Course name	GEOS 120: Weather
Semester	Spring, 2017
Instructor	Dr. Shane D. Mayor
Lectures	Mon., Weds., and Fri. 12:00 – 12:50 PM in Holt 352
Office hours	TBD (Please e-mail me for an appointment. If not in office, look in PHSC 128.)
Office	Physical Science Building (PHSC) 117
Mailbox	Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences office (PHSC 217)
Phone	530–898–6337
E-mail	sdmayor@csuchico.edu
Class webpage	http://physics.csuchico.edu/~sdmayor/GEOS170/_S17/index.html
Required Book	*Meteorology Today*, 11th Edition (©2015, Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning) by C. Donald Ahrens and Robert Henson.
iClickers	iClickers are required. It is the student's responsibility to purchase and register their clicker in the Blackboard course by the end of the first week. iClicker answers will contribute to the course grade. It is the student's responsibility to bring their iClicker to every class and make sure the batteries are charged. Do not offer to help a fellow student by taking their clicker to a class they will not attend, or tilting your clicker to show your answer to a neighbor during an individual clicker question. If you are found helping another student in these ways, or receiving such help, it counts as a violation of the Academic Integrity policy and will result in an "F" for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.
Optional Book	*Workbook and Study Guide for Meteorology Today*, 10th Edition
Course Format	This is a fast-paced lecture-based course without labs. It is important that you procure and read the required book and come to class. It is highly advisable to take notes in class. Please inform the instructor by e-mail in advance if you cannot come to a class due to illness or for other serious reasons.
Course Overview	This course provides a rigorous introduction to weather (meteorology).
Learning Objectives	To provide a college-level, foundational understanding of the physical basis for weather, which is a great base for learning climate and climate change later. Among the wide range of things you will learn is the ability to explain the causes of common weather phenomena that you observe in everyday life; the ability to describe the basic composition and structure of the atmosphere; the ability to distinguish a variety of weather systems on multiple scales and what causes them; and finally, the ability to describe how human activity and the atmosphere interact. For more on *climate* and *climate change*, you should consider enrolling in GEOS 300 (Earth System Science) after you complete this course.

Course Grade	Your course grade will be based mostly upon a set of exams, homeworks, and quizzes. The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades according to other factors such as attendance and discussion. An *approximate* breakdown for the course grade: Exam 1, 15%; Exam 2, 15%; Exam 3, 15%; Final Exam, 25%; Quizzes, 15%; and Homeworks, 15%. These weights may be adjusted to allow for inclusion of attendance and participation in the final course grade.
Dropping & Adding	You may drop (or add) without obtaining permission until Friday, February 3. From February 4 to February 17, you must obtain permission from the instructor to drop. After Friday, February 17, you will need a serious and compelling reason to drop and your request must be approved by the Department Chair and the College Dean.
Classroom etiquette	**Please do not eat in lecture.** The noises and smells may be a distraction for your peers. Plan your day so that you have adequate nourishment before class. **Please come to class on time.** Walking in several minutes late is a distraction for everyone. We understand if it happens once or twice a semester, but chronic lateness projects lack of maturity and respect and will be taken into account for your course grade. **Please silence mobile phones.**

Note: The following is a *tentative* schedule and exact dates for exams and course material covered are subject to change. Students are responsible for coming to class to learn about any changes in the schedule and course content.

Instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Course content, schedule, and grading policy may be changed during the semester.

Spring 2017 GEOS 170 meeting dates, significant events, and *tentative* schedule.

Mon.	23	Jan.	Review syllabus. Begin Chapter 1: Earth and its atmosphere
Weds.	25	Jan.	
Fri.	27	Jan.	Begin Chapter 2: Energy, warming the Earth and the atmosphere
Mon.	30	Jan.	
Weds.	1	Feb.	
Fri.	3	Feb.	Begin Chapter 3: Seasonal and daily temperatures
			Last day to add or drop without permission from the instructor.
Mon.	6	Feb.	
Weds.	8	Feb.	Begin Chapter 4: Atmospheric humidity
Fri.	10	Feb.	
Mon.	13	Feb.	
Weds.	15	Feb.	Begin Chapter 5: Condensation: dew, fog, and clouds
Fri.	17	Feb.	**No adding or dropping after this date without Chair's and Dean's approval.**
Mon.	20	Feb.	Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4)
Weds.	22	Feb.	
Fri.	24	Feb.	Begin Chapter 6: Stability and cloud development
Mon.	27	Feb.	
Weds.	1	Mar.	
Fri.	3	Mar.	Begin Chapter 7: Precipitation
Mon.	6	Mar.	
Weds.	8	Mar.	
Fri.	10	Mar.	
Mon.	13	Mar.	Spring break. No classes.
Weds.	15	Mar.	Spring break. No classes.
Fri.	17	Mar.	Spring break. No classes.
Mon.	20	Mar.	Begin Chapter 8: Air pressure and winds
Weds.	22	Mar.	
Fri.	24	Mar.	
Mon.	27	Mar.	Begin Chapter 9: Wind: Small scale and local systems
Weds.	29	Mar.	Exam #2 (Chapters 5-8)
Fri.	31	Mar.	César Chávez Day. No classes.
Mon.	3	Apr.	
Weds.	5	Apr.	
Fri.	7	Apr.	
Mon.	10	Apr.	Begin Chapter 10: Wind: Global systems
Weds.	12	Apr.	
Fri.	14	Apr.	Begin Chapter 11: Air masses and fronts
Mon.	17	Apr.	
Weds.	19	Apr.	Begin Chapter 12: Middle-latitude cyclones
Fri.	21	Apr.	
Mon.	24	Apr.	Begin Chapter 13: Weather forecasting
Weds.	26	Apr.	Begin Chapter 14: Thunderstorms
Fri.	28	Apr.	Exam #3 (Chapters 9-13)
Mon.	1	May	Chapter 15: Hurricanes
Weds.	3	May	
Fri.	5	May	Chapter 18: Air pollution
Mon.	8	May	
Weds.	10	May	
Fri.	12	May	
Mon.-Fri.	15 - 19	May	Final Exam week. Final comprehensive exam date and time TBD.