

**GEOS 575: Senior Seminar
Spring 2019 Course Syllabus**

COURSE MEETING TIME AND LOCATION:

Discussion: Fri 2-4:50pm in ARTS 106

Final Exam: TBD after census day

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Kaczynski

Email: kkaczynski@csuchico.edu

Office: PHSC 119A (through the courtyard)

Office Hours: Fri 10-11am & Wed 1-3pm

Prerequisites: senior standing in Environmental Science, preferably in your final semester.

Course meeting pattern: Because there will be substantial group work in this course, 10-10:50am on Fridays will be scheduled time for you to meet with your group. We will meet for ~3 hours on Friday afternoons for class discussion, activities, presentations, field trips, etc.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Readings: There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted on Blackboard. In addition, so readings will be from the Red Lodge Clearinghouse website.

Required materials: Access to a computer

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERALL GOALS:

This is the culminating course for your Environmental Science degree. As such, you will be building on the science that you've learned in your courses up to this point and work in teams on a complex environmental problem solving project: developing a post-fire recovery plan for the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve. Your reports will be given to the Ecological Reserves Staff as they continue to plan for post-fire restoration. In addition, this course will cover major national and California specific environmental policies and regulations. Finally, since you are all getting ready to embark on life after college, we will work on skills related to professional development, including job searching, resume building, writing a cover letter and interviewing.

Communicating science to various audiences is a key skill that all environmental scientists should have. Throughout this course you will sharpen your communication skills through multiple individual and group writing assignments as well as oral presentations. The final presentation will be a *professional* presentation.

COURSE GRADING: subject to minor changes as needed.

1. Class participation	15%
2. Policy/Regulation write ups	15%
3. Policy/Regulation group presentations (2)	10%
4. Professional Development assignments	10%
5. Check-in assignments related to Final Project	8%
6. Final group report	30%
7. Final group presentation	12%
	100%

TENTATIVE GRADES:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
≥ 93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	60	<60

NOTE: If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, a report will be provided to the Geosciences Department and the Student Judicial Affairs for further action, including an F in the course.

GRADE COMPONENTS:

1. **Class participation:** You earn points toward your final grade by attending class, participating in class activities, contributing to class discussion, etc.
2. **Policy/Regulation write-ups:** There will be at least 5 one page write ups on specific science informing different pieces of environmental policy and regulation.
3. **Policy/Regulation presentations:** You will give two group presentations: one on a national environmental policy/regulation and one on a California (or Western US) specific policy/regulation. Everyone in the group must participate in the creation of slides and presentation. These will be 30 minute presentations.
4. **Professional Development assignments:** Over the course of the semester you will work on your resume, search for interesting jobs and write a cover letter. Other assignments TBD.
5. **Final project report:** Your group final project write up. Specific report guidelines will be given on a separate handout.
6. **Oral presentation of final project:** You will give a final *professional* presentation to your peers, faculty and appropriate stakeholders.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Blackboard Learn:** The course syllabus, deadlines, announcements, assignments, grades, etc. will be posted on BB and it is each student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates, grades, etc.
- **Late assignments:** Late work will not be accepted without prior arrangements and extenuating circumstances. All late work is subject to a 20% automatic reduction in grade for each day late. Missing class is not an excuse for your responsibility for assignments.
- Do your own work
- Class participation is expected
- Electronics off: cell phones, ipods, etc. must be turned off in class

EMAIL POLICY

Email is an official form of communication for this course, and failing to turn in an assignment because emails were not read is not a valid excuse. I will respond to your email inquiries within 24 h (48 h during weekends). Please plan accordingly, especially the night preceding an exam or assignment due date (i.e. if you email me a question only a few hours before an exam is due, I cannot guarantee a response before the due date).

Changes to syllabus

This syllabus may be amended or modified during the semester and students will be notified of any change both in class and via email. An updated version of the syllabus will always be available on Blackboard.

Dropping the Course

If you decide this is not the course for you, you are responsible for dropping it. This is easy to do through the Chico State Portal (<http://portal.csuchico.edu>) during the first two weeks. During the third and fourth weeks of classes, Class Add and Drop Request forms will require the approval signature of the instructor. **After February 15, 2019 you will need a "serious and compelling" reason to drop.** (Failing the course or incompatibility with the instructor is not serious or compelling). The Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences strictly enforce this policy. You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found

<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/>. You should be aware of the new deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements for tests, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations.

[Accessibility Resource Center](#)

530-898-5959

Student Services Center 170

arcdept@csuchico.edu

Non-Discrimination Policy

According to the *University Catalog* the California State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color, or national origin. The CSU complies with both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the American Disabilities Act (1990). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at CSU, Chico, please talk with me or call Disability Support Services (x5959). For other concerns about discrimination or harassment, please talk with me, your advisor, or department chair, or Student Judicial Affairs (x6897).

Chico State Basic Needs Project

The Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry provides supplemental food, fresh produce, CalFresh application assistance and basic needs referral services for students experiencing food and housing insecurity.

All students are welcomed to visit the Pantry located in the **Student Service Center 196**, open **Monday-Friday, 11am-4pm** or call **530-898-4098**. Please visit the Chico State Basic Needs website <http://www.csuchico.edu/basic-needs> for more information.

The students, faculty, administrators, and staff of CSU, Chico are committed to a culture of honesty in which members of the community accept responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all they say, write, and create. I expect all students to fully embrace such academic integrity. For more details please consult <http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml> If you have special needs (e.g., disability, diversity) please contact me. I will do my best to accommodate your needs or direct you to help, while keeping the issue confidential.

GEOS 575 Spring 2019 Syllabus

Changes may occur so listen for updates check BB course page

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment due
	January			
1	25	syllabus, overview of semester project, form groups, PD: how to search for a job		
	February			
2	1	field trip out to BCEP	Hankins 2007	job posting to discussion board due by 2/1 by 11:59pm
3	8	NEPA/CEQA, PD: how to write an effective cover letter	Citizen's guide to NEPA pgs 1-21	
4	15	Professional Development day: Resume & Cover letter workshop	TBD	bring in two draft cover letters & resume for job
5	22	Professional Development day: Interviewing skills	TBD	cover letter and resume due to BB; bring "dream job" posting --> may or may not be qualified for
	March			
6	1	National Laws presentations (4 groups)		policy/reg write up due
7	8	National Laws presentations (2 groups); group work time		policy/reg write up due
8	15	Group work day		outline (with literature review) due for final report by 3/15 5pm
9	22	Spring Break		
10	29	CA Laws presentations (4 groups)		policy/reg write up due
	April			
11	5	BCEP field trip		
12	12	CA Laws presentations (2 groups); PD: designing inventories and other research projects	TBD	policy/reg write up due
13	19	TBD		
14	26	Group meeting day		Project site description & Purpose/need for action due by 4/26 5pm
	May			
15	3	practice presentations		FINAL REPORT DUE by Sunday May 5 11:59pm
16	10	professional presentations of final reports		

***Final Exam TBD after census date