

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 50)
Fall Semester, 2007 8:00 pm to 9:50 pm T Th
Email: w.weizer@csuohio.edu or
wei1656@urban.csuohio.edu
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.* Instructor PowerPoint can be accessed at by typing <ftp://urban.csuohio.edu> from as your browser address. Once to the site, choose "utility" and then "weizer" and then "ust289." Copies of the syllabus and the assignments will also be accessible there.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of assignments, tests, 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	20%
Application Exercise 2	20%
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. Attendance at class ensures that the student is aware of all changes that may be made.

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 27 to August 31: Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet
Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2
Application Exercise 1 Distributed August 30

Week 2: September 3 to September 7: The Earth's Global Energy Balance
Read Chapter 3
September 3: Labor Day – No Class
September 4: Assignment 1 reading day
September 7 Last day to drop and not have it appear on transcript.

Week 3: September 10 to September 14: The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature
Read Chapter 4

Week 4: September 17 to September 21: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
Read Chapter 5

Week 5: September 24 to September 28: Winds and Global Circulation
Read Chapter 6 and 7
September 27: Midterm #1 (Covers Chapters 1 to 4)

Week 6: October 1 to October 5: Weather Systems, Global Climates
Read Chapter 7 and 8
October 2 Application Exercise 1 is due

Week 7: October 8 to October 12: Global Climates, Biogeographic Processes
Read Chapter 9
October 8 Columbus Day – No Class

Week 8: October 15 to October 19: Global Biogeography,
Read Chapter 10 and 11

Week 9: October 22 to October 26: Global Soils, Earth Materials
Read Chapter 12
October 25 Midterm #2 (Covers Chapters 5 to 10)

Week 10: October 29 to November 2: The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics
Read Chapter 13
November 2 Last day to drop with a W on transcript
Application Exercise 2 distributed November 1

Week 11: November 5 to November 9: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms
November 6: Application 2 Reading Day

Week 12: November 12 to November 16: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms
November 12, Veteran's day no class
Read Chapter 14

Week 13: November 19 to November 23: Weathering and Mass Wasting
Read Chapter 15 and 16
November 22 and 23rd – No Class Thanksgiving weekend

Week 14: November 26 to November 30: Fresh Water of the Continents, Landforms
Made by Running Water,
Read Chapter 17, 18 and 19
November 29: Application Exercise 2 is due

Week 15: December 4 to December 8: Landforms and Rock Structure, Landforms
Made by Waves and Wind, Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age
Thursday December 6 Final Review

Final: Tuesday December 11 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Final Exam

Instructor Contact: 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.

A special note on plagiarism: Since you will be using internet sites for your papers 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 40 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. Information on the writing center is found at <http://www.csuohio.edu/writingcenter/index.html>. You may use any of the standard citation formats (APA, Chicago, MLA etc) for your work.