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**Course Outline for GEOG 12
GEOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA
Effective: Fall 2006**

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 12 — GEOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA — 3.00 units

California's physical, cultural, and regional elements. The physical geographic base includes: location; geological evolution; geomorphic provinces, natural hazards, and resources; climate, water resources, vegetation, and soils. Historically developed cultural themes include: Native American and Hispanic origins; migration patterns and settlements; population growth and ethnic diversity; land use and economic activities; and Pacific Rim connections. Human-environment interactions and issues are considered throughout. Field trips may be included.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

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:

- A. Locate, identify, describe, and/or explain the spatial distributions of California's diverse physical landscapes;
- B. Trace the origin, diffusion, and transformation of California's cultural landscape, including its multicultural heritage;
- C. Explain historical and present-day human-environment interactions and issues;
- D. Make informed decisions about which courses of action are most likely to minimize adverse environmental impacts and maintain the habitability of California.

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, 1769-1846
 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. **Lecture** -
- D. **Field Trips** - (optional)
- E. Presentation of audio-visual materials to promote geographical understanding of California
- 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
 - a. Typical questions: Objective and subjective
 - b. Which of the following areas of California has not seen a recent population increase?
 1. Bay Area
 2. San Diego
 3. border area around El Centro
 4. all the above areas have seen a recent increase in population
 - c. Describe the difference economically between the east and west bays of the San Francisco area. Give reasons why each area emphasizes its respective entity.
 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 *Rediscovering the Golden State: California Geography.*, John Wiley Publishers, 2005.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. California atlas