

Cleveland State University  
**Section 1**  
Levin College of Urban Affairs  
**WebCT**  
Department of Urban Studies  
or  
Lecturer: Winifred Weizer  
Office: UR217 Hours by appointment  
message)

**Physical Geography UST 289**  
**Fall Semester, 2006**

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**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. An emphasis is placed on helping the student to relate science to their everyday lives.

**Course Method:** This class is an internet class. Students are expected to complete all assignments as noted. Discussion will occur via discussion boards. Students often have difficulty staying on schedule with their assignments in internet classes. *In order to help you maintain the schedule material turned in after the last date of acceptance noted will NOT be accepted or counted towards your grade.* Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as problems arise that might hinder your ability to submit your work on time. The instructor has note don the syllabus dates throughout the semester where optional class meetings will be held. If you are having problems you are encouraged to attend these sessions. Also, the College of Urban Affairs has computer lab monitors available during computer lab hours to help you with problems that you might be experiencing. The Urban computer lab is located on the lower level of the urban building in room 40. Please let the lab monitor know that you are taking UST 289 via webCt. If you have problems, you need to deal with them as soon as possible so that you will not fall behind in your work!

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on the results of application exercises, quizzes, a short paper and participation on discussion boards. There will be six quizzes given (dates as noted in the syllabus). Seven short answer exercises are also required. Chapter and Earthweek discussion board postings are required on a weekly basis. One short paper will also be assigned. The grade points will be distributed as follows;

Quizzes (6)	24%
Short Exercises (7)	35%

Short Paper	21%
Earthweek board	20%

Students are required to post weekly. Assignments are due as noted. *Late assignments are subject to a 5% grade penalty per week they are late.* Final acceptance dates are noted in the syllabus and on the WebCt calendar.

**Text:** Strahler, Alan, Strahler, Arthur. 2003. Introducing Physical Geography Fourth Edition. New York, NY. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

### **Class Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1 (8-27 to 9-2): Chapter 1** What is Physical Geography, The Earth as a Rotating Planet, *Earthweek ending 8-25*

**Week 2 (9-3 to 9-9): Chapter 2:** Earth's Global Energy Balance, *Earthweek ending 9-1*

**September 8 Exercise 1 is Due.**

*September 8: Last day to drop without a "w" on transcript.*

**Week 3 (9-10 to 9-16): Chapter 3:** Air Temperature, *Earthweek ending 9-8*

**September 10<sup>th</sup> – Optional class meeting.**

*September 15. Exercise 1 will not be accepted after this date!*

**September 15: Last date to submit Quiz 1**

**Week 4 (9-17 to 9-23): Chapter 4:** Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation, *Earthweek ending 9-15*

**September 22: Exercise 2 is Due**

*September 22: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek for weeks 1 - 3*

**Week 5 (9-24 to 9-30): Chapter 5:** Winds and Global Circulation, *Earthweek ending 9-22*

*September 29: Exercise 2 will not be accepted after this date!*

**Week 6 (10-1 to 10-7): Chapter 6:** Weather Systems, *Earthweek ending 9-29*

**October 6: Exercise 3 is due**

**October 6: Last date to submit Quiz 2**

**Week 7 (10-8 to 10-14): Chapter 8:** Biogeographic Processes, *Earthweek ending 10-6*

*October 13: Last date to submit Exercise 3*

*October 13: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings weeks 4 - 6*

**Week 8 (10-15 to 10-21): Chapter 9 and 10** Global Biogeography, Global Soils, *Earthweek ending 10-13*

**October 18 : Optional class meeting for questions/problems**

**October 21 Exercise 4 is due**  
**October 21: Quiz 3 is due**

**Week 9 (10-22 to 10-28): Chapter 11:** Earth Materials, *Earthweek ending 10-20*  
*October 28: Last date to submit Exercise 4*

**Week 10 (10-29 to 11-4): Chapter 12:** The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics, *Earthweek ending 10-27*  
**November 4 Quiz 4 is due**  
**November 4: Exercise 5 is due**  
*November 3: Last day to withdraw with w on transcript*  
*November 4: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings weeks 7 - 9*

**Week 11 (11-5 to 11-11): Chapter 13:** Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms, *Earthweek ending 11-3*  
**November 11: Short Paper is due**  
*November 11: Last Date to submit Exercise 5*

**Week 12 (11-12 to 11-18): Chapter 14 and 15:** Weathering and Mass Wasting, Fresh Water of the Continents, *Earthweek ending 11-10*  
**November 15 – Tentative date for last Optional class meeting**  
**November 18: Quiz 5 is due**  
**November 18: Exercise 6 is due**

**Week 13 (11-19 to 11-25): Chapter 16 and 17:** Landforms Made by Running Water, Landforms and Rock Structure, *Earthweek ending 11-17*  
*November 25: Last date to submit Exercise 6 and short paper*  
*November 25: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings for weeks 10 - 12*

**Week 14 (11-26 to 12-2): Chapter 18:** Landforms Made by Wave and Wind *Earthweek ending 11-24*  
**December 2: Exercise 7 is due**

**Week 15 (12-3 to 12-9): Closing Thoughts and Discussions**  
**December 9 Quiz 6 is due**  
*December 9: Last day to submit Exercise 7*

**Finals week (12-10 to 12-15)**  
*December 13: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings for weeks 13-15*

**Additional Information**

**Quizzes:** There are six quizzes. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus for each one. The quizzes will cover the material that is from the book. I will post a review sheet that will contain the terms you need to know for the questions. The questions will be true and false and multiple choice. There are between 10 to 15 questions on each quiz. Quizzes are timed, you will have 45 minutes. I strongly suggest that you take the time to fill out your review sheet before taking the quiz since you may only take each quiz once.

**Application Exercises:** The application exercises consist of four to five questions. Each question can be answered in about 3 to 5 paragraphs. These questions are designed to help you apply the material from the book to real life. I will supply you with internet sites to get you started on finding the information. You are encouraged to access other sites as well. These are to be submitted to the instructor by the due date by email. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus. Please see the section below regarding plagiarism.

**Short Paper:** There is one short paper (5 to 6 pages). You may choose from one of three topics. Topic sheets cover a series of questions that you will need to address in your paper. The short paper is due on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Your papers should be done in academic format, grammar and spell checked and double spaced. Please see the section below regarding plagiarism.

**EarthWeek Discussion Board:** The student is required to access the weekly map that is posted on WebCt in the Earthweek file or at EarthWeek.com or is published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer each Saturday on page A2. Comments, questions, and observations are to be posted weekly by all students. Do *NOT* repeat what is in Earthweek, we can all read that. Your comments should expand on the material or note what you found most interesting about it. Questions regarding the material can also be posted. Links to sites with additional information are also helpful. This discussion board is graded and your comments will count towards your final grade.

**General Discussion Board:** This board will be used for weekly postings by the student with comments, questions, and observations regarding the chapter(s) assigned for reading each week. This board is not graded but the instructor will take into account your participation on this board.

**Discussion Board Posting in General:** When you open the discussion board on WebCT for the appropriate week you can begin a new topic thread by using the "compose message" button at the top. You will NOT see your posting appear once you submit it. You must click on the "update listing" button at the top of the board so that it will appear. If someone has already posted the topic that you wish to comment on, please click on the green arrow next to it (or the magnifying glass) to reveal the thread. Add your comments to the existing thread. This way we can keep all of the comments about one topic together. This makes it easier to follow the discussion.

**Class and WebCt discussions.** The instructor expects that students will conduct themselves appropriately in class and WebCt discussions. I anticipate that interactions will display civility and respect for differing opinions. Discussion comments should reflect engagement with the material, not individuals

***A special note on plagiarism:*** Since you will be using internet sites for your paper and your exercises the temptation exists to copy and paste material into your submitted work. Please be advised that all submitted work is to be to academic standards with appropriate citations. Material that is copied word for word and submitted without appropriate citations will receive a grade of 30 for the assignment/paper. If you are unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly, please contact the instructor before you submit your work. The writing center at Cleveland State can also help you with this. You may use any of the standard citation formats for your work.

### **University Policies**

Students should refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin for procedures regarding add/drop and withdrawals.

### **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.

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust and modify the syllabus as needed throughout the semester. Logging on and reviewing all announcements will ensure that the student is up to date on all changes.

**Contacting the Instructor and submitting work:** The quickest way to contact me is through email. You can use the email function within WebCt or the email address noted on the syllabus. I am flexible in terms of office hours but generally can be found on campus in the evening on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I can meet with you during the day if that is more convenient. Please, please, please do not let too much of the semester go by before contacting me about problems. Most time they can be resolved quickly but not if I am unaware of them. I prefer that you submit your work to me (exercises and paper) using the email function within WebCt. As a last resort you can send them to my regular email addresses.