

Summer Quarter 2008
Geography 205 Syllabus:
Weather, Climate, Vegetation and Soils.

Introduction:

Welcome to Geography 205! This is a five-credit course that fulfills a natural science requirement for the Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS) Degree at Bellevue Community College. There are no prerequisites for this class.

The course will investigate the dynamic patterns and processes of weather, climate, vegetation and soils and the interactions of these systems with humankind.

I hope that the course material will create a desire to understand the intricacies of these systems and inspire a deeper appreciation of these components of Geographic enquiry. For intimacy with a landscape inspires respect for that landscape, in all of its splendor and in all of its shortcomings.

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Geography Department/Social Science Division

Room D100D – next to fountain

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My email is gwalker@bcc.ctc.edu please use this form of communication if at all possible.

Objectives:

This class should enable the successful student to secure:

- 1) a knowledge of solar energy, the Earth's rotation and orbit, and seasonality
- 2) a knowledge of the composition of the lower atmosphere, the radiation balance, and temperature concepts and controls
- 3) an understanding of atmospheric and oceanic circulation
- 4) an awareness and appreciation of weather phenomena at both micro and macro levels of enquiry
- 5) an understanding of the interpretation and analysis of weather maps
- 6) an awareness of the inherently unique nature of weather and weather patterns
- 7) an appreciation of climatic classification and global climate types
- 8) an recognition of the significance of the role of climate in the framing of cultural attributes

- 9) an understanding of global climate change and the implication of such oscillations on world ecosystems
- 10) an appreciation of the role of weather and climate on the characteristics and distribution patterns of soils and vegetation
- 11) a knowledge of map analysis and interpretation as well as the use of graphs and diagrams and the ability to abstract relevant details from secondary sources of information
- 12) a recognition of the beauty in nature and a desire to secure a greater intimacy with the natural landscape.

Format:

The course is subdivided into '**Five Modules**' each is designed to follow the general format of chapter content in your textbook

- Module #1: The Atmosphere, Energy and Temperature.
- Module # 2: Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation.
- Module # 3: Water, Weather and Climate Systems.
- Module # 4: Global Climate Systems and Ecosystems.
- Module \$ 5: Global Climate Change.

The 'Final Examination' will be taken online in the examination week in the last week of the course.

- the examination will be 90 minutes duration.

Required Texts:

'Elemental Geosystems': Fifth Edition: by Robert W. Christopherson.
Published by: Prentice Hall - You should also have access to an Atlas of your choice.

Course Outcome Ratings:

Critical Thinking creativity Problem Solving	Quantitative and Logical	Research Information Literacy	Reading	Writing	Listening and Speaking	Visual	Computer Literacy	Self Assessment Life Goals	Group Processes	Ethics	Lifelong Learning	Historical and Intellectual Perspectives
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Aesthetic Awareness	Cultural Diversity	The Nature of Science	Science the Natural World	Technology and Society
0	0	3	3	1

Participation:

General Policy:

- I hope that you will **enjoy the class** and that you will **be motivated to learn:**
- It is intended to search for a **variety of views** in a balanced way:
- It is hoped that you will organize your notes and use **good study habits:**
- The text books are excellent support materials, but, you must take **comprehensive class notes:**
- You should be spending about **50 hours of homework time minimum on this course**
- **You must take responsibility** for your learning:
- **Attend class regularly** and if you are absent arrange for someone to take notes for you:
- You are expected to be on time for class and **not leave early without permission:**
- Know the times and **dates** for all tests/quizzes/exams: bring a scantron answer sheet:
- Please **do not bring food** to class:
- Pay attention and **do not talk informally** during class discussions/lecture times:
- If you have a problem(s) please **see me** about it as soon as possible after the class:
- If you have a point to make during class please **raise your hand** to attract my attention:
- Please **do not hesitate to ask relevant questions** in class-time:
- You must take the examinations on the scheduled times, **I do not encourage 'make-ups'** other than absence due to illness. Under unusual circumstances where I consider it possible for you to take a 'make-up'(other than a recorded illness) the 'make-up' will score a maximum mark of 75% of your recorded score on that test:
- **There are no make-ups at all - for the map quizzes. You can miss one quiz without it effecting your score.**
- **If you are ill** I will only record your absence if you let me know by **phone/e-mail:**
- **The final** examination must be taken at the scheduled time.

Grading:

- 1) **The five Assignment Quizzes will represent 75 percent of your final mark.**
- 2) **The Final Examination represents the remaining 25 percent of the final mark and will be taken in the last week of the course.**

The Grading Scale is:

A	4.0	90% +
A-	3.7	85-89%
B+	3.3	80-84%
B	3.0	75-79%
B-	2.7	70-74%
C+	2.3	65-69%
C	2.0	60-64%
C-	1.7	55-59%
D+	1.3	50-54%
D	1.0	45-49%
F		44% and less

Good luck...I sincerely hope that you enjoy the class!

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Fall 2005**

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled

examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students With Special Needs

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office, room B233-G (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class must review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, or review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*