Geography/Meteorology 3

Introduction to Weather and Climate

Spring 2017 (February 6 – June 5)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Professor: Dr. Jason Paul Finley
Phone Number: 818-610-6555
Email address: finleyjp@piercecollege.edu
(best way to contact me!)

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND “Geog/Meteor 3” IN SUBJECT LINE OF EMAIL!!!
PLEASE ALLOW 24 HOURS FOR RESPONSE (excluding weekends)

Office Hours: Tuesday (1 pm to 5:30 pm) and Thursday (9 am to 10:30 am) in FO 2806.

CLASS INFORMATION
Geog/Meteor 3 – Introduction to Weather/Climate: Section 8161/8162

Class meets Tue/Thu from 11:10 am – 12:35 pm in GNGR 1613.

Pierce Online (Canvas): https://ilearn.laccd.edu/

TEXT


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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

Description (Geography/Meteorology 3 – Introduction to Weather and Climate):

This course studies the earth's atmospheric environment using an Earth Systems Science approach. Emphasis is given to Earth-sun relationships, solar radiation inputs, earth radiation emission and temperature, global warming, atmospheric moisture measurements, adiabatic processes, clouds and precipitation formation, atmospheric pressure and wind flow, storm development, weather forecasting, and climate and climate change. Tools used of inquiry may include weather maps, satellite imagery, and GIS. It is highly recommended for students to have a background or interest in science, as well as the ability to read and write at a college level.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to perform a real-world task requiring Weather and Climate that demonstrates meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills. Examples of essential knowledge and skills at the Introduction to Weather and Climate level may include but are not limited to: a) Identify the physical processes influencing weather and climate; b) Demonstrate ability to apply scientific systems of measurement to describe natural phenomena; interpret and use meteorological charts; c) Demonstrate the application of scientific principles, theories, and methods to weather and climate conditions.

CLASS POLICIES AND ATTENDANCE

I will assume each student is an adult!!!
Therefore, each student is responsible for his/her education. I expect that you are willing to assume all responsibilities for successful completion of the course and abide by all policies. Be on time, but if you arrive late, take a seat in the back of the room. If you absolutely need to miss a class, please inform me BEFORE class and remember that you are responsible for missed material.

Attendance will be taken for each class and reported to the school throughout the entire semester (for financial aid reasons). See page 24 of the latest course catalog for more details.

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EXCESSIVE or DISRUPTIVE TALKING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND MAY LEAD TO AT LEAST ONE CLASS DISMISSAL!!

Students continuously leaving and coming back to the classroom will NOT be tolerated!!

UNLESS OTHERWISE ALLOWED, NO CELL PHONE OR ELECTRONICS USE DURING CLASS (PHONES ON SILENT). If ANYONE is caught using the devices DURING class, that person MAY be asked to leave for that class period, especially after ONE verbal warning!!

Hostile and continuously disruptive behavior will lead to a BIT form (see Canvas for details).

WITHDRAWALS

The last day to drop classes without a “W” is February 20, 2017. The last day to drop classes (on-line only) is May 7, 2017. However, you MAY be excluded for excessive, unexcused absences (more than one week). The No Penalty Drop Date is now the day before census (end of 2nd week for full-term classes).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Cheating is unacceptable behavior for college students. If you are part of a cheating incident (either by giving or receiving assistance on an exam, looking at another exam, looking like you are looking at another exam, or through PLAGIARISM—submitting anyone else’s work as your own), you will receive a score of ZERO (with possible failure of the course), and be recommended for disciplinary action by the Vice President of Student Services. See details on pages 8 and 9...

GRADES

Grades are based on a percentage of points (400). If on a borderline, grade MAY be bumped-up (within 0.5%).

Grading scale is as follows:

A = 90–100% (360 – 400 points)
B = 80–89% (320 – 359 points)
C = 70–79% (280 – 319 points)

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D = 60–69%  \((240 – 279 \text{ points})\)
F = below 60%  \((\text{below 240 points})\)

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION (see posted gradesheet on Canvas)**

**Three Midterm Exams** \(120 \text{ points}\)
These exams will be based mostly on lectures and assignment material. **ONE MIDTERM EXAM WILL BE DROPPED.**

**THEREFORE**, one missed midterm CANNOT be made up (it will be dropped). Only under EXTREME circumstances and prior notice can a **SECOND MISSED** midterm (or the Final Exam) be taken at a **slightly** different time.

**If you are absent when midterms (or other assignments) are returned, you will need to review these during my office hours. I will NOT email grades for security and pedagogical reasons!!!**

**Final Exam** \(75 \text{ points}\)
**Final exam** will also be based on lectures and some assignment material as noted above. While the multiple choice or true/false parts of this exam will NOT be cumulative, there will be at least one essay question requiring a summarization of the course material.

**Canvas and In-Class Assignments** \(150 \text{ points}\)
These assignments will include quizzes posted on Canvas (15 points each), textbook reflection assignments on Canvas (15 points each) and in-class, group exercises (20 points each). The in-class assignments will be provided and started in class but may need to be completed at home. The Canvas assignments will be submitted via Canvas.

**No late work will be accepted for Canvas assignments FOR ANY REASON!!!**

**For in-class assignments, there will be a 10\% point reduction for each day an assignment is late for up to 5 days. Afterwards, no credit will be given!!!**

**For group assignments, you must be present in class when your group submits them – unless you notify me ahead of time!!!**

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Turning in incorrect/incomplete work will be graded as such (no resubmitting for credit after initial submission).

In other words, GRADES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE!!

Independent Project 40 points
Independent project activities include weather observations and/or presentations of weather discussions. Due Thu, May 25. Same late penalties as for the in-class assignments.

Participation (for active learning) 15 points
Participation grade will come from completion of unannounced quizzes and/or assignments given about once each week. Be sure to have paper available in class. THESE QUIZZES/ASSIGNMENTS CANNOT BE MADE UP!!

Extra Credit TBD
Extra credit will be determined as the semester progresses. Note: No extra credit will be given to any student on an individual basis.

* In accordance with Section 76244 of the California Education Code, the only basis for an instructor to change a grade is instructor error. In the absence of an instructor error the final grade in the course is a final grade. Any error in grading must be brought to the attention of the instructor no later than one year after the last day of class. A grade cannot be changed after one year even if an error has been made. See page 7 for details.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Tentative-Subject to Change!!) **

** Lecture time in class will consist of PowerPoint slides, animations, short internet-based movies, and active learning activities. For best results in class, take notes diligently during lectures and other activities!!

Feb 07/09: Introduction, Syllabus, & Chapter 1 [Introduction to the Atmosphere]

Feb 14/16: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 [Heating Earth’s Surface and Atmosphere]

Feb 21/23: Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 [Temperatures] In-Class Group Assignment #1

Feb 28/Mar 02: Chapter 3 and Midterm 1 Review

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Mar 07/09: **Midterm 1 (Ch. 1 – 3)** and Chapter 4 [Moisture and Stability]

Mar 14/16: Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 [Condensation and Precipitation]

*Canvas Assignment #1 & In-Class Group Assignment #2*

*Textbook Reflection #1*

Mar 21/23: Chapter 5 and **Midterm 2 Review**

Mar 28/30: **Midterm 2 (Ch. 4 – 5)** & NO CLASS (Cesar Chavez Day)

*(Spring Break)*

Apr 11/13: Chapter 6 [Air Pressure and Winds]

*Canvas Assignment #2*

Apr 18/20: Chapter 7 [Circulation of the Atmosphere]

*In-Class Group Assignment #3*

*Textbook Reflection #2*

Apr 25/27: Chapter 7 & **Midterm 3 Review**

May 02/04: **Midterm 3 (Ch. 6 & 7)** and Chapter 8 [Air Masses]

May 09/11: Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 [Mid-Latitude Cyclones]

*Canvas Assignment #3*

*Textbook Reflection #3*

May 16/18: Chapter 10/11 [Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, and Tropical Storms]

May 23/25: Chapter 10/11, **Final Review**, Independent Project Due!!!

Thu June 1: (12:30 – 2:30 pm): **FINAL EXAM**

**THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO) QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDED TO THIS EXAM.**

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SUMMARY OF CLASS RULES, GUIDELINES, AND RESOURCES:

Disruptions:

1. Attendance is **REQUIRED** to be successful in my class. There is a STRONG correlation between students who pass and students who attend each full-class period. Therefore, if you miss a class, YOU are responsible for missed material. **Furthermore, you MAY be EXCLUDED for excessive, unexcused absences (more than one week).**

2. Disobedient, disruptive or disorderly behavior (including leaving and re-entering the classroom) exhibited by any student may result in disciplinary action (**BIT form**) in accordance with District policies and procedures. Action may include, but is not limited to expulsion from class. See “Student Discipline Procedures” at [http://info.piercecollege.edu/info/conduct/index.asp](http://info.piercecollege.edu/info/conduct/index.asp)

3. If you arrive late (**which is NOT recommended**), you MUST take a seat in the back of the class.

4. Excessive/Disruptive talking or any cell phone (or other electronics) use may lead to ONE or MORE class dismissals. Also, **NO SLEEPING ALLOWED!!!**

Grades:

1. Final grades are based on a **point-system** detailed on page 3. If you are on a borderline, the final grade MAY be bumped up. This means you are within 0.5% of the next grade. For example, if your final grade is 89.5%, then it MAY be bumped up to 90% (A). **Therefore, it is wise for you to keep a running total of grade points throughout the course using posted gradesheet (not Canvas gradebook, unless otherwise stated).** This will prevent surprises about grades at the end of the course.

2. Midterm and final exam grades **MAY be curved. **HOWEVER, final course grades are NOT curved. Therefore, due to rule #5 above and Section 76244 of the California Educational Code listed on page 3, I will **NOT** respond to emails OR have any discussions requesting grade

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changes at the end of the course. I will be more than happy to discuss why you received your final grade (in person – not through email or phone).

3. **Keep in mind that I don’t GIVE grades.** You **earn** them, and I am just the bookkeeper of them. Therefore, final grades are final grades UNLESS there is an instructor error. **I keep this very strict grading policy to be as fair as possible to each student.**

4. **Turning in incorrect/incomplete work will be graded as such (no resubmitting for credit after submitting work).** **In other words, GRADES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE!!**

5. Extra credit will be determined as the semester progresses. **Note:** No extra credit will be given to any student on an individual basis.

6. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The faculty and administration of Pierce College are committed to the belief that honesty and integrity are integral components of the academic process. The College expects students to be honest and ethical at all times. Students who violate the code of academic conduct by which the College maintains its academic integrity will be dealt with in a manner reflecting the seriousness of these violations.

I. Violations of academic honesty and integrity occur when a student participates in any act in which he/she uses deception or fraud while performing an academic activity. Violations include, but are not limited to, the following: Using study aids such as calculators, tape recorders or notes, when not authorized by the instructor. Cheating on examinations, assignments or experiments (allowing another student to copy one’s answers or copying the answers of other students; exchanging information by any means, including verbal exchanges, sign language, hand signals, secret codes, passed notes, creation of a distraction for the purpose of cheating; changing answers on a previously scored test, assignment or experiment; inventing information and/or data.) Allowing another student to assume one’s identity in order to fulfill an assignment or take a test. Submitting for a grade the words, ideas, and/or written work (including laboratory notes and drawings) of another person without giving due credit to
that person. This includes purchased papers or papers written by other students. Falsifying or attempting to falsify attendance records and/or grade rosters. Conspiring with other students to commit any of the above behaviors.

II. Consequences for any offense against academic honesty and integrity may include: An “F” or a “0” on the examination or assignment. Suspension from the class and other sanctions and/or penalties authorized by the Board of Trustees for violations of the District Code of Conduct. A record of the student’s violation placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Students are required to be honest and complete their own work at all times (homework, class work, quizzes, tests, etc.). Additional information about plagiarism can be found at www.plagiarism.org.

**Textbook Reading and Student Success Strategies:**

1. This course includes sometimes-difficult abstract concepts of the atmosphere, especially since the atmosphere is mostly invisible. Therefore, reading the textbook is very important. Here are some strategies to get the most use from the book (and your money’s worth):

   a. **Survey** – Preview the information to be studied before reading (also use my slides on Canvas as a preview).

   b. **Question** – Ask yourself critical questions about the content of what you are reading.

   c. **Read** – Conduct the reading in small segments. Take small breaks in between segments.

   d. **Recite** – Stop periodically to recite to yourself what you have just read.

   e. **Review** – Once you have completed the section, review the main points to make sure you remember them clearly.

2. If you are a visual learner, review concepts of the atmosphere through YouTube. I often show a few videos in class, but many more are available online. Also, watch the Weather Channel!!!

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3. There are **FIVE** simple golden rules **for college success**, especially for this **course**:

   a. **Show up to class**, which is sometimes the most important way to succeed.

   b. **Participate and ask questions**, which will help your and other students’ success.

   c. **Make an honest effort at a college-level**, which is also important for life in general.

   d. **Do not get attached to the results**, especially with your grades.

   e. **Come see me during my office hours**, regardless of your success in my class.

**Extra Resources and Guidelines:**

1. **Canvas Support**: LoginID / UserID:
   
   a. Student ID number, example: 881234567.
   
   b. Password: 88mmdd or 88 + month + day you were born.
      Example: 880101 for Jan 1 birthday.
   
   c. Link to PierceOnLine Student Resources:
      [http://online.piercecollege.edu/student.html](http://online.piercecollege.edu/student.html)
   
   d. For questions during business hours - M-TH 9 AM-5 PM & F 8 AM - 3:30 PM: email to onlinehelp@piercecollege.edu. After hours Monday-Friday 5pm–8am & Weekends – call | 1–844–303–5589

2. **Special Services** – 818.719.6430 (Student Services Bldg, 1st floor): Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact the office of Special Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Authorization, based on verification of disability, is required before any accommodation can be made.

3. **Attendance Policy**: We will respect Los Angeles Pierce College’s attendance policy: “Only students who have been admitted to the

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College and are in approved active status may attend classes. Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the entire class period. Medical appointments, work, job interviews, childcare responsibilities, etc. should be arranged so as not to occur during class time. Please do not make requests for exceptions. Any student who has unexcused absences equaling one week’s worth of class time prior to census date may be excluded. Students may drop the class online, before the last day to drop. Students should never rely on the instructor to exclude them.” (General Catalog, p. 21)

Additionally, be sure to follow the course schedule for reading and class assignments; Students are individually responsible for any information and announcements that are missed due to absence or tardiness. Please ask another student for notes.

Dropping the class: It is your responsibility to drop the class if you discontinue coming to class; however, you may be dropped by the instructor if you are not attending class.

4. **Foster Youth**: We are making a special effort to support current and former foster youths at Pierce College. If you are a current or former foster youth you may qualify for other support services to help you achieve your educational goals. Please contact our Guardian Scholars Program at (818) 710-3323 or send us an email at guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu so you can get the support you are eligible for.

5. **Religious holidays**: There are a variety of “religious holidays” occurring during the semester. While these are neither Federal- or State-sanctioned holidays, they ARE days of religious observance that may impact some students in the class. If you plan to miss a class period, an assignment due date or an exam because you will be practicing your religion on a particular day, you need to notify your instructor of this fact **no later than TWO weeks in advance**. Official notification will take the form of a note, written and signed by the student, which specifies the anticipated date(-s) of absence. A student who provides this information by the deadline will be able to reschedule missed exams or work, and their absence will not adversely affect their attendance record. Failure to provide proper notification within this time

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period will negate the student’s option to reschedule or receive credit for missed activities.

6. **Mandated reporters of sexual assault**: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as an employee of the LACCD (per Title IX). It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, keep in mind that I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or harassment. If you would like to speak with someone in more detail or with professional psychologists, please contact the health center at 818-710-2833.

7. **Pregnancy**: Per Title IX, absences due to pregnancy or any related condition are excused. However, depending on the length of the absence, it may be academically necessary to take a leave of absence. Students, however, cannot be dropped from a class solely on pregnancy-related conditions that prevent them from attending class.

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