

Environmental Conditions: State Center Community College District – Reedley College

Course Identification:

Course Title and Number: Environmental Conditions (GEOG 5) – 51680 **Term:** Spring 2020
Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45, FEM4 **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: Weekly rotation starting Week 6, M or W, 4:00-4:50 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.

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 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.
- (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 documents.

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 or matching. No notes are allowed during the exams or the final exam. Lowest exam score will be dropped. Students must bring **Scantron form # 886-E** for the exams and the final.

Laboratory Assignment:

When talking about climate change you will be assigned climate data to graph and assess whether or not you believe the given data is significant enough to determine that global climate is occurring.

Participation Quizzes: There will be 10 brief open-note written assignments worth 5 points each given randomly throughout the semester during class to evaluate student participation. There will be no make-ups for participation quizzes.

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:

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Four Exams	75 points each	225 points (- 1 dropped exam)
Final Exam	75 points	75 points
Laboratory Assignment	50 points	50 points
Ten Participation Quizzes	5 points each	50 points

Total Points- **400**

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.

Extra Credit: There is an opportunity to earn 5 points extra credit for coming to office hours twice, once before Spring Recess and once before the Final Exam. The 5 points can be used in lieu of a missed participation quiz but is added to points earned.

School holidays:

Martin Luther King, Jr Day = Monday, 1/20/20

Lincoln Day = Friday, 2/14/20/

Washington Day = Monday, 2/17/20

Spring Recess= 4/6/20 - 4/9/20

Good Friday Observation= 4/10/20

Exam Dates:

Exam 1 = Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Exam 2 = Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Exam 3 = Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Exam 4 = Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Final = **Monday, May 18th at 5:30 – 6:45pm****Other important dates:**January 31st = Last day to add a full-term class (in person).January 31st = Last day to drop a class to avoid a “W” (in person).March 13th = Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)**Course Schedule:** Read each of the chapters listed during each corresponding week.

Week 1	1/13/20 – 1/17/20	Introduction, Chapter 1
Week 2	1/20/20 – 1/24/20	MLK Holiday , Chapter 2
Week 3	1/27/20 – 1/31/20	Chapter 2, Chapter 3
Week 4	2/3/20-2/7/20	Review, Exam 1- Wednesday, February 5
Week 5	2/10/19 – 2/14/20	Chapter 4
Week 6	<u>2/17/20 – 2/21/20</u>	Chapter 5, Lincoln Holiday
Week 7	2/24/20 – 2/28/20	Washington Holiday , Chapter 5
Week 8	3/2/20 – 3/6/20	Chapter 6
Week 9	3/9/20 – 3/13/20	Review, Exam 2- Wednesday, March 11
Week 10	3/16/20 – 3/20/20	Chapter 7
Week 11	3/23/20 – 3/27/20	Chapter 8, pt1
Week 12	3/30/20 – 4/3/20	Review, Exam 3- Wednesday, April 1
	4/6/20 – 4/9/20	SPRING RECESS AND GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVATION
Week 13	4/13/20 – 4/17/20	Chapter 9, Chapter 10
Week 14	4/20/20 – 4/24/20	Chapter 10, Chapter 11
Week 15	4/27/20 – 5/1/20	Review, Exam 4- Wednesday, April 29
Week 16	5/4/20 – 5/8/20	Chapter 12, Chapter 8- <i>Laboratory Assignment</i>
Week 17	5/11/20-5/15/20	Chapter 8- <i>Laboratory Assignment</i> , Review
Week 18	5/18/20	Final: Monday, May 18th, 5:30-6:45

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