

Syllabus – Web Course

Spring 2020 – Geography 5 – Section #50203

Physical Geography – Environmental Conditions

Course Information

3 units

Class Hours - Variable

Instructor Information

Instructor: A.J. Fox

E-mail: aj.fox@fresnocitycollege.edu

You may also submit questions by email or onto the Canvas forum for this class. I will generally answer questions within 24 hours.

Important Dates

- 1st day of class – 1/13/20
- Census date – 2/3/20
- Final Drop Date – 3/13/20
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – 1/20/20
- Lincoln's Birthday – 2/14/20
- Washington's Birthday – 2/17/20
- Spring Break – 4/6/20 through 4/10/20
- Final Exam Due – 5/21/20 (Thursday)
- End of Semester – 5/22/20 (Friday)

Did you notice that the final exam is due the day BEFORE the end of the semester?

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 global warming.

Course Outcomes

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

- Identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climates, and natural vegetation regions.
- Recognize simple geographic terms.
- Comprehend fundamental geographic principles and processes.
- Analyze and solve problems in physical geography, including those requiring computation.
- Utilize scientific and critical thinking in a logical and ordered manner.
- Recognize the symbols on a weather map.
- Describe the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth.
- Hypothesize the causes for global warming.

Course Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- Use latitude and longitude to identify a location.
- Analyze the structure of the GPS location system.
- Determine the time of day in various time zones throughout the world.
- Analyze the primary sources of air pollution in the United States.
- Calculate the time of onset of radiation fog.
- Calculate the cloud base and snowline of an orographic precipitation event.
- Analyze the meaning of the symbols on a standard weather map.
- Describe the orbital relationship between the earth and the sun.
- Explain the existence of seasons on the earth.
- Analyze the pattern of climate and vegetation regions on the earth.
- Identify the major types of clouds.
- Analyze the frequency of tornadoes in the United States.
- Explain how precipitation occurs.
- Describe the distribution of pressure and wind throughout the world.
- Explain the source of energy within the sun.
- Analyze the nature of solar radiation.
- Describe the vertical structure of the atmosphere.
- Analyze the relationship between climate and vegetation regions.

Course Materials

Text: The Atmosphere: An Introduction to Meteorology, 13th ed. Frederick Lutgens, Edward Tarbuck, Prentice Hall 2016 (This is an older version)

An eText version is available at a greatly reduced cost. Click this link to rent or buy the text or eText:

https://www.amazon.com/Atmosphere-Introduction-Meteorology-13th-MasteringMeteorology/dp/0321984625/ref=sr_1_1?crid=4A5LXEGOWE5Q&keywords=the+atmosphere+an+introduction+to+meteorology+13th&qid=1576562933&srefix=The+Atmosphere%2Caps%2C247&sr=8-1

Reliable internet access

Canvas account

Online lectures will be made available to you as Chapter quizzes are opened and will remain open for the duration of the semester so you can go back and re-watch them.

Attendance & Course Policies

Reedley College policies will be followed. Please review the current Reedley College catalog for school policies concerning conduct and academic honesty. Important: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grades

The grading scale will be as follows:

- A = 90% - 100% (900-1000 points)
- B = 80% - 89% (800-899 points)
- C = 70% - 79% (700-799 points)
- D = 60% - 69% (600-699 points)
- F = Below 60% (599 or less)

Your opportunities for earning points during the course are as follows:

- 16 Vocabulary Assignments x Variable pts =440 pts
- 16 Chapter Quizzes x 20 pts =320 pts
- 1 Final Exam x 240 pts =240 pts
- Total =1000 pts

No make-up exams or assignments will be given. When the deadline of one test expires, the next exam in the series will open. One day 1, the quiz for Chapters 1, 2, & 3 will be open. When Chapter 1 expires, Chapter 4 will open, etc.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Statement of Intent

To avoid financial aid fraud, every student must submit a statement saying they intend to take this course and complete it. **Anyone who does not complete this statement and turn it in by the deadline will be dropped.**

You will also be dropped if you have NOT completed more than 50% of the assignments, including quizzes and exams, by the census date and/or by the final drop date (the actual dates will vary).

16 Chapter Quizzes (320 pts)

The exams will consist of 20 questions. They will be multiple choice questions. Due dates are listed below. Two quizzes will be open at all times. All quizzes will be closed at 11:59 PM the day they are due.

NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.

16 Text Assignments (440 pts)

The text assignments are vocabulary words from the text. Simply match the vocabulary term to its definition in a pull-down format.

LATE TEXT ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Final Exam (240 pts)

The Final Exam will be similar in format to the previous exams (with some true/false questions added). It is a comprehensive exam and will consist of 80 questions. As you can imagine, there will be no opportunity to take the Final Exam after the deadline expires.

NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.

See all Course Due Dates Below

FINAL EXAM – DUE NO LATER THAN

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 11:59 PM

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THEIR EQUIPMENT AND
INTERNET CONNECTION IS STEADY AND RELIABLE.