

Grays Harbor College

SYLLABUS

GEOL 107

Introduction to Weather

5 Credits

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I. Course Description

This course examines the science of the Earth's atmosphere. The course goals are to provide the student with a better understanding of the processes occurring in the atmosphere that are responsible for the weather and climate that we experience. The course will focus on the why and how things happen rather than have the student memorize climate classification and statistics. The student will also learn how to read the sky and weather maps. The class will discuss the cause of selected natural environmental issues such as ozone depletion, greenhouse warming, El Nino and acid rain.

II. Textbook

The Atmosphere, Ninth Edition, Lutgens and Tarbuck. ISBN 0-13-101567-2

III. Technique of Instruction and Methods of Evaluation

GEOL 107 meets weekly on Saturday's from 9:00 AM – 1:35 PM. Most classes will be taught using a lecture format. Student questions will be encouraged. Individual interests regarding weather, media reports, or other current weather events are suitable topics for discussion.

IV. Methods of Evaluation and Grading

All tests and class exercises are announced and are declared in the course schedule. The format for testing includes multiple choice, true/false, and matching sections. Each student's grade is based on a total of 500 points. The point distribution is:

Two Tests (drop 1)	200 points
Class Exercises	100 points
Final Exam	200 points
TOTAL POINTS	500 points

The grading scale is:

95%	A
90%	A-
87%	B+
84%	B
80%	B-
77%	C+
74%	C
70%	C-
65%	D+
60%	D

V. Learning Outcomes

GEOL 107 supports each of the five desired student abilities:

A. Competency in the Disciplines

The knowledge and skills specific to the discipline of Meteorology will be assessed through all of the graded materials. The student's best reference for the goals of the course is your textbook. Every section has the learning goals the student is responsible for achieving.

B. Literacy

Students have frequent reading and writing assignments, including defining terms and answering questions from the text and discussing summaries of newspaper or magazine articles. The variety of activities in the course appeals to different learning styles.

C. Critical Thinking

Students discuss the concept of critical thinking during the first week of the course. Throughout the course students consider their own points of view as well as those of the instructor, textbook, and other sources of information as they analyze environmental issues and atmospheric hazards. Students also consider the implications and consequences of applying solutions that attempt to correct environmental and atmospheric hazards.

D. Social and Personal Responsibility

The course encourages personal responsibility by promoting appropriate classroom behavior and good work habits. It also encourages group discussion of many of the serious environmental issues and atmospheric hazards that adversely affect millions of people worldwide everyday.

E. Using Resources

Students make use of information resources throughout the course. In addition to web-based activities, in which they obtain information from the World Wide Web on specific environmental problems, they also use the web to monitor storm progression using satellite imagery. Many students use computers to assist them with their assignments and also use the web to obtain various articles on environmental issues and atmospheric hazards.

VI. Course Schedule

SATURDAY	APRIL 9 :	Introduction / Review Syllabus Review Chapter 1
SATURDAY	APRIL 16 :	Review Chapters 2 & 3
SATURDAY	APRIL 23 :	TEST # 1 (Covers Chapters 1,2 & 3)
SATURDAY	APRIL 30 :	Review Test #1 Results Review Chapters 4 & 5
SATURDAY	MAY 7 :	Review Chapters 6 & 13
SATURDAY	MAY 14 :	TEST # 2 (Covers Chapters 4,5, 6 & 13) Review for Class Exercise 1
SATURDAY	MAY 21 :	Take Class Exercise # 1 Review Test #2 Results Review Chapters 7 & 8
SATURDAY	MAY 28 :	BONUS QUIZ (Covers Chapter 7) Review Chapter 9 Review for Class Exercise # 2)
SATURDAY	JUNE 4 :	Take Class Exercise # 2 Review Chapters 10 & 11
SATURDAY	JUNE 11 :	FINAL EXAM (Covers Chapters 8,9,10 & 11)

VII. Class Management

Students are expected to be in class as scheduled. Students who miss a class are responsible for the information discussed and lectured on in the missed session. Since a test is dropped there are NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.

Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they have emergency medical information to share, or if they need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated.

Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. Depending on the infraction, additional disciplinary action may be sought.