

Reedley College Course Syllabus & General Information

Course Title:

GEOG 5 Physical Geography: Environmental Conditions

Term: Fall 2021

Section Number and Face to Face Meeting times :

GEOG 5 - 52522 - MW 3:00 - 4:15pm - Physical Science Building Room 75

GEOG 5 - 55440 - M 11:00 - 1:50pm Life Science Building 11

Office Hours held through Zoom meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 -4:30 pm(Accessible in Canvas)

Instructor: Emanuel Delgado

(Preferred pronouns: he/him)

(Bilingual: fluenc in Spanish/Spanglish)

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ed006@reedleycollege.edu

Required Textbook:

McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation 12th Edition

By Darrel Hess and Dennis Tasa

ISBN 10: 0-134-19542-6

ISBN 13: 978-0-134-19542-1

No prerequisites, co-requisites.

Advisories:

- Completion of Mathematics 103 or Eligibility for Mathematics 201. (A, CSU-GE, UC, I) -simplify and/or factor mathematical expressions into forms more conducive to analysis
- English 1A, 1AHonors- Craft increasingly mature and cogent writing while choosing the appropriate and academic voice.

GOEG 5 Description:

This online course is an investigation and interpretation of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere. A systematic approach of the sun-earth relations, science of maps, weather and climate, the hydrosphere, and natural vegetation.

Instructional objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Assess and analyze the role of energy in environmental systems.
2. Examine and comprehend the earth's physical features and their relationships with the biological environment.
3. Demonstrate comprehension of various maps.

4. Use an atlas and various types of maps for research.
5. 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.
- Identify the basic elements of and processes that produce the earth's weather, climates, and natural vegetation regions.
- Understand the relationship between the earth and sun and its effect on seasons.
- Understand energy transfer related to food webs, photosynthesis, and the spatial distribution of plants and animals.

Technology

- You need a functioning computer that has Internet access (if you do not have a computer or internet access see the student resources below for loaners), and should have the following software applications: a web browser, Microsoft Office Word, and Adobe Acrobat. You can gain access to Microsoft Office Suite in your Reedley College My Portal dashboard.
 - **Navigating Canvas:** Each part of our class is organized in Canvas modules. First select and click on your GEOG 5 class, click on the Home, or Modules tab on the navigation menu on the left. There we start with modules with information about the class. The semester is organized in Units, which include two chapters each. Complete all assignments and submit them in Canvas in the designated Assignments.
 - **IT Support:** The College has available laptops and accessories available to loan to students as needed on a limited basis. Please contact the technology department at 559-301-4005 to schedule an appointment. Students can access technology support services by contacting the student Help Desk:
- <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/campus-life/technology-help.html> (Links to an external site.)

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 the disrupting student may be withdrawn from the class.**
- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION POLICY: Look up Reedley College Catalog. Don't do it!**
- **Attendance policy:** Participating in bi-weekly Meetings are mandatory. Arrive on time and attend each class meeting. Arriving after I begin or leaving before the class ends is not acceptable unless properly documented. If you are late, leave early or are absent, your

participation points decrease. Furthermore, attendance will be marked through the assignments you submit. If you miss more than 3 consecutive assignments without notifying me, you may be dropped from the class. In addition, if a student does not log into canvas by the first day of the term, they will be considered a “No Show” and shall thus be withdrawn from the class.

- **Late policy:** Assignments are due on the given date and are considered late anytime afterward. **Late work is accepted**, however, you lose more points the longer it takes for you to turn in late assignments. You may turn in late assignments for partial credit up until **the Friday previous to the week of finals**.
- Prepare yourself early by exchanging contact information with at least two classmates before or after class. You can create a supportive network with fellow students that can help you succeed in the class. If absent, ANY missed information is the student’s responsibility.

Diversity

Historically, academia as well as much of society has discriminated against people based on their race, religion, origin, nationality, gender, and disability. Reedley College is taking a stand against these injustices and finding ways to break down barriers to enable all student to find a path towards their goals regardless of any of the above mentioned. I encourage and invite all my students to participate and contribute in class and in their work because we all bring our own ideas and backgrounds which enrich our learning experience in class. My goal is to provide platform for all of you to explore the world and excel in the career path you desire.

Grading Rubric

1. Reading Assignments (10 total 10 points each)
2. Writing exercises (10 total, 10 points each)
3. Weekly Geographic pictures (10 total, 5 points each)
4. In class assignments or Discussions (10 total, 10 points each)
5. Participation (100 points/semester)
6. Rescue Research Project (100 points)
7. Quizzes (10 total 10 points each)
8. 1 mid-term (50 points)
9. Final Exam (100 points)

Grade Scale

720-800	= A (90%-100%)
640-729	= B (80%-89%)
560-639	= C (70%-79%)
480-559	= D (60%-69%)
Less than 480	= F (0%-59%)

Reading Assignments:

Read the given chapters and answer **every other odd number** of the questions at the end in the Key Words and Concepts, Study Guide, and Environmental Analysis (10 points each chapter) in the required textbook.

Current Event/Writing Exercise:

You are 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 geographic concepts by reading and writing on a regular basis and to prepare you for the Rescue Research Project

Weekly Geographic Pictures

You are assigned to take pictures of your surroundings relating to the class topics covered during the given week. You must explain what you learned from the textbook, how you experienced it in your surroundings,

In Class Assignments:

You will be given handouts with readings and problems or questions about 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

Come to class twice a week and participate. Every day, prepare at least 2 questions, and two comments about your reading assignments and/or the topics we cover in class. (100 points for the semester).

Quizzes, Mid Terms, and Final exams:

Quizzes are given between or after each chapter to assess your ability to define key geographic characteristics of Earth, and understand the main environmental conditions of Earth. These quizzes make-up 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. 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 Canvas and is not cumulative.

Rescue Research Project

Pick and research a National Park, anywhere on Earth. Imagine your close friend or loved one is a hard-core adventurer, and they decided to go to your chosen National Park by themselves. You agree to keep tabs on the adventurer's satellite GPS phone, when suddenly they disappear out of your radar. You choose the last place you tracked the adventurer. You are assigned to rescue the

adventurer by applying the geographic concepts covered in class (mostly the elements of weather and climate, and write a research essay about the environmental conditions you experience on your expedition. More details to come. You are also required to make a 3-5 minute Power Point presentation on your topic at the end of the semester.

Extra Credit:

Students may earn extra credit points for several activities:

- 1) Attend environmental meetings that deal with course-related subject matter (ex: San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District),
- 2) Go on trips to the local mountains or park environments
- 3) Collect enough trash to fill a 55 gallon trash bag.

To receive extra-credit, you will be expected to show proof of attendance or pictures and write a 1 page reflection paper. Each event/meeting/trash pick up/field trip reflection paper is worth 5 points. Four events, 5 points each (20 points total) is the maximum extra credit allowed for the course.

Study Tips

- Read assigned reading before attending 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 thoroughly written lecture notes
- Participate in class
 - 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).

STUDENT SERVICES

Please note that the following list includes most of the essential campus services that will remain in operation to empower student success. For general information on student services, click on the following link for the main [Student Services webpage](#).

1. **Connecting with ALL Tutoring Services on Campus**—The Math Center, the Reading/Writing Center, and the Learning Center are all using this [online tutor matching service](#). Additionally, all Math and English Courses, as well as many other high demand courses should have embedded tutors; that means students may be able to message their embedded tutor via Canvas in each course. If a student needs to search for a tutor, they should go to www.tutormatchingservice.com/reedley , sign up for a free account, and begin searching for RC tutors from all three Centers.

Here is a tutorial video on how to use Tutor Matching
Service:<https://youtu.be/xvRD7kSjNhs>

2. **Library Services:** Click the following link of the [Library](#), which provides access to online resources that are essential for your research, but the library is closed and physical books are currently unavailable. In the above link, Librarians are available to help you find online resources for your projects.
3. **Bookstore:** The campus bookstore is open from 7:45am-3:30pm Monday-Friday (closed weekends).
4. **Campus Events & Athletics:** All activities and sporting events have been cancelled/postponed until further notice.
5. **Counseling & Advising:** All scheduled appointments will now take place remotely using phone or internet-based resources. For appointments scheduled prior to this transition, students will be contacted by phone and/or email regarding their options. You can schedule an appointment by calling the Counseling Department at 559-638-0337 or by emailing counseling@reedleycollege.edu. You will be asked to provide your student ID, the best phone number to reach you at and a brief description of how we can assist you.
6. **Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)** is designed to provide specialized services and accommodations that assist students with documented disabilities to reach their maximum potential while achieving their educational goals. DSP&S staff interact with all areas of the campus to eliminate physical, academic and attitudinal barriers. Students can contact DSPS at <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/student-services/disabled-student-programs-and-services/index.html> ([Links to an external site.](#))
7. **Financial Aid:** Financial Aid assistance is available via e-mail at reedley.financialaid@reedleycollege.edu
8. **Food Pantry:** The Tiger Pantry, located just south of the gym, is available Monday-Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm **for Reedley College students only**. Students can also access their local food distribution locations through the [Central California Food Bank](#)

Syllabus is subject to change at Instructor's discretion.