

GEOG 343: Climatology
Meeting time: MWF 10:00-10:50 AM
Classroom: Butte Hall 503 (501)

Instructor: Nori Sato
e-mail: nsato2@csuchico.edu
Office: Butte Hall 535
Phone: 898-6219
Office Hours: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM (MW); 12:30-2:30 PM (T); or by appointment

Required textbook: Bonan, G. B. (2008), *Ecological Climatology: Concepts and Applications*, 2nd ed., 550 pp., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K. (ISBN: 9780521693196)

YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN GEOG 101, GEOS 120 OR EQUIVALENT BEFORE YOU TAKE THIS CLASS

Course description: To provide an introduction to climatology and to the application of fundamental skills (mathematical and interpretive) in environmental science. To develop skills and knowledge in applying climatology in different subject matters, both theoretical and practical. To develop skills used to understand weather events embedded in certain climate regions, evaluate climate and climatic change, and to assess the impact of human activities on the earth-atmosphere system and ecosystems.

Laboratory (Butte 501): We use the computer lab (Butte 501) every Friday. Please inform the lab manager (Cathie Benjamin; Butte Hall 502; 898-4755) of any technical problems with the lab. This is the lab manager's expertise and responsibility. I will, however, ensure that technical issues that impact students' coursework in the lab are resolved as quickly as possible.

Friday labs: We will conduct a series of large climate data analyses on Fridays. We will meet in Butte 501 on Fridays.

Required material: We will also use Microsoft Word and Excel, both of which are installed on the computers in the classroom, Butte Hall 501. You should find them in other computer labs elsewhere on campus. It is a good idea to seek external help if you have any difficulty using those software packages, especially Excel, as this course will intensively use them.

Reading assignments: I expect you to keep up with your course reading assignments as well as any supplemental readings that I will assign from time to time. Additional reading assignments will be given from time to time and they are not listed on this syllabus. Take notes as you read your textbooks. Your knowledge from reading assignments (both textbook and supplemental) may be evaluated by **unannounced** quizzes.

Quizzes: Quiz questions may include topics discussed in lectures and/or reading assignments. So, come to the class and keep up with your reading assignments.

Attendance: Regular attendance is taken and is highly recommended (part of your 10% attendance/participation grade). Consistent non-attendance during the first four weeks of class will result in the student being withdrawn by the instructor. The responsibility of formally withdrawing from the class after the first four weeks is the student's. Chronic non-attendance after the first four weeks may cause a reduction in the letter grade that was earned or a grade of "WU" will be awarded.

I will make announcements at the beginning of the class period and will not repeat those announcements. Also, any explanations for assignments will only be given during the class period when they are handed out. It is your responsibility to ask your classmates regarding what you may have missed if you were not able to attend a class OR when you are late to a class. When you are sick, PLEASE e-mail me or leave me a voice-mail message before the class begins. My contact information is listed elsewhere in this syllabus.

Exercises: Materials covered in lectures will be supplemented with exercises. The class exercises emphasize techniques of observation, measurement and data interpretation that are fundamental to physical geography. They are intended to complement and supplement lectures on specific topics. In some cases, we will start working on the exercises in class (and you will complete them at home).

I will leave a large envelope in front of the classroom on the due date of any exercise. As soon as the lecture starts, I will close it and any late submission from that point on will have 10% deducted per day. No exercises will be accepted after graded exercises have been returned. Make sure that you have your exercise with you when you come to class; I will not accept any exercise that you don't have in class on the due date (because you have it in another folder, notebook, etc. that you don't have at the moment).

Each exercise should be **typed** and completed concisely and neatly. Any calculations should be clearly indicated. The considerable points will be given for the correct method (i.e., not for the final numerical answer alone). All questions should be attempted. You are not discouraged from working in a group; it is rather encouraged. Some exercises may be based on working in a small group; however, your write-up must be in your own words. It is your responsibility to give your exercises to your instructor in the correct method specified. Make-up exercises will only be given in the case of a verifiable excuse. That is, you will need to let me know in advance if you are not able to come to class due to illness.

Exams: Materials covered in the lectures, readings assignments, and other resources that may include on-line resources (such as various websites), videos and exercises will be tested on exams. The lectures will be related to, but not directly from the reading assignments. The exercises and exams, therefore, will require you to synthesize lecture and reading materials. Questions may consist of multiple-choice, problems, short-answer, paragraph, and/or essay questions. A make-up exam will ONLY be given in the event of illness and other extraneous events that keep you from attending the exam. Proper documentation will be required. In that case, it is YOUR responsibility to let me know BEFORE the exam that you will be unable to attend.

Field trips: We will meet at Butte Creek Ecological Preserve (BCEP). We will make arrangements for carpooling for these days. Please make sure to be at BCEP by 10 AM (Friday, September 16; Friday, October 28).

Project: You will carry out a climate data analysis; review relevant peer-reviewed journal article for methodology and data; write up a short paper, and present the result in class.

Presentation: You have an individual presentation based on your paper. This series of presentations will take place toward the end of the semester (November 30 through December 9; 5 class periods). By the time you give this presentation, you should have completed a preliminary analysis of your climate data. Thus, you should have in-depth knowledge about your project that you want to share with the rest of your classmates. Your presentation will be 12 minutes, followed by 3 minutes of questions and answer.

Note on exercises/assignments: Your computer hard drive, online storage space, USB storage device, etc. may potentially fail. Make multiple copies of your work! I cannot help you even if your work suddenly disappears the night before the due date. Note: any late submissions of assignments due to computer disasters will receive a late penalty. Again, make multiple copies.

Disability Support Services: If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and also contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. DSS is located in the Student Services Center building (Student Services Center 170; 898-5959; <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>).

Statement of academic honesty: Academic misconduct (as defined in the current California State University, Chico catalogue) will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to discuss course materials inside and outside the classroom. However, all written materials/work submitted by students must be their own work exclusively. No answers to questions must be copied from other students, other classes, or the Internet. You need to cite sources when you use someone else's ideas, data, findings, etc. The highest standards of honesty are expected when taking exams. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, or the consequences of academic misconduct, consult the current university catalogue, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (Kendall Hall 112; 898-6897; <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/>), or ask me.

Studying tips: After each class, I strongly recommend you review your lecture notes, supplementing them with readings from the text and what you have learned from the online resources. Make a note of any questions and bring them to class, or stop by my office during office hours. If you are having difficulties with any aspect of the course, you should come and see me immediately. Don't wait until the middle of the semester or even later. You can set up an appointment in class or e-mail me at nsato2@csuchico.edu.

General classroom policy: NO smart phones and PDAs during the class period. You will be requested to leave the classroom immediately when I find you using it regardless of reasons. In addition, this course uses several computer software packages and meets in Butte 501. If you are found browsing websites or carry on texting/messaging/chatting during the class period, you will be asked to leave the classroom immediately.

Please do not take notes using a computer. Several students have told me that it can be very disruptive. Bring your notebook and pen/pencil, instead.

Course Requirements:

Category	Percentage
Attendance/Participation	10%
Exercises/Quizzes	25%
Project/Presentation	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Total	100%

Outline: The class schedule and midterm exam date are subject to change.

Timeline*

Week	Month	Day	Chapter*	Note
01	Aug	22, 24, 26	1	
02	Aug/Sept	29, 31, 2	2, 3	
03	Sept	7, 9	3	
04	Sept	12, 14, 16	4	Field trip 1
05	Sept	19, 21, 23	5	
06	Sept	26, 28, 30	6	
07	Oct	3, 5, 7	7	Midterm Exam
08	Oct	10, 12, 14	8	
09	Oct	17, 19, 21	9, 10	
10	Oct	24, 26, 28	11	Field trip 2
11	Oct/Nov	31, 2, 4	12	
12	Nov	7, 9	13, 14	
13	Nov	14, 16, 18	15	
14	Nov	21, 23, 25		Thanksgiving break
15	Nov/Dec	28, 30, 2		Presentations
16	Dec	5, 7, 9		Presentations
17	Dec	14 (W) 10-11:50 AM		Final Exam

* Subject to change by instructor with no notice provided.