

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

GEOG 10 - Geography of California

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

A thematic approach to the state's issues, processes and topics relevant to geography including climate, landforms, natural vegetation, water resources, cultural landscape, ethnic diversity, urban and agricultural regions, and the economy. This course explores the physical, and human landscapes that have evolved as a result of the human-environment interface. (C-ID GEOG 140).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Examine the physical processes which shape the natural environments of California.
- B. Analyze the use of natural resources in the state, particularly the role of water in the development of both the economic and cultural landscapes of California.
- C. Analyze the influence of varying cultural and ethnic groups in the shaping of the cultural landscapes of California.
- D. Evaluate the origins and development of agriculture and industry in California.
- E. Compare patterns of urban development in the state and evaluate current and future trends.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

		Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>			<u>Hours</u>
1. The major physical elements of California			25.50
a. Landforms			
b. Climate			
c. Vegetation			
d. Soil			
e. Water resources			
2. The human geography of California			25.50
a. Population and distribution			
b. Economic activities			
c. Cultural landscapes			
d. Political Landscapes			
Total Hours			51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Collaborative Group Work
- C. Class Activities
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture

- E. Discussion
- F. Multimedia Presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Report(s)/assignments
 - 1. Each student will be required to meet a 2,500 word writing requirement.

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read the chapter in your text that describes the history of California State Parks. Be able to discuss how the criteria for Park formation was developed and laid out.
 - 2. Read the article on the use of “Green Zones” to differentiate between rural farm areas and areas set aside for residential expansion. Be prepared to discuss the issues from both perspectives (i.e. from the farmer’s view and semi-urban developer’s view).
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Write a short essay describing what happened to the large Rancherias in Northern Central California after the Bear Flag revolt of 1846. Note in your paper how the aftermath of the revolt changed the demographics of Northern Central California.
 - 2. Write a paper summarizing the “Gorge Project”(early 1950s) of the Owen’s Valley. Note the impact this project had on creating tensions within California. In other words, how this project set up the “Water Wars.” Note in your paper how this conflict persists today.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Take part in our field trip to the Sutter Buttes. Take notes on what our guide tells us about the formation of the Buttes and how this unique formation shaped local plant and animal conservation. Be prepared to discuss your experience in class.
 - 2. Attend our annual field trip to Table Mountain. Take notes on water drainage, plant life, zonation, and other important ecological features (e.g. rock and soil types) as mentioned in our brief tour. Be prepared to discuss you experience in class.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Donley, Mike, et al. Atlas of California. (Atlas of California Authors), 2008.
- B. Hornbeck, David. California Patterns: A Geographical and Historical Atlas. Palo Alto, CA.: Mayfield Publishing co., 2008.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. California Highway Map
- B. Lapp, Rudolph: Afro-Americans in California
- C. Camerillo, Albert: Chicanos in California
- D. California Wine Advisory Board; The Story of Wine; (pamphlet)
- E. Chan, Sucheng: Asian Californians
- F. Maps, charts, and graphs distributed by instructor of record.