

Environmental Conditions: State Center Community College District – Reedley College

Course Identification:

Course Title and Number: Environmental Conditions (GEOG 5) – 57206 **Term:** Spring 2019

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays: 5:30-6:45 pm **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, natural vegetation, and climate change.
Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 125, 126, and Mathematics 101.

Faculty Information:

Instructor: Lucas Reyes

E-mail Address: lucas.reyes@cloviscollege.edu

Office Location: CCI-217

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm or by appointment

Required Text: Hess, Darrel. and Tasa, Dennis. (2017). *McKnight's Physical Geography: Fourth California Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Supplemental Text: Mann, Michael E. and Kump, Lee R. (2016). *Dire Predictions: Understanding Climate Change: Second Edition*. New York, NY: DK Publishing

Students are expected to read the parts of the text that correspond to the material discussed in class.

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: (A.) Identify the basic elements 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. (C.) Describe the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth.

Course Objectives: In the process of completing this course, students will: 1. Use latitude and longitude to identify a location. 2. Analyze the structure of the GPS location system. 3. Determine the time of day in various time zones throughout the world. 4. Analyze the primary sources of air pollution in the United States. 5. Calculate the time of onset of radiation fog. 6. Calculate the cloud base and snowline of an orographic precipitation event. 7. Analyze the meaning of the symbols on a standard weather map. 8. Describe the orbital relationship between the earth and the sun. 9. Explain the existence of seasons on the earth. 10. Analyze the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth. 11. Identify the major types of clouds. 12. Analyze the frequency of tornadoes in the United States. 13. Explain how precipitation occurs. 14. Describe the distribution of pressure and wind throughout the world. 15. Explain the source of energy within the sun. 16. Analyze the nature of solar radiation. 17. Describe the vertical structure of the atmosphere. 18. Analyze the relationship between climate and vegetation regions

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. A student who is absent for more than two weeks of class meetings may be withdrawn from the course.

Student Conduct: The student is responsible for proper behavior and courtesy towards fellow students and the instructor during class. Students must remain in his/her seat during the entire class session and tardiness to class must be avoided. Sleeping, conversing with fellow students, leaving before class session ends, etc. will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior by a student shall result in removal from class, suspension, or withdrawal from the course. Students who are asked to leave a class session or are suspended will be marked absent for that day. Also, cell phones, i-pods, etc. should be disengaged during class.

Academic Dishonesty: If a student is found cheating or plagiarizing at any time during the course, he/she will receive 0 points for the assignment and may receive a grade of "F" for the course or be dropped from the class.

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from one another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without instructor's permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Academic Support: The college provides various support services that are available to the student. If a student has a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ex: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American With Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Feel free to come to me with any problems, thoughts or concerns. Come early, please do not wait until a problem is a crisis.

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

Grading Policies & Procedures

Exams: There will be five exams given during this course, and a final exam. Each exam is worth 75 points, and the final is worth 75 points. These will consist of true or false questions, multiple choice questions, and written short-answer essays. No notes are allowed during the exams or the final exam. Students must bring Scantron form # 886-E for the exams and the final.

Participation: There will be several (10) brief written assignments or map quizzes randomly given throughout the semester during class to evaluate student participation. There are 50 possible participation points available. Five points will be deducted from students' participation score for each missing assignment. Students are encouraged to visit my office hours; if a student visits my office hours twice, once before the drop date, March 15, and by the Friday of the last week of instruction, May 17, I will award them with 5 extra participation points that can replace a missed participation assignment or quiz or be added to their total Participation score.

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:

Five Exams	75 points each	<u>Total</u>
Final Exam	75 points	375 points
Participation	50 points	75 points
Total possible points		500 points

MULTIPLY POINTS ACHIEVED BY TWO/DIVIDE BY TEN EQUALS

GRADING SCALE: 90-100 = A, 80-89.9= B, 70-79.9 = C, 60-69.9 = D, <60 = F

Make-up Policy: Make-up work shall be allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Six points will be deducted from each late exam. An additional six points will be deducted from exams for every additional week late. Tests can be made up in my office during office hours or by appointment.

Course subject matter by text chapter:

- Chapter 1- Introduction to Earth
- Chapter 2- Portraying Earth
- Chapter 3- Introduction to the Atmosphere
- Chapter 4- Insolation and Temperature
- Chapter 5- Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
- Chapter 6- Atmospheric Moisture
- Chapter 7- Atmospheric Disturbances
- Chapter 8- Climate and Climate Change
- Chapter 9- The Hydrosphere
- Chapter 10- Cycles and Patterns in the Biosphere
- Chapter 11- Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
- Chapter 12- Soils
- Chapter 19 (selection)- Glacial Modification of Terrain

Course Schedule: Read each of the chapters listed during each corresponding week.

- Week 1 (01/14 & 01/16): Intro, Ch 1
- Week 2 (01/21 & 01/23): MLK. Ch 1/2
- Week 3 (01/28 & 01/30): Ch 2/3
- Week 4 (02/04 & 02/06): Review, Exam #1,
- Week 5 (02/11 & 02/13): Ch 8-pgs. 232-247 (2nd ed pgs. 214, 220-232), Ch 4/5
- Week 6 (02/18 & 02/20): Washington Birthday, Ch 5
- Week 7 (02/25 & 02/27): Review, Exam #2

Week 8 (03/04 & 03/06):	Ch 6/7
Week 9 (03/11 & 03/13):	Ch 7, Review,
Week 10 (03/18 & 03/20):	<u>Exam #3</u> , Redwood forests and the Tragedy of the Commons
Week 11 (03/25 & 03/27):	Ch 8 pgs. 205-232, Ch 19- pgs. 541-546, 557 (2 nd ed pgs. 504-510, 519)
Week 12 (04/01 & 04/03):	Ch 8/11, Review
Week 13 (04/08 & 04/10):	<u>Exam #4</u> , Ch 9/10
(04/15 & 04/17):	Spring Break, Ch 10
Week 14 (04/22 & 04/24):	Ch 10, Review
Week 15 (04/29 & 05/01):	<u>Exam #5</u> , Ch 12
Week 16 (05/06 & 05/08):	Ch 12
Week 17 (05/13 & 05/15):	GIS & Cartography (Ch2 pgs. 47-50), and jobs in geography, Review
Week 18 (5/20):	<u>Final</u>

Guest speakers may alter the dates above. We will adjust at their convenience.

School holidays:

Monday, January 21st, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no classes held

Friday, February 15th, Lincoln's Birthday, no classes held

Monday, February 18th, Washington's Birthday, no classes held

Exam Dates:

Exam #1 = Wednesday, February 6th

Exam #2 = Wednesday, February 27th

Exam #3 = Monday, March 18th

Exam #4 = Monday, April 8th

Exam #5 = Wednesday, May 1st

Final = Monday, May 20th at 5:00–6:50 pm

Other important dates:

Friday, January 25, Last day to drop a Spring 2019 full-term class for full refund

Friday, February 1, Last day to register for a Spring 2019 full-term class in person

Friday, February 1, Last day to drop a Spring 2019 full-term class to avoid a "W" in person

Sunday, February 3, Last day to drop a Spring 2019 full-term class to avoid a "W" on WebAdvisor

Friday, February 8, Last day to change a Spring 2019 class to/from Pass/No-Pass grading basis