

GEOG/ATMS 121

Climate Change and Its Environmental Impacts

Summer 2023

Instructor: Dr. Jia Feng

Office Hours: by appointment only

Communication Policy

I will try to respond to your email immediately. If not, we'll talk on the following day.

Course Description Past, present and likely future climate. Impacts on the landscape, especially water resources, species distributions, and wildfires. Laboratory experiences on climate data and models. (ATMS 121 and GEOG 121 are cross-listed; credit may be earned in one of the two.)

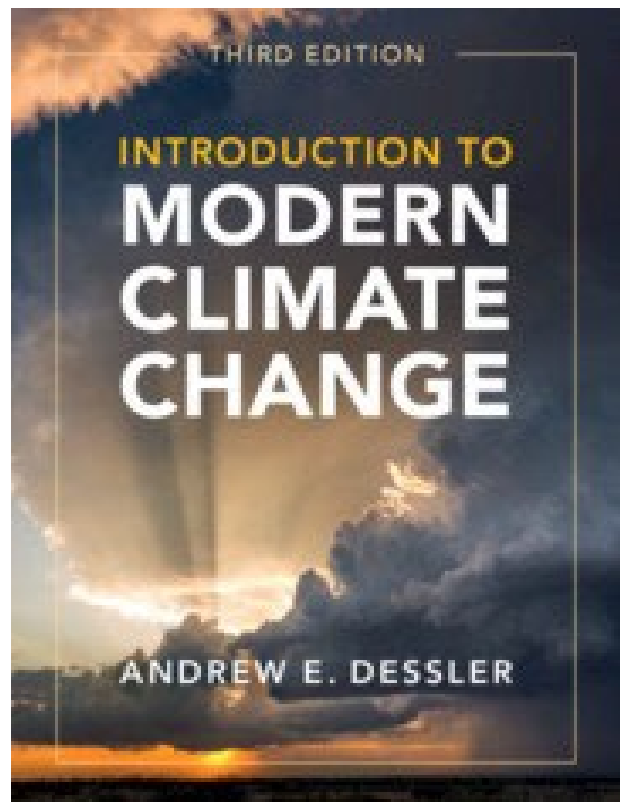
Course Pre/Co-requisites Completion of the Core Math requirement or SAT score of 630 or ACT score of 27 or Accuplacer QAS score of 276 and AAF of 276 or Corequisite. Corequisite(s): MATH 126 or MATH 127 or MATH 128 or MATH 176 or MATH 181.

Required Texts/Course Materials

Textbooks and materials are purchased and provided to students by the THINK program

Class Procedures/Structures

There will be *five* labs, and we will keep your highest *four* scores. Each student must enroll in a lab session for this course and attend regularly. Labs are in person, and you must be in lab to complete the lab. If you need to miss a lab, contact your TA



ahead of time to discuss options such as attending a different lab session.

Student Learning Outcomes

- SLO1. Students will be able to identify key factors of the climate system, its patterns, and its processes.
- SLO2. Students will be able to understand and summarize the environmental impacts of regional and global climate.
- SLO3. Students will be able to analyze data and read scientific papers as part of their laboratory exercises.

Course Requirements The course grade is based on your combined performance on tests, labs, and activities.

	<i># offered</i>	<i># needed</i>	<i>Points Each</i>	<i>Total points</i>
<i>Tests</i>	6	5	60	300 (50%)
<i>Labs</i>	5	4	50	200 (33%)
<i>Activities</i>	> 10	10	10	100 (17%)
			<i>Total</i>	600

Tests

All tests occur in class. They include short answer, essay, diagram, or calculation questions. If you know that you will have a conflict with an exam or if you wake up sick or something like that, email Dr. Jia Feng beforehand to arrange an alternate exam time. Missed exams cannot be made up without prior notification except in the case of a documented emergency (trip to the ER, car accident with police report, etc.).

Labs

Labs are in person and you must be in lab to complete the lab. If you need to miss a lab, contact me ahead of time to discuss options. There will be five labs, and we will keep your highest four scores. Generally, lab materials that are handed in late will be marked down 10% (3 points) per business day, but you get ONE late pass, if you email me ahead of time.

Activities

Activities will be done during class time. More than 10 activities will be offered. The highest 10 scores will be kept. That means it's okay if you miss a few activities. Activities cannot be made up except in the case of religious observance; COVID quarantine or isolation; attendance at a university-sponsored activity. To be able to make up an activity, you need to inform the instructor in writing ahead of time.

Extra Credit

Opportunities for extra credit are made available to the whole class via bonus questions on tests or labs and the occasional extra activity. This will occur randomly throughout the class, but the total of extra credits will not exceed 3 points of the 100 points.

Grading Criteria, Scale, and Standards

All grades will be posted on WebCampus. You are encouraged to check your grades regularly. If you find a discrepancy between your graded work and the points posted on Canvas, please bring it to the instructor immediately. If you feel that the grading was incorrect, you will need to write a paragraph explaining why you deserve the additional points and turn that in with the graded work. The instructor will take it under advisement; however, you are not guaranteed additional points.

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 93% - 100%	A-: 90% - 92.9%	
B+: 87% - 89.9%	B: 84% - 86.9%	B-: 80% - 83.9%
C+: 77% - 79.9%	C: 74% - 76.9%	C-: 70% - 73.9%
D+: 67% - 69.9%	D: 64% - 66.9%	D-: 60% - 63.9%
F: <60%		

Late Work or Make-up Exams Policies

Missed tests cannot be made up without prior notification except in the case of a documented emergency (trip to the ER, car accident with police report, etc.).

Labs can be handed in late but **generally, lab materials that are handed in late will be marked down 10% per business day, but you get ONE late pass, if you email your instructor ahead of time.** Labs more than five days late will receive a 0.

Course Expectations

Attendance

I expect that you will come to class regularly and not arrive late or leave early. This course includes many in-class activities, so not attending is likely to impact your grade. However, you may need to miss the occasional class due to illness or to other obligations. It is not a big deal to miss a class here or there. You are welcome to reach out to your classmates for notes or to me to catch up. If there are special circumstances that require you to be absent for more than four or five class days, contact me to discuss an alternate plan.

Respect

Please show respect for your fellow students and for the instructors. This includes practical acts of respect like not arriving late or leaving early. If you must arrive late or leave early, please enter or leave quietly, so as not to disturb the class. Don't distract your fellow students by texting, listening to music, leaving your phone's ringer on, using a computer for something other than class work, chatting, etc. This also includes treating everyone with the basic respect and dignity that they deserve. Listen, try not to interrupt other, think carefully about what you plan to use, and do not use derogatory or rude language.

Use of electronics

You are welcome to take notes on a laptop or tablet. However, please do not use electronic devices for non-academic purposes.

Academic Dishonesty

Doing your own work in this class is the best way to learn the material. It's also fair to your classmates. But making mistakes is part of learning. For infrequent, relatively minor errors like a short bit of paraphrasing that could have been better or a missed citation in an otherwise carefully referenced work, the penalty will be a minor grade reduction—much like if you made an arithmetic error in a problem. For more significant one-time issues, such as copying from other students, turning in copies of assignments from files or using tools like ChatGPT to generate an answer or two, you will receive a zero for the assignment. For example, we encourage you to work with your classmates on the labs, but you need to make sure all the answers are in your own words. If you and a classmate handed in nearly identical labs, you would both receive a zero for that lab. For repeated instances of significant plagiarism or for more serious infractions (e.g., turning in an entire assignment copied or purchased from outside the class, engaging in widespread cheating on tests), the University Academic Standards Policy defines academic dishonesty, and mandates specific sanctions for violations. See the University Academic Standards policy: UAM 6,502. If you ever have any questions, please ask.

Course Calendar The schedule may change slightly over the course of the semester. Students will be informed of any changes through WebCampus announcements.

Week	Date	Topic	Lab	Module
1	7/10	Introduction to the Class	Activity	
2	7/11	Ways of Knowing/Energy	LAB 1	
3	7/12	Green House Effect/Seasons		TEST 1
4	7/13	Air Pressure	LAB 2	
5	7/14	Wind and Air Circulation		TEST 2
6	7/17	Climate Patterns/ Climate Change	Activity	
7	7/18	Forcing	LAB 3	
8	7/19	Urban Heat Islands		TEST 3
9	7/20	Past Climate Changes	LAB 4	
10	7/21	Climate Models/Projected Change	Activity	TEST 4
11	7/24	Climate Impacts		
12	7/25	Climate Impacts	LAB 5	
13	7/26	Climate Impacts (Guest Lecture)		TEST 5
14	7/27	Risk/Adaptation/Mitigation	LAB 6	
15	7/28	TBD	Wrapping up	TEST 6

University Policies

Statement on Academic Dishonesty

The University Academic Standards Policy defines academic dishonesty, and mandates specific sanctions for violations. See the University Academic Standards policy: [UAM 6,502](#).

Statement on Student Compliance with University Policies

In accordance with section 6,502 of the University Administrative Manual, a student may receive academic and disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with policy, including this syllabus, for failure to comply with the directions of a University Official, for disruptive behavior in the classroom, or any other prohibited action. "Disruptive behavior" is defined in part as behavior, including but not limited to failure to follow course, laboratory or safety rules, or endangering the health of others. A student may be dropped from class at any time for misconduct or disruptive behavior in the classroom upon recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the college dean. A student may also receive disciplinary sanctions through the Office of Student Conduct for misconduct or disruptive behavior, including endangering the health of others, in the classroom. The student shall not receive a refund for course fees or tuition.

Statement of Disability Services

Use either the traditional or online statement, in addition to the last sentence regarding third party materials.

For Traditional and Seated Classrooms:

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the [Disability Resource Center](#) (Pennington Achievement Center Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

For Online Courses:

If you are a student who would normally seek accommodations in a traditional classroom, please contact me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Disability Resource Center for services for online courses by emailing drc@unr.edu or calling 775-784-6000. Academic accommodations for online courses may be different than those for seated classrooms; it is important that you contact us as soon as possible to discuss services. The University of Nevada, Reno supports equal access for students with disabilities. For more information, visit the [Disability Resource Center](#).

This course may leverage 3rd party web/multimedia content, if you experience any issues accessing this content, please notify your instructor.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording

Student-created Recordings

Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped, or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

Instructor-created Recordings

Class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to review and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live to view. Students who participate with their camera on or who use a profile image are consenting to have their video or image recorded. If you do not consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Students who un-mute during class and participate orally are consenting to have their voices recorded. If you do not consent to have your voice recorded during class, keep your mute button activated and only communicate by using the "chat" feature, which allows you to type questions and comments live.

Statement on Maintaining a Safe Learning and Work Environment

The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit the [Equal Opportunity and Title IX](#) page.

Optional Additional Information

In addition to the required information listed above, it is strongly recommended that the syllabus include:

- Information for students who must miss classes due to illness or other excused reasons. A sample statement is "If you are sick, please do not come to class. If you must miss class due to illness, please contact your instructor immediately to make arrangements for any missed work or lecture materials."
- Methods for communicating with students outside the classroom regarding matters such as class cancellations, meeting times, or room changes
- More detail about what constitutes academic dishonesty, with a concrete list or examples of "dos and don'ts" in the context of the class
- Statement for Academic Success Services: Your student fees cover usage of the [University Math Center](https://www.unr.edu/university-math-center) (https://www.unr.edu/university-math-center), (775) 784-4433; [University Tutoring Center](https://www.unr.edu/tutoring-center) (https://www.unr.edu/tutoring-center), (775) 784-6801; and [University Writing & Speaking Center](https://www.unr.edu/writing-speaking-center) (https://www.unr.edu/writing-speaking-center), (775) 784-6030. These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.