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Course Outline for GEOG 12
GEOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA
Effective: Fall 2013

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 12 — GEOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA — 3.00 units

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.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Examine the physical processes which shape the natural environments of California by examining the physical features of California including landforms, climate, vegetation and soils and their relationships to the people who live in the state.
2. Analyze the influence of varying cultural and ethnic groups in the shaping of the cultural landscapes of California by examining how they effect California's culture today as well as in previous times.
3. Evaluate the origins and development of agriculture and industry in California by examining how they effect the California economy today.
4. Compare patterns of urban development in the state and evaluate current and future trends by examining current as well as past urban models using California's largest cities.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Physical Geographic Base
 1. Absolute and relative location
 2. Geological evolution
 3. Geomorphic provinces and their land forms, natural hazards, and resources
 4. Weather and climate
 5. Stream flow, groundwater supply, soil-water balances
 6. Natural vegetation
 7. Soils
 8. Human-environment interactions and related problems
 - a. California's water distribution problem and possible solutions
 - b. Earthquake hazards
 - c. Central Valley levee problems and solutions
- B. Cultural Patterns and Spatial Distributions
 1. Aboriginal patterns
 2. Hispanic / Latino patterns; historically and presently
 3. Anglo American to Pacific "Nation" patterns, 1846-Present
 - a. Migration patterns and settlements
 - b. Population growth, distribution, and ethnic diversity
 - c. Rural-urban-suburban transformations
 - d. Agricultural primacy, manufacturing booms, and high-tech revolutions
 - e. Interaction networks and Pacific Rim connections
 4. Human-environment interactions and related problems
 - a. Border problems and solutions
 - b. Staggering cost of living, migration and contemporary urban issues
 - c. Politics of Southern vs. Northern California
- C. Regions
 1. Intermontane
 2. Northern Highlands

3. Southern California
4. Central Coast
5. San Francisco Bay Area
6. Central Valley

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Use of maps, exercises involving location
- B. Active student participation in question and answer session in class
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** - Use of google earth to describe and locate different areas within California geographically.
- D. Presentation of audio-visual materials to promote geographical understanding of California
- E. **Lecture** - Use of whiteboard / overhead; lecture and general classroom discussion
- F. Discussion of assigned readings

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Mapping items of California
- B. Term paper related to an issue of California Geography
- C. Readings from the text as well as other journal and popular culture articles

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Papers
3. Class Participation
4. Other:
 - a. Methods
 1. Exams
 2. Graded assignments (example: questions given in class to be answered during the next class session)
 3. Term paper
 4. Daily class participation

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Four exams including final, each given at regular intervals
 - b. One term paper given early in the term
 - c. Periodic graded assignments given weekly

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Selby, William A (2013). *Rediscovering the Golden State: California Geography* (2nd ed.). New York, New York: John Wiley Publishers.
2. Douzet, Frederick (2008). *New Political Geography of California* (1st ed.). Berkeley, California: University of California.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. California atlas