

Cleveland State University
 Levin College of Urban Affairs
 Department of Urban Studies
 Instructor: Winifred Weizer
 Office: UR217 Hours by appointment

Physical Geography (UST 289 Section 1)
Fall Semester, 2005 11:00 am to 12:05 pm MWF
 Email: w.weizer@csuohio.edu or
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 Phone: 687-2136 (leave message)

Course Description: This course is an introductory examination of the development of the physical environment in which we live. The course will cover this development drawing from a number of scientific fields, among them being meteorology, geomorphology and agronomy.

Course Objective: The objective of the course is to assist the student in understanding how the physical environment has developed and its impact on our metropolitan areas both suburban and urban. This course will also assist the student to understand how geographical knowledge can aid in understanding and solving problems of the city. The student will also understand how general science knowledge is applicable to problem solving in their daily lives.

Course Method: Although lectures by the instructor are the primary course method, other methods will also be used including guest speakers, videos and class discussion. *Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the material that is assigned.*

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of exercises, tests, on-line Internet discussions and class participation. There will be three tests given (two midterms and the final). Two exercises will be assigned at various points throughout the class. The grade will consist of the following;

Midterm One	10%
Midterm Two	15%
Final	25%
Application Exercise 1	15%
Application Exercise 2	15%
Earthweek discussions	10%
Class Attendance /Participation	10%

Exam attendance is required. Makeup exams will **only** be given with the **prior approval** of the instructor. Late assignments are subject to a 5% grade penalty per week they are late.

Change in schedule: This syllabus is a *guide* to the semester schedule. The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus and any of its contents at any time during the course by notifying students verbally or by written addendum posted on WebCT.

Text: Strahler, Alan, Strahler, Arthur. 2006. Introducing Physical Geography Fourth Edition. New York, NY. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1: August 29 September 2: Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet
Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2

Week 2: September 5 to September 9: The Earth's Global Energy Balance
Read Chapter 3
Application Exercise 1 Distributed September 9
September 5 Labor Day – No Class
September 9 Last day to drop and not have it appear on transcript.

Week 3: September 12 to September 16: The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature
Read Chapter 4

Week 4: September 19 to September 23: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
Read Chapter 5

Week 5: September 26 to September 30: Winds and Global Circulation
Read Chapter 6 and 7
September 26 and 28 Reading/Research Days
September 30: Midterm #1 (Covers Chapters 1 to 4)

Week 6: October 3 to October 7: Weather Systems, Global Climates
Read Chapter 7 and 8
October 3 Application Exercise 1 is due
October 7 Research Day

Week 7: October 10 to October 14: Global Climates, Biogeographic Processes
Read Chapter 9 and 10
October 10 Columbus Day – No Class

Week 8: October 17 to October 21: Global Biogeography, Global Soils
Read Chapter 11 and 12

Week 9: October 24 to October 28: Earth Materials, The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics
Read Chapter 13
October 28 Midterm #2 (Covers Chapters 5 to 10)

Week 10: October 30 to November 4: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms
November 4 Last day to drop with a W on transcript

Class Schedule and Readings (continued)**Week 11: November 7 to November 11: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms**

Read Chapter 14

Application Exercise 2 distributed

Week 12: November 14 to November 18: Weathering and Mass Wasting

Read Chapter 15

Week 13: November 21 to November 25: Fresh Water of the Continents

Read Chapter 16 and 17

November 24 and 25th – No Class Thanksgiving weekend

**Week 14: November 28 to December 2: Landforms Made by Running Water,
Landforms and Rock Structure**

Read Chapter 18 and 19

November 28: Application Exercise 2 is due

**Week 15: December 5 to December 9: Landforms Made by Waves and Wind,
Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age**

Friday December 9 Final Review

Friday December 16 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Final Exam

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to email the Instructor with questions or problems they may be having. I am on campus most days of the week and check my email on a daily basis. I am also willing to meet with students that may be having difficulty with the material. Please contact me to set up a specific time and place.

University Policies

Students should refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin for procedures regarding add/drop and withdrawals and any other policies that may apply.

Physically challenged/Special Needs

Students with special needs (physical handicaps, learning disabilities, English as a second language) should identify themselves so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.