

GEOG 5 – Physical Geography: Environmental Conditions  
50202- 100% online class  
Reedley College  
Spring, 2020

Instructor: Emanuel Delgado  
(Preferred pronouns: he/him)  
Email: ed006@reedleycollege.edu  
Office: BUS 48  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesday, 11:00am-1:30pm

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

### **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:**

- 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
- Spring Break April 6-10

### **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 behaviors 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!
- **Ultimate responsibility to add or drop a class is on the student.**
- This class will be run 100% online. All the assignments, lectures and resources will be posted on Canvas.

### **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**

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%)
420-489	= D (60%-69%)
Less than 419	= F (0%-59%)

## **Course Assessment**

### ***Reading Assignments:***

You will 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 Exercise:***

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 Research Project

### ***In Class Assignments:***

You will be given handouts with readings and problems or questions to dive deeper into 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 online 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. If you don't understand the concepts and topics being discussed, ask clarifying questions. You are encouraged to express your **RELEVANT** personal knowledge and experiences in order to enrich class discussion.

### ***Quizzes and Mid Term exam:***

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.

### ***Research Project***

Living in the city, we're often busy living our lives, working, and/or 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 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 write a 1 page reflection paper about the meeting or outing. 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 not be cumulative.

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

**All exams and quizzes and their format 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>	<b>Ch 1</b>
<u>Week 2 Earth-Sun Relations</u>	<b>Ch 1</b>
<u>Week 3 (Quiz on Ch. 1) Portraying Earth: Maps</u>	<b>Ch 2</b>
<u>Week 4 Portraying Earth: Geographic technologies</u>	<b>Ch 2</b>
<u>Week 5 (Quiz on Ch. 2) Introduction to the Atmosphere</u>	<b>Ch 3</b>
<u>Week 6 (Quiz on Ch. 3) Insolation and Temperature</u>	<b>Ch 4</b>
<u>Week 7 Insolation and Temperature</u>	<b>Ch 4</b>
<u>Week 8 (<b>Midterm</b>) Atmospheric Pressure and Wind</u>	<b>Ch 5</b>
<u>Week 9 (Quiz on Ch. 5) Atmospheric Moisture</u>	<b>Ch 6</b>
<u>Week 10 The Hydrosphere</u>	<b>Ch 9</b>
<u>Week 11 (Quiz on Ch. 6 &amp; 9) Atmospheric Disturbances</u>	<b>Ch 7</b>
<u>Spring Break (April 6-11)</u>	
<u>Week 12 Atmospheric Disturbances/Presentations</u>	
<u>Week 13 Presentations</u>	
<u>Week 14 Presentations</u>	
<u>Week 15 Global Climates and Climate Change</u>	<b>Ch 8</b>
<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
7. Reedley College Tutorial Center **Location:** Reedley College Library **Phone:** (559)6380358  
Tutorial service is free.

Syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.