

**UST 289 Physical Geography  
Fall 2007**

Cleveland State University	Physical Geography (15 weeks)
Levin College of Urban Affairs	Fall Semester, 2007 Blackboard
Department of Urban Studies	Email: rruud@urban.csuohio.edu
Instructor: Ruth Ruud	
Office: UR217 Hours by appointment	Phone: 216-702-8300 (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. An emphasis is placed on helping the student to relate science to their everyday lives and what can be done to protect our fragile environment.

**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. There is one scheduled meeting that will occur on the first day of the semester should you need to meet with the instructor. This meeting is NOT mandatory. Rather it is scheduled to give students a set time that they know the instructor will be available to meet with them to introduce the class.

**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). Six short answer exercises are also required. Seven Earthweek discussion board postings are required out of the possible 14. One short paper will also be assigned. The grade points will be distributed as follows;

Quizzes (6)	30%
Short Exercises (6)	35%
Short Paper	20%
Earthweek posting	15%

## **UST 289 Physical Geography Fall 2007**

Students are required to post as noted. 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 Blackboard 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: Aug 28 to Aug 31**

**Prologue:** Introducing Physical Geography

#### **Week 2: Sept 3 to Sept 7**

**Chapters 1 and 2:** The Earth as a Rotating Planet and The Earth's Global Energy Balance

- September 4: Earthweek for September 1<sup>st</sup> is due

#### **Week 3: Sept. 10 to Sept 14**

**Chapter 3:** Air Temperature

- September 11: Quiz 1 is due

#### **Week 4: Sept 17 to Sept 21**

**Chapter 4:** Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

- September 18: Exercise 1 is due

- September 18: Earthweek for September 14<sup>th</sup> is due

#### **Week 5: Sept 24 to Sept 28**

**Chapter 5:** Winds and the Global Circulation

- September 25: Quiz 2 is due

#### **Week 6: Oct 1 to Oct 5**

**Chapter 6:** Weather Systems

- October 3: Exercise 2 is due

- October 3: Earthweek for September 28<sup>th</sup> is due

#### **Week 7: Oct 8 to Oct 12**

**Chapter 7:** Global Climates

- October 9: Quiz 3 is due

#### **Week 8: Oct 15 to Oct 19**

**Chapters 8 and 9:** Biogeography Processes and Global Biogeography

- October 16: Exercise 3 is due

- October 16: Earthweek for October 12<sup>th</sup> is due

#### **Week 9: Oct 22 to Oct. 26**

**Chapters 10 and 11:** Global Soils and Earth Materials

- October 23: Short Paper is due

**UST 289 Physical Geography  
Fall 2007**

**Week 10: Oct 29 to Nov 2**

**Chapter 12:** The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics

- October 30: Quiz 4 is due

**Week 11: Nov 5 to Nov 9:**

**Chapter 13:** Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms,

- November 7: Exercise 4 is due
- November 7: Earthweek of November 2 is due
- November 7: Last day for short paper

**Week 12: Nov 12 to Nov 16**

**Chapter 14 and 15:** Weathering and Mass Wasting, Fresh Water of the Continents,

- November 13: Quiz 5 is due

**Week 13: Nov 19 to Nov 23**

**Chapter 16 and 17:** Landforms Made by Running Water, Landforms and Rock Structure

- November 20: Earthweek of November 16<sup>th</sup> due
- November 20: Exercise 5 is due

**Week 14: Nov 26 to Nov 30**

**Chapter 18:** Landforms Made by Wave and Wind

- November 27: Quiz 6 is due
- November 27: Exercise 6 due

**Week 15: Dec 3 to Dec 7**

**Closing Thoughts and Discussions**

- December 4: Last day to submit Exercise 6 and Earth week discussion for week of December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Finals week: Dec 10 to Dec 15)**

- December 11: All quizzes and assignments completed

**Additional Information**

**Submissions:** Submission should be done via the Blackboard dropbox for the application exercises and short paper. Please, save your files in .rtf format (rich text format) before attaching and submitting them. To save a file in .rtf format, use "save as", when the drop box appears, name your file and then in the box below the file name use the drop down arrow to see the different file formats that you can use. Scroll and select the one that reads "rich text format" .rtf. This is especially important if you are using the most updated version of Word. Your word files that save as .doc. files cannot be read by previous versions of Word. Saving them out as .rtf files will make your instructors lives easier.

Sources of information are required for your submissions.

Note that the university does not permit the usage of wikipedia as a source of information. **Five points will be deducted if you use Wikipedia**

## UST 289 Physical Geography Fall 2007

**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 only have one opportunity to take each quiz. I strongly suggest that you take the time to fill out your review sheet before taking the quiz.

**Application Exercises:** The application exercises consist of a three to four questions. Each question can be answered in a few paragraphs. These questions are designed to help you apply the material from the book to real life. These are to be submitted to the instructor by the due date. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus and in the assignment area. There will be one to two activities given that can be done with simple materials and will relate to how science relates to everyday life.

**Short Paper:** There is one short paper (6 to 8 pages). Due date is as noted in the syllabus. You may choose from the topics that are posted. You are to include a bibliography in your short paper that states all your sources.

**EarthWeek Discussion Board:** The student is required to access the weekly map that is posted on Blackboard in the Earthweek file or at EarthWeek.com or is published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer each Saturday. Comments, questions, and observations are to be posted at least 7 times during the semester by all students. Please note, credit is NOT given for postings that are repetitions of what is stated on Earthweek. Your comments should expand on the material or note what you found most interesting about it.

**General Discussion Board:** This board will be used for postings by the student with comments, questions, and observations regarding the chapter(s) assigned for reading. The instructor may put postings on this board for student discussion but I encourage students to take the lead here. This discussion board should help answer questions that you might have or address concerns that might arise during the semester.

**Please note:**

In an effort to facilitate meaningful and productive discussions and interactions to meet those ends, we would like to set some expectations and guidelines.

Please take a moment and visit "The Core Rules of Netiquette"

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> Even if you think you are a "pro" at distance learning, you never know when one of your online habits may accidentally be offending. So please visit the netiquette website.

**A special note on plagiarism:** 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 be graded as an F in either the exercises or the short paper. If you are unsure about how to paraphrase material

## **UST 289 Physical Geography Fall 2007**

or how to cite correctly, please contact the instructor before you submit your work. Copy and paste answers while easy are not a good way to learn to write. I would much rather have you restate the material than to copy and paste the answer. If you do use copy and paste, you must enclose the material in quotes and cite your source appropriately.

### **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. It is strongly suggested that the student log on and review all announcements to keep current on all announcements and changes.