

George C. Walker

Geog 205: Weather Climate Soils and Vegetation

Winter Quarter 2011

General Course Description:

The course will investigate the dynamic patterns and processes of weather and climate 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 its shortcomings.

General Course Objectives:

This class should enable the successful student to secure:

- 1) a knowledge of solar energy, the Earth's rotation and orbit, seasonality and the composition of the lower atmosphere, the radiation balance, and temperature concepts and controls, an understanding of atmospheric and oceanic circulation:
- 2) an awareness and appreciation of weather phenomena at both micro and macro levels of enquiry:
- 3) an awareness of the inherently unique nature of weather and weather patterns and the impact of these processes upon those who live out their daily lives within the realities of these associated weather systems:
- 4) an appreciation of climatic classification and global climate types:
- 5) a recognition of the significance of the role of climate in the framing of cultural characteristics throughout history:
- 6) a recognition of the deep inter-relationships that exist between the fine details and traits of a culture group and the realities of their climate:
- 7) an appreciation of the role of weather and climate on the characteristics of the related economic resource base:
- 8) an understanding of global climate change and the significance of cultural decision making in this reality:
- 9) the implication of such climatic oscillations on world ecosystems and the role of humankind decision making processes to offset or accelerate climate change:

10) a recognition of the inherent beauty within nature and the desire to secure a greater intimacy with the natural landscape and an understanding of the complexities inherent within the interplay between weather, climate and culture.

Course Description:

Major themes: case study material from areas that I have personally visited will form a major component of the class with comparisons and contrasts between the different realities of weather, climate and culture

Module 1 - The atmosphere, energy and temperature: Weeks 1 and 2

- a) appreciation of the global radiation energy budget:
- b) energy absorbed by the earth's surface and atmosphere:
- c) details of the impact of heating on global and regional temperatures – case study of the Californian-Mediterranean type and the Pacific Northwest type of the USA

Module 2 - Atmospheric and oceanic circulation: Weeks 3 and 4

- a) understanding of the process and movement of heat from region to region:
- b) the role played by ocean currents in global heat transfer:
- c) cultural impact of these physical phenomena in the coastal regions of Northern Europe and of Peru

Module 3 - Pressure and water in the atmosphere: Weeks 5 and 6

- a) understanding of pressure systems and wind at both local and global scales:
- b) appreciation of the regional differences in seasonal and annual distribution of precipitation:
- c) case studies will focus on the comparisons and contrasts of the coastal regions of Italy and the Alpine regions as well as the Monsoon regions of Asia and of Japan and India in particular

Module 4 - Global climate types and ecosystems: Weeks 7 and 8

- a) understanding of the major climate types and a detailed awareness of the West Coast Maritime, Desert and Mediterranean climate types and the interaction of climate and culture
- b) details of the close relationship between climate and culture throughout history – case studies from northern Europe, Egypt and Japan
- c) understanding of the term 'terroire' – the interconnections of microclimate, soils, terrain and human knowledge – case study of wine production in the Chianti Valley of Italy and the Mendoza region of Argentina

Module 5 - Global climate change and the impact of humankind: Weeks 9, 10 and 11

- a) appreciation of the details of global climate change through history and the subsequent impact of these changes on humankind:
- b) current trends in climate change:
- c) case studies will discuss the changes in recent years in the climate of the eastern Mediterranean, the Mid-West USA and the Middle East

Grading:

The total mark allocation for the course is 450 marks

Module Exams 1 thru 4 = 50 marks each = 200 marks

Module Exam 5 = 50 marks (plus 25 marks extra credit)

Please remember to bring a 'scantron' multiple choice answer sheet to the exams

Weather map presentation = 50 marks

Climate map quiz = 50 marks

Individual study = 100 marks

Please note that there are no make-ups.

Grading Scale:

A	4.0	400 and over
A-	3.7	380-399
B+	3.3	360-379
B	3.0	335-359
B-	2.7	315-334
C+	2.3	290-314
C	2.0	270-289
C-	1.7	245-269
D+	1.3	225-244
D	1.0	200-224
F	0.0	less than 200

Participation:

The student is also responsible for:

1. reading the specified materials.
2. taking part in email discussions. Contacting me/fellow students can be helpful.
3. keeping comprehensive notes/diagrams/maps relevant to course topics.
4. Timely completions of place location and module exams. You should not leave exams to the last minute in case you have a technical problem this is a very important consideration.
5. reviewing the Bellevue Community College academic calendar posted at <http://distance-ed.bcc.ctc.edu> for all details regarding registration and withdrawal policy and procedures and distribution of final grades.
6. reading the Social Science Division's policy statement.
7. if special needs are necessary contacting **Disability Support Services at (425) 564-2498**

**ONLINE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES
OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Fall 2010**

Bellevue College's Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

Cheating, Stealing, and Plagiarizing* and Inappropriate Behavior

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or

suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services, [link to Student Code](#).

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it is important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

F Grade

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

Final Examination Schedule

Final examinations may involve proctored on-campus arranged exams or may be administered completely online at the discretion of the instructor and in keeping with the stated policies provided in the course syllabus. Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format 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 in compliance with 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

Academic Year: 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.

Summer Quarter: College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the fifth week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). After the sixth day and through the end of the fifth week of the quarter, the "W" grade will become part of the student's transcript record.

Check [Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals](#), for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, [2008-2009 online catalog](#), HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are

calculated into the grade-point average. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the [Disability Resource Centre \(DRC\)](#). The office is **located in B132 (phone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email drc@bellevuecollege.edu)**. Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments:

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

Technical Assistance

Vista-related or technical issues should be referred to [Distance Education](#). You may also email them at landerso@bellevuecollege.edu or

call **425-564-2438 (1-877-641-2712)**.

Vista tutorial help and basic instructions can be found at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/studentguide/>

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Vice President of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

George C. Walker

gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu