**Course Objectives, Requirements, and Grading**

**Course Topics and Goals:**
Welcome to the exciting world of Geography! In this course, you will be exposed to the concepts and features that are associated with the geographic, oceanographic, and atmospheric phenomena of the Earth. Specifically, this course is an investigation and interpretation of the Sun/Earth relationship, pressure and wind, atmospheric moisture, cloud development, precipitation processes, air masses and fronts. It also includes mid-latitude cyclones, violent weather, tropical storms and hurricanes, weather forecasting, Earth’s climates, climate changes, and human effects on the atmosphere.

The methods and materials that are used to convey a comprehension of each section include textbook readings, class discussions, map reading and interpretation, videos, animations, PowerPoint slide presentations, homework assignments, in-class activities and cooperative learning groups. While I will be your guide throughout the semester, you must be willing to dedicate yourself to the actual goal of learning and accept responsibility for your own education.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
Students will be able to:
1) Identify the geographic distributions of climate processes such as temperature, precipitation, and weather.
2) Explain the processes that determine global climate patterns.
3) Interpret weather maps and data.
4) Analyze the causes and explain the implications of global warming.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THIS SYLLABUS COMPLETELY AND TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE INFORMATION**
Instructional Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the structure and characteristics of the earth’s atmosphere.
- Discuss the earth’s energy balance.
- Explain the factors that determine the earth’s global temperature and distribution.
- Demonstrate how to measure temperature using a variety of methods.
- Describe the forces that cause atmospheric motion and create pressure systems, wind systems, global and local circulation.
- Describe atmospheric moisture, clouds and precipitation processes, and their distributions.
- Explain weather systems such as, mid latitude cyclones, fronts, hurricanes, tornadoes thunderstorms and El Niño.
- Classify and interpret atmospheric data through weather maps, radar imagery, and satellite data.
- Identify the earth’s climate distribution and explain the processes that determine the distribution.
- Describe the causes and implications of historical climate change and current global warming.

Reading:

In order to be adequately prepared for this Geography course, students are expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbook – preferably before coming to class. Please see the Tentative Course Schedule on page 6 for the dates of the scheduled readings. Occasionally, this means that there will be a few in-class quizzes or homework assignments where you will be asked questions based upon the assigned readings. In addition, some of the exam questions will come from the assigned readings and will not be mentioned in the class discussions. You are advised to read all of the assigned chapters, including the maps, figures, tables, captions, and boxed exhibits. A good way to review is to see how much you can recall by looking at the headings, sub-headings, key terms, and the review questions that are found in each chapter.

* The assigned readings for each section are:
  
  a) Unit #1: Read Chapters 1-4  
  b) Unit #2: Read Chapters 5-10  
  c) Unit #3: Read Chapters 11-16

Attendance and Class Participation:

Regular attendance is expected and students should plan on attending each class meeting and ARRIVING ON TIME. Attendance is taken every day at the beginning of each class and again toward the end of each class. Students who arrive late to class or leave early from class will be counted as absent for that class meeting. Not surprisingly, poor attendance will negatively affect your final grade.

Late arrivals and/or early departures are highly discouraged because constantly coming in late and leaving early is not only rude and unprofessional, but it also disrupts the entire class and the learning process for everyone. **Students who have more than 4 absences in the semester and students who constantly come late to class and/or leave early from class will be dropped.** If you have any further questions about the attendance and absence policies at Orange Coast College, please see the official guidelines that are listed in the College Catalog.

Active class participation is also expected and required in order to pass this course. Class attendance and participation is an extremely important part of the course because a substantial percentage of the exam questions are derived from class discussions. If you are adequately prepared and regularly contribute to the discussions, then we can make this a fun, lively learning community and I believe that you will find this Geography course to be a rewarding educational experience.

Course Grading:

Final grades will be based upon your total point accumulation (600 points) through the following methods:

1) **Exams:**

Two 100-point multiple-choice/short-answer exams will be given at the end of Unit #1 and Unit #2. Please see the Tentative Course Schedule on page 6 for the scheduled dates of the exams.

   a) The exams consist of 45 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each and a few short-answer questions worth a total of 10 points.
   
   b) Short-answer/essay topics will be presented prior to the scheduled exam date.
   
   c) The Final Exam is comprehensive and consists of 100 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each.
   
   d) Students will be given approximately 80 minutes to complete the exams. Please do not be late for the exams – students who disrupt the class by arriving late while an exam is in progress will receive a 5-point deduction from his/her total score and will not receive extra time to complete the exam.
2) **Map Quizzes:**

Four map quizzes are worth 20 points each and two map quizzes are worth 40 points each. Please see the **Tentative Course Schedule** for the scheduled dates of the map quizzes.

a) The first four map quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each. The last two map quizzes consist of 20 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each.

b) The map quizzes will require students to locate and identify the features (i.e. – states, countries, cities, and physical features) that are found on the study guide handouts. See the study guide handouts and the corresponding blank outline maps that are posted on the instructor’s website.

c) Students will be given approximately 10 minutes to complete the map quizzes and they will begin promptly at the start of the class session. Please do not be late for the map quizzes – students who disrupt the class by arriving late while a map quiz is in progress will receive a 2-point deduction from his/her total score and will not receive extra time to complete the map quiz.

3) Several in-class activities and/or homework assignments will be worth a total of 140 points.

**PLEASE KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PROGRESS DURING THE SEMESTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>My Points Earned</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Quizzes</td>
<td>80 (4 x 20 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map Quizzes</td>
<td>80 (2 x 40 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class / Homework Assignments</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit for 0-1 Absences/Tardies</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit for Map Quizzes</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale:**
The grading scale for this course is based on each student’s total number of points accumulated through his/her performance on all of the preceding assignments. Final grades will be assigned on a percentage basis as follows:

- **A = 540 – 600 Total Points** (90% - 100%)
- **B = 480 – 539 Total Points** (80% - 89%)
- **C = 420 – 479 Total Points** (70% - 79%)
- **D = 360 – 419 Total Points** (60% - 69%)
- **F = 0 – 359 Total Points** (0% - 59%)

Each student is personally responsible for maintaining his/her own grade records and keeping all graded and returned materials in a file folder. It is highly recommended that you record and enter the number of points that you earn in the preceding columns (see the “My Points Earned” section above) so that you can add them up at any given time during the semester. This should easily allow you to be fully informed about your grade status and it will also permit you to reference your grade record against mine, in case you have any questions about your final grade at the end of the course.

**Student Professionalism in the Classroom and Basic Class Etiquette:**

* Students are expected to arrive on time, attend each class meeting, and stay for the full class session. If you cannot arrive on time, then you should consider either setting all of your clocks ahead, improving your time management skills, or dropping the class.

* Students who disrupt the class by constantly coming in late, leaving early, and/or missing class will be dropped from the course.

* Packing up early is extremely rude and disrespectful to everyone in the classroom and is not permitted until the class is finished, as determined by the instructor.

* Any student who sleeps during class is not mentally present. In past semesters, students who have fallen asleep during class have been promptly waken up, asked to leave, and marked absent for the day. Please sleep in the comforts of your own home!

* **The Instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus as necessary.**
* No texting, cell phones, or other electronic devices during class. As a common courtesy to all of your classmates and the professor, it is expected that you turn off your cell phones, IPods, laptops, and all other electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Please be sure to put all electronics away in a backpack, purse, etc. – not on your desk or lap – and set them so that they do not ring, distract, or otherwise disturb the class because you will be asked to leave. Students who are seen text messaging or checking cell phones at any time during class will be marked absent for the day.

* If class disruptions become a problem, students will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

**Course Policies and Other Important Notes:**

* Extra Credit Option #1: Any student who has zero absences/tardies throughout the semester will receive 10 points added to his/her total point accumulation. Students who have no more than one absence will receive 5 points added to his/her total points.

* Extra Credit Option #2: Any student who earns 100% on all of the map quizzes will receive an extra 10 points added to his/her total point accumulation.

* Map quizzes and exams may not be taken prior to or after the scheduled quiz or exam date – please do not ask because your request will not be accommodated.

* For unforeseeable situations and documented emergencies (i.e. - car accidents, surgery, medical issues, death in the family, etc.), ONE make-up map quiz or exam will be permitted and it will be given during the instructor’s office hours on week #15. For such extenuating circumstances, there will be only one make-up per student and it can be for either a map quiz or an exam. Prior to scheduling a make-up quiz or exam, students must talk to the instructor in person and provide written documentation.

* It is highly recommended that you bring the required textbook, atlas, paper, and writing implements to each class meeting. On exam and map quiz days, each student should bring a new, machine-readable Scantron form (i.e. - not folded, ripped, perforated, eaten by your dog, etc.) and two sharpened pencils with good erasers.

* Working on homework and assignments for this class, or any other course, is not permitted during class.

* Late assignments will not be accepted past the scheduled due date and all assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any time after the due date is considered late and assignments will not be accepted by email. All assignments must be personally submitted by the student in class and may not be turned in by other students. Students must be present for the entire class meeting in order to submit or receive credit for assignments.

* Missing class for any reason, including sports, medical appointments, work, personal matters, travel, good surfing conditions, fresh snow in the mountains, court dates, car issues, etc. will result in being marked absent – no exceptions.

* Any missed information is the student’s responsibility – please check with your neighbors and fellow classmates in order to find out about the information that you missed in class. If you still need further assistance, just ask. However, please do not email or ask me if you “missed anything important” or if I can quickly explain what you missed from the previous class because you were absent.

* While open discussion of the course topics is highly encouraged, students must always maintain respect for each other, the instructor, and all of the people, cultures, and places that are discussed in class.

* Students with learning disabilities are required by law to inform the instructor if they need any special assistance for note taking, recording, interpretation, or examination-taking and scheduling (e.g. - needing extra time for exams/map quizzes or taking the exams/map quizzes in a location other than the classroom).

* Any student who takes an exam or map quiz in an alternate location is required to remind the instructor (in writing or by email) each time an exam or map quiz is to be taken at that alternate location.

* It is highly recommended that students exchange information with each other (e.g. - email addresses and/or cell phone numbers) as soon as possible so that they may have an option available for getting notes and assignments in case of an absence.

* This is a rigorous course in both scope and topics. Therefore, it is important that you review the textbook and lecture material each week in order to be adequately prepared. According to the State of California, the suggested amount of preparation time for a college course is approximately 2-3 hours per week (per unit) outside of class. So for a 3-unit class, students should plan on spending between 6-9 hours each week outside of class by studying/reading/preparing for the class/assignments/map quizzes/exams.
* Taking university transfer-level courses should be viewed as work, rather than simply something to do on the side, since students are most likely taking college courses in order to better his/her socio-economic standing. Students who are taking 15 or more units of university transfer-level courses in one semester should be prepared to spend at least 30-45 hours each week in education-related activities (i.e. - the equivalent of a full-time job). Working full-time and attending college full-time can be accomplished by many people. However, in most cases something suffers – usually the quality of the student’s education.

Academic Honesty Policy:
The college standards of academic honesty will be applied in this class. Academic dishonesty will result in a “0” on all or part of an assignment and a written referral to the Dean of Students. The complete policy may be found in the 2016 Orange Coast College Catalog, the official publication that addresses academic and student services policies. An electronic copy of the College Catalog may be found on the college website. If necessary, students may be required to electronically submit their written work for plagiarism checking.

Accommodations for Disabilities:
If you have a disability and believe that you will need accommodations, then you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disabled Students Center as soon as possible. The office is located in the Special Services Building and the phone number is (714) 432-0202 Ext. 25807.

Ten Suggestions for the Successful Completion of Geography 130
1) Come to class and actively participate in the class discussions by making thoughtful contributions and asking relevant questions.
2) Take clear, comprehensive, high-quality notes in class and rewrite them within 1 or 2 days of the next lecture.
3) Read the corresponding chapters in the textbook before coming to class.
4) Highlight, underline, and/or write down the key points and important concepts in the textbook as you read the chapters.
5) Regularly use your atlas and/or the textbook to find the different places and locations that are discussed during class.
6) Make flash cards for the key terms and concepts that are discussed in class and frequently review them.
7) Prepare for all of the map quizzes by labeling and filling in the blank outline maps, preferably before the day of the map quiz.
8) Complete all of the homework/in-class assignments and submit them at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date.
9) Form a study group and study with other classmates – this often helps and it is usually a lot more fun!
10) Avoid trying to read and learn everything the night before an exam. Throughout the ages, students (including your instructor) have consistently proven that this strategy is not especially productive in challenging college courses. In fact, this strategy is often quite counter-productive.

Ten Ways to Make Life Hard for Your Classmates and Professor
1) Constantly whisper, talk, and laugh with your neighbors during class.
2) Arrive late to class and leave early for no particular reason.
3) Place your head on the desk or doze off and catch a nap.
4) Yawn loudly over and over again. Stretch your arms. Keep staring at your watch or the clock on the wall.
5) Blow bubbles with your gum and make loud popping sounds.
6) Work on homework or study for another class during class discussions.
7) Make facial expressions that show how disgusted you are with something that the instructor or another classmate said.
8) Check your cell phone to see if you missed any important calls. Email or text your friends and family during class.
9) Interrupt the entire class by constantly coming in and/or leaving the classroom.
10) Zip up your backpack and pack up your belongings a few minutes before the class is finished.

* Any behavior that is disruptive to the instructor or other students in class will not be tolerated.
Tentative Course Schedule (these dates are all subject to change*)

| Week 1: (February 4) | Introduction to Weather and Climate | Composition of the Atmosphere | * Skim the Table of Contents, Glossary, & Index  
|                       |                                  |                               | * Read Chapter 1 |
| Week 2: (February 11) | Solar Radiation & the Seasons    |                                | * Map Quiz – United States & Canada  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 2 |
| Week 3: (February 18) | Energy Balance & Temperature     |                                | * Map Quiz – United States & Canada  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 2 |
| Week 4: (February 25) | Atmospheric Pressure & Wind      |                                | * Read Chapter 3  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Review Chapters & Notes for Exam #1 |
| Week 5: (March 3)     | Review Chapters & Notes for Exam #1 |                               | * Map Quiz – California  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 4 |
| Week 6: (March 10)    | Atmospheric Moisture             |                                | * Read Chapter 5 |
| Week 7: (March 17)    | Cloud Development & Forms        |                                | * Map Quiz – Physical Features (Part #1)  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 6 |
| Week 8: (March 24)    | Precipitation Processes          |                                | * Read Chapter 7  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Review Chapters & Notes for Exam #2 |
| (March 28 – April 1)  |                                  |                                |                               |
| Week 9: (April 7)     | Atmospheric Circulation          |                                | * Map Quiz – Physical Features (Part #2)  
|                       | Pressure Distributions           |                                | * Read Chapter 8 |
| Week 10: (April 14)   | Air Masses & Fronts             |                                | * Read Chapter 9  
|                       | Mid-Latitude Cyclones           |                                | * Read Chapter 10 |
| Week 11: (April 21)   | Review Chapters & Notes for Exam #2 |                               | * Exam #2 (Chapters 5-10) |
| Week 12: (April 28)   | Lightning, Thunder, & Tornadoes  |                                | * Exam #2 (Chapters 5-10) |
| Week 13: (May 5)      | Tropical Storms & Hurricanes     |                                | * Map Quiz – Countries (Part #1)  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 12 |
| Week 14: (May 12)     | Human Effects on the Atmosphere  |                                | * Read Chapter 14  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Review Chapters & Notes for Final Exam |
| Week 15: (May 19)     | Earth’s Climates                |                                | * Map Quiz – Countries (Part #2)  
|                       | Past & Future Climate Changes    |                                | * Read Chapter 15  
|                       |                                  |                                | * Read Chapter 16 |
| Week 16: (May 26)     | Review Chapters & Notes for Final Exam |                               | * Final Exam (Chapters 11-16) plus some questions from Unit #1 and Unit #2 |

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness” - - Mark Twain