

GEOG 407: Analysis of Global Change  
Meeting time: TR 9:30-10:45 AM  
Classroom: Butte Hall 503 (501)

Instructor: Nori Sato  
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Office: Butte Hall 535  
Phone: 898-6219  
Office Hours: 1:00-4:00 PM (T); 1:00-3:00 PM (R); or by appointment

**Course description:** This course brings together the fields of climatology, biogeography, pyrogeography, and geomorphology to study earth systems science as an integrative discipline of spatially dependent earth processes with implications for human systems. Major mechanisms and processes that affect climate change are covered with examinations of the impacts of past, present, and future climate change on human societies. Observations and modeling of selected earth system components at various temporal and spatial scales of analysis facilitate an understanding of spatial modeling from simple to complex systems.

**YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN GEOG 390 OR EQUIVALENT BEFORE YOU TAKE THIS CLASS**

**Required textbook:**

Schneider, S. H., A. Rosencranz, M. D. Mastrandrea, and K. Kuntz-Duriseti, Eds., 2009: *Climate Change Science and Policy*. Island Press, 544 pp.  
(ISBN-10: 1597265675; ISBN-13: 978-1597265676)

**Course requirements:**

Active participation in class, a research/project paper, two presentations (pair and individual), and midterm and final exams. You associate information from your reading assignments and a series of exercises with relevant physical and human/societal issues (past, present, and future) that take place around you. You will discuss and share additional information that you gain from your everyday life with your classmates. That is, bring new knowledge and latest news to the class—you will actively participate and lead the class lectures.

**Assignment Percentage:**

Attendance/participation	5%
Quizzes/exercises	15%
Research paper	30%
2-people presentation	15%
Paper presentation	15%
Midterm exam	10%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

**Reading assignments:**

Since this is a 400-level course, 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. Also note that the contents of the additional reading assignments will have a fair chance to be questioned in exams. Take notes as you read your textbooks and supplemental readings. For every other week, there is a quiz based on your reading assignments.

**Exercises:**

In addition to bi-weekly reading quizzes, there will be a series of exercises that are based on the topics of your reading assignments. If you are not comfortable with Excel, seek help NOW.

**Attendance:**

Regular attendance is taken and is highly recommended, as it will be part of your 5% attendance/participation grade. Consistent non-attendance during the first four weeks of the semester will result in the student being withdrawn by the instructor. The responsibility of formally withdrawing from the course 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 class period and will not repeat those announcements. Also, any explanation for an assignment will only be given during the class period when the assignment is 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.

**Research paper:****Due date: Thursday, May 10, 2012**

You should follow the methods and techniques that you have acquired in GEOG 390 or equivalent. **Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated.** Properly cite source information in text and in the reference section when you use external sources. I will not exhaust the lists of DO-NOT's; just follow what you have learned in GEOG 390. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE SUBMISSION OF YOUR PAPER. Detailed instruction for the research paper will be given in class.

**Presentations:**

1) A presentation done by two students. You and your partner jointly choose a topic, work together on a presentation, and present it in class. This presentation will start on the 3rd week of the semester, and one pair will present each week. Each pair will choose a **peer-reviewed** article and assign the class to read it before your presentation. You treat the paper (of your choice) as if it were your paper. In other words, read it very carefully and understand it as much as you can. You will then present and lead a discussion in class. After your presentation, you and your partner will jointly write a one-page summary of the article and any discussion that you led. This presentation of your pair will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers. Everyone else in class is expected to have read a paper assigned by a presenting pair and should

also have questions prepared for a lively discussion. The level of your participation will be noted.

**2)** An individual presentation based on your research paper. This series of presentations will take place toward the end of the semester (April 28 through May 10). By the time you give this presentation, you will have written a draft paper (if not, I will be very worried), so you should have in-depth knowledge about your research/project that you want to share with the rest of your class. 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.

**Accessibility Resource Center:** If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. ARC is located across from the Meriam Library in the Student Services Center building (Student Services Center 170; 898-5959; <http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/>).

**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.

**Outline:** The class schedule and assignments are subject to change.

Timeline

Week	Date	Activity	Reading Assignment**
1	Jan. (24)*, 26		1
2	Jan. 31, Feb. 2		2, 3
3	Feb. 7, 9	Presentation P1	4, 5, 6, 7
4	Feb. 14, 16	Presentation P2	8, 9, 10, 11, 12
5	Feb. 21, 23	Presentation P3	13, 14, 15, 16
6	Feb. 28, Mar. 1	Presentation P4	17, 18, 19, 20
7	Mar. 6, 8	Presentation P5	21, 22
9	Mar. 13, 15	Midterm exam Presentation P6	23, 24, 25, 26, 27
8	Mar. 20, 22	Spring break	
10	Mar. 27, 29	Presentation P7	28, 29, 30, 31, 32
11	Apr. 3, 5	Presentation P8	33, 34, 35, 36
12	Apr. 10, 12	Presentation P9	37, 38, 39, 40, 41
13	Apr. 17, 19	Presentation P10	42, 43, 44, 45
14	Apr. 24, 26	Presentation P11	46, 47, 48, 49
15	May 1, 3	Individual presentations	
16	May 8, 10	Individual presentations; <b>Paper due (5/10)</b>	
Finals week	Final exam; Tuesday, May 15 (12:00-1:50 PM)		

\* No class; I will be attending a meeting.

\*\* There will be supplemental reading assignments beyond this list.