

**Geography 205:  
Weather, Climate, Vegetation and Soils  
Syllabus: Winter Quarter 2009**

**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. This course satisfies General Education Requirements in the following areas: The Nature of Science/3: Science and the Natural World/3: Quantitative and Logical/2: and Visual/2: </p></div>

**Course Description:**

*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 its splendor and in all its shortcomings.*

**My name is: George C. Walker**

**Mailing address:**

*Geography Department  
Social Science Division/Room D110  
Bellevue Community College  
3000 Landerholm Circle SE  
Bellevue WA 98007*

**Phone** 425-564-2333 (messages read in a.m.) **Fax** 425-564-3108

**Division Office phone** 425-564-2331 (24 hour message line)

**Distance Education Office** 425-564-2438

My email is [gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Course 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. a 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 module begins with **Class Notes**. These notes will help you to better understand the various topics covered in that module. The information in the class notes focuses on material that may not be generally especially thoroughly covered in the textbook. You should begin each module by reading these introductory class notes.

The next step is to read through the **Directions for Textbook Readings**. This information will direct you to the reading in your textbook, and whilst each chapter(s) identified should be carefully read there are specific areas that are very important and outlined in these directions. It is advisable to make notes on key issues as you may be tested on this material in the **final examination**.

Every module has an **Exercise Section**. This is your next step. Read through the exercise section and answer all of the questions in each of the exercises as this forms the basis of the questions in the module quiz and you will be tested on this material in the module **quiz**.

The final step in each module is the **Module Quiz**. Having completed all of the above steps you will take this quiz. To prepare for this quiz it is vital that you complete all of the questions in the various exercises in the exercise section of the module. Before you attempt the quiz carefully read through your notes and the answers to the questions from all of the material that you have read.

**All of the questions on the Module Quiz will be taken directly from the questions from the exercises in the Exercise Section. You will only have one chance to do each of the module quizzes – and once you start you must continue and you will be limited to 60 minutes.**

There are in all **5 Module Quizzes – all multiple-choice – and all answered online**. The Module Quizzes will be open for a week each - so please be sure to do them in the time allocated - please check the Course Calendar for exact dates.

Answer the modules in the sequence from # 1 through # 5.

- 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***

***This will be a 90 minute online final examination. You will be required to take the final examination within the last week of the course.***

***Please note that the questions will be based on material covered in your textbook as well as material from the modules. There will be a series of multiple choice questions: a series of short answer questions: and a series of longer answer questions.***

### ***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.***

### ***Participation:***

***You are responsible for:***

- 1. the technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc. Please look at the BCC Distance Education website for the WebCT Tutorial and for hardware requirements.***
- 2. reading the appropriate material as specified.***
- 3. taking part in email discussions/please do not use voice email when contacting me/ fellow students can be a helpful resource for those 'difficult questions'.***
- 4. keeping comprehensive personal notes/journals/diagrams/maps relevant to material studied.***
- 5. timely completion of quizzes and the final examination/please note that there are no make-up tests available - you should not leave tests to the last minute in case you have a technical problem - this is a very important consideration/you should have a back-up plan should your system 'crash' at the wrong time.***
- 6. please review 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/you should be familiar with the Social Science Division policy for cheating and plagiarism/if you require special student services contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-564-2498 or call in on campus.***
- 7. Please remember there are no make-up opportunities for quizzes or the final examination; it is important to make a commitment to this online class in just the same way as you would a classroom based class.***

**Grading:**

**The total mark allocation for the five module assignment quizzes is 400 marks - though the mark allocation for the individual quizzes varies as shown below:**

**Quiz # 1: allocated 75 marks**

**Quiz # 2: allocated 120 marks:**

**Quiz # 3: allocated 85 marks:**

**Quiz # 4: allocated 60 marks:**

**Quiz # 5: allocated 60 marks:**

**Total quiz allocation = 400 marks. There will also be an opportunity to earn extra credit for the class. Students who wish to submit a visual portfolio of photographs and/or artwork (visual or literary) that in some way reflects some of the material that we have covered may secure an additional 50 marks to the class total of 500 marks. This can either be submitted to me by an attachment on the regular course email (and shared with the rest of the class if you wish) or you may submit by sending in the work to the Social Science Division Office (for address details please see above). In either case work submitted must reach me by Monday 16th March.**

**The Final Examination represents the remaining 100 marks of the final mark of 500 marks and will be taken online in the last week of the course.**

**The Grading Scale is:**

A	4.0	450 +
A-	3.7	425-449
B+	3.3	400-424
B	3.0	375-399
B-	2.7	350-374
C+	2.3	325-349
C	2.0	300-324
C-	1.7	275-299
D+	1.3	250-274
D	1.0	225-249
F		224 and less

**Good luck and I sincerely hope that you enjoy the class!**

Below are the **‘General Guidelines for the Social Science Division’**, of which Geography is a program: please note there have to be slight modifications for online sections. For instance, unacceptable behavior would apply to posting rude or personal attacks in discussion messages or using information from the personal biographies posted to harass fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to remove messages posted, downgrade the assessment of the exercise, and/or refer the student(s) to the appropriate authorities.

## Revised Winter 2009

### 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 Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC 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 Resource Centre, and 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 (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*