

GEOG 407: Analysis of Global Change
Meeting time: MWF 11:00-11:50 AM
Classroom: Butte Hall 503 (501)

Instructor: Nori Sato
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Office: Butte Hall 535
Phone: 898-6219
Office Hours: 12:00-1:00 PM (MW); 12:30-2:00 PM (TR); or by appointment

Course description: This course brings together the fields of climatology, biogeography 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 an examination of the impacts of past 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. While the course will examine changing climate and its impacts at a global scale, particular attention will be paid for North America.

Textbook: Pryor, S. C. (Ed.) (2009). *Understanding Climate Change: Climate Variability, Predictability, and Change in the Midwestern United States*. 312 pp., Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, Indiana.

Course requirements: Lecture attendance, in-class/take-home exercises, a research/project paper with a peer-reviewing process, and a presentation. Exercises may include unannounced reading quizzes. Leading a Friday (group) discussion is part of the exercise grade.

Assignment	Percentage
Exercises	35%
Presentation	25%
Peer review	10%
Research paper	30%
Total	100%

Monday and Wednesday classes will focus on textbook subject matters (in the Midwest) and their applications in the West. Friday classes will be lead by you (read below).

Friday classes: The class period on every Friday will be used for discussions of applied subject matters. This is mainly done by a small group of students who lead a discussion although you may choose to give a presentation by yourself. The purpose of the discussion is to broaden the knowledge beyond the subject matters covered during Monday and Wednesday classes—each of you should have concerns and interests regarding changing climate and its impacts. There are three steps in order to carry out your group discussion. Your group will 1) select an article for a discussion (a sign-up sheet will be available on the second week of the semester), 2) lead a discussion, and 3) write a one-page summary of the article and the discussion. A short presentation prior to your group discussion, a discussion itself, and a one-page summary will be part of your exercise grade.

Two groups may lead discussions on any Friday. Each group is expected to provide a reading assignment for the rest of the class so that the entire class will be participating in the discussion actively. Everyone in class is expected to have read any reading assignment given, and everyone should also have

questions prepared for discussions. The level of your participation will be noted and also become part of your exercise grade.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is highly recommended, although I will not take any attendance (beyond the census period at the beginning of the semester). I will usually make announcements at the beginning of the class period and will not repeat those announcements. Also, any explanations for exercises will only be given during the class when they are handed out. It is your responsibility to ask your classmates regarding what you may have missed if and when you were not able to attend a class. When you are sick, PLEASE e-mail me or leave me a voice-mail message before the class begins. This is very important.

Research paper:

Draft (for peer-review) due: Monday, April 12, 2010

Final draft due: Monday, May 10, 2010

Your paper will initially be reviewed by one of your classmates (peer reviewer). I will only read your final draft, but I will review your constructive criticisms/suggestions that you provide for a classmate (keep reading). In terms of the peer-reviewing process, first, you and your peer reviewer will exchange and review each other's draft paper. Each of you will provide constructive criticisms/suggestions (which will be graded). Based on those constructive criticisms/suggestions, you will revise your paper. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE SUBMISSION OF YOUR PAPER WILL BE ACCEPTED. This applies to both draft and final draft paper of yours.

Presentation:

Each of you will give a 12-minute presentation about your paper, followed by a 3-minute Q-and-A session (April 26 through May 14). By the time you give a presentation, you will have written a draft paper, so you should have in-depth knowledge about your research/project that you want to share with the rest of your classmates. A sign-up sheet for your time slot will be available by the middle of the semester.

Note (in general):

Since this is a senior-level course, I expect you to keep up with your course reading assignments as well as any supplemental readings that I will provide from time to time. You will also need to have reading assignments for group discussions. Unannounced reading quizzes may be given.

Note (on exercises): Material 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). *Late exercises will have 10% deducted per day.* No exercises will be accepted after graded exercises have been returned.

Each exercise should be written and completed concisely and neatly. Any calculations should be clearly indicated. The majority of 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 are 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.

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 across from the Meriam Library in the Student Services Center building. The DSS phone number is 898-5959 (FAX 898-4411). Visit the DSS website at <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 lab material/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 quizzes and 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 110), or ask me.

Timeline*

Week	Date	Subject Covered
Week 01	Jan 25	Chapters 1 and 2
	Jan 27	
	Jan 29 (Furlough Day)	No Class
Week 02	Feb 1	Chapters 3 and 4
	Feb 3	
	Feb 5	
Week 03	Feb 8	Chapters 5 and 6
	Feb 10	
	Feb 12 (State Budget Closure Day)	No class
Week 04	Feb 15 (State Budget Closure Day)	No class
	Feb 17	Chapters 7 and 8
	Feb 19	
Week 05	Feb 22	Chapters 9 and 10
	Feb 24	
	Feb 26	
Week 06	Mar 1	Chapters 11 and 12
	Mar 3	
	Mar 5	
Week 07	Mar 8	Chapters 13 and 14
	Mar 10	
	Mar 12	
Week 08	Mar 15-19 (Spring break)	Spring break
Week 09	Mar 22	Chapters 15 and 16
	Mar 24	
	Mar 26	
Week 10	Mar 29-Apr 2 (César Chávez Day and Furlough Days)	No class; Chapters 17 and 18
Week 11	Apr 5	Chapters 19 and 20
	Apr 7	
	Apr 9	
Week 12	Apr 12**-16 (April 12: Draft paper due)	No class**; Peer-review
Week 13	Apr 19	Chapters 21 and 22
	Apr 21	
	Apr 23	
Week 14	Apr 26	Presentation 1
	Apr 28	Presentation 2
	Apr 30	Presentation 3
Week 15	May 3	Presentation 4
	May 5	Presentation 5
	May 7	Presentation 6
Week 16	May 10 (May 10: Final draft paper due)	Presentation 7
	May 12	Presentation 8
	May 14	Presentation 9

* Subject to change by instructor with no notice provided.

** We may meet on Monday, April 12, depending on my presentation schedule at AAG.