (F) - last day to register or drop avoid "W" –census date
- September 13 (F) - change the class from pass to no-pass
- Oct 11 (F) – last day to drop
- Dec 16 (M) – grades are due at noon
- Sept 2, Nov 11, Nov 28-29 – Holidays

### **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. When you are absent, you then have someone to ask what you missed.
- **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.

### **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 thorough lecture notes
- Participate in class and
  - 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**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> 2 mid-terms (50 points each)                       | <b>20% of total grade</b> |
| <b>2.</b> Writing exercises (10 total, 10 points each)       | <b>20% of total grade</b> |
| <b>3.</b> Participation (100 points for the entire semester) | <b>20% of total grade</b> |
| <b>4.</b> Research Project (100 points)                      | <b>20% of total grade</b> |
| <b>5.</b> Final Exam (100 points)                            | <b>20% of total grade</b> |

### **Grade Scale**

500-450 = A (100%-90%)  
449-400 = B (89%-80%)  
399-350 = C (79%-70%)  
349-295 = D (69%-60%)  
Less than 294 = F (59%-50%)

## **Course Assessment**

### ***Mid terms***

Two mid-terms will assess your ability to locate environmental features on maps, define key geographic characteristics of Earth's relation to the sun, understand the main thematic concepts of the course, use examples effectively, and draw comparisons between different places and phenomena in the world. The tests are not cumulative and will be taken in class, unless you, the students, and I arrange a more appropriate alternative

### ***Writing Exercises***

I will assign a written 1-page, double spaced essay focusing on a specific topic 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. Explain what you learned about that topic, and how it relates to you.

### ***Participation***

You are required to participate in class discussions, activities, and assignments. 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

### ***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 cultural and 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 also research a different location you would like to visit or live in. You will write about this location's weather patterns, the type of landscape, the type of flora and fauna that live there, and the hydrologic features that are present there. 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 40 points).

Important questions to consider for your research project include: What are key challenges facing environments in the world today? Why is the global distribution of pollution so uneven and how might more impacted regions improve? You may use one Weekly Writing Assignment 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. I frequently go on trips to the local mountains or park environments and/or cultural events. You are welcome to join me. 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.

## **Course Schedule**

**All exams and quizzes will be announced at least one week prior. Format will be announced the day prior to the quiz/exam.**

<u>Week 1 Intro to Geography and Earth Systems</u>	<b>Ch 1</b>
<u>Week 2 Portraying Earth</u>	<b>Ch 1 and 2</b>
<u>Week 3 Earth Sun Relationships and the Atmosphere</u>	<b>Ch 3 and 4</b>
<u>Week 4 Pressure and Wind (Quiz 1)</u>	<b>Ch 5</b>
<u>Week 5 Atmospheric Moisture</u>	<b>Ch 6</b>
<u>Week 6 Storms</u>	<b>Ch 7</b>
<u>Week 7 (Midterm)</u>	
<u>Week 8 Global Climates and Climate Change</u>	<b>Ch 8</b>
<u>Week 9 Soils and BioGeography</u>	<b>Ch 10, 11 and 12</b>
<u>Week 10 BioGeog</u>	
<u>Week 11 (Quiz 2)</u>	
<u>Week 11 Intro to Landforms</u>	<b>Ch 13</b>
<u>Week 12 Weathering Mass Wasting</u>	<b>Ch 15</b>
<u>Week 13 Fluvial Geomorphology</u>	<b>Ch 16</b>
<u>Week 14 Coastal Geomorphology</u>	<b>Ch 20</b>
<u>Week 15 Glacial Geomorphology &amp; Arid Lands</u>	<b>Ch 18 &amp; 19</b>
<u>Week 16 Last day for each class = Final Exams the week of December 13th.</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 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 (see page 32-39 of the Reedley College Catalog for Student Support Services). 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.