

Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
Lecturer: Winifred Weizer
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Physical Geography UST 289 Sec 501
Fall Semester, 2007 Blackboard
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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 without prior approval of the instructor.* Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as problems arise that might hinder your ability to submit your work on time. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for an appointment if they are having difficulty. 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 Blackboard. 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 Earthweek boards. There will be six quizzes given (dates as noted in the syllabus). Seven short answer exercises are also required. The grade points will be distributed as follows;

Quizzes (6)	24%
Short Exercises (7)	35%
Short Paper	21%
Earthweek board	20%

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 (8-27 to 9-2): Chapter 1 What is Physical Geography, The Earth as a Rotating Planet, *Earthweek ending 8-24*

Week 2 (9-3 to 9-9): Chapter 2: Earth's Global Energy Balance, *Earthweek ending 8-31*

September 8 Exercise 1 is Due.

September 7: Last day to drop without a "w" on transcript.

Week 3 (9-10 to 9-16): Chapter 3: Air Temperature, *Earthweek ending 9-7 September 14. 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 9-14*

September 24: Exercise 2 is Due

September 24: Last date for Earthweek for weeks 1 - 3

Week 5 (9-24 to 9-30): Chapter 5: Winds and Global Circulation, *Earthweek ending 9-21*

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

Week 6 (10-1 to 10-7): Chapter 6: Weather Systems, *Earthweek ending 9-28*

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 10-5*

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 10-12*

October 20 Exercise 4 is due

October 20: Quiz 3 is due

Week 9 (10-22 to 10-28): Chapter 11: Earth Materials, *Earthweek ending 10-19*

October 27: Last date to submit Exercise 4

Week 10 (10-29 to 11-4): Chapter 12: The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics,
Earthweek ending 10-26

November 3 Quiz 4 is due

November 3: Exercise 5 is due

November 2: Last day to withdraw with w on transcript

November 3: 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 11-2

November 10: Short Paper is due

November 10: 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 11-9*

November 17: Quiz 5 is due

November 17: 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 11-16*

November 24: Last date to submit Exercise 6 and short paper

*November 24: 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 11-23

December 1: Exercise 7 is due

Week 15 (12-3 to 12-9): Closing Thoughts and Discussions *Earthweek ending
11-30*

December 8 Quiz 6 is due

December 8: 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 All material must be in by this date for grading.*

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. Review sheets are posted that 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. The review sheets are designed to help you do your best on the quizzes.

Application Exercises: The application exercises consist of three 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. The completed exercises are to be submitted to the instructor using the Blackboard dropbox by the due date. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus. Please see the section below regarding plagiarism. Please be careful about sources that you use for your answers. Do NOT use Wickpedia since it is an open site where entries can be changed and some information is incorrect on the site. Use of Wickpedia will result in a loss of 5 points off your grade. **Option:** There is a experiment option that may be used in place of *one* of exercise 1 thru 6. This provides you an alternative that can be used for any one of these. For further information on this option, please email the instructor.

Short Paper: There is one short paper (5 to 6 pages). You may choose from one of three topics that are posted. Each topic has a Topic sheets. The topic sheet will give you a series of questions that you will need to address in your paper. *Be sure that you address the questions noted to receive full credit for the assignment.* The short paper is due on November 10th. Your papers should be done in academic format, grammar and spell checked and double spaced. Please see the section below regarding plagiarism. Again, Wickpedia cannot be used as a resource. If used, it will result in a 5 point reduction of grade.

EarthWeek Discussion Board: The student is required to post to a minimum of 7 Earthweek discussion boards throughout the semester. It is the choice of the student which weeks they wish to post a comment. The student can access the weekly map that is posted on Blackboard in the Earthweek file on the homepage. Maps are generally posted by Saturday of each week. You also can access the Earthweek map at EarthWeek.com or in the Cleveland Plain Dealer each Sunday on page A2. Comments, questions, and observations are to be posted by all students concerning something on the map. 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. Please be aware that boards will close throughout the semester as noted on the syllabus and no further postings for those weeks will be possible. *DO NOT wait until the last minute to do your postings or you will find that 7 weeks will not be available.*

General Discussion Board: This board can be used for weekly postings by the student with comments, questions, and observations regarding the chapter(s) assigned for reading each week as well as other information that relates to the class. This board is not graded but the instructor will take into account your participation on this board when computing extra credit for the class.

Discussion Board Posting in General: When you open the discussion board on Blackboard for the appropriate week you can begin a new topic thread by using the "Create message" button at the top. *PLEASE* on both boards, if a topic already shows add your comments to the existing thread by clicking on that topic and using the reply button! Please do NOT start another thread. This will help to decrease duplications and allows us to build on previous posts.

Class and Blackboard discussions. The instructor expects that students will conduct themselves appropriately in for Blackboard discussions. I anticipate that interactions will display civility and respect for differing opinions. Discussion comments should reflect engagement with the material, not individuals. One of the best rules of thumb to use is to treat each other in your writing as you wish people would treat you. The instructor reserves the right to delete any post that she deems uncivil or inappropriate and you will not receive credit for that posting.

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 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. You can reach the center at <http://www.csuohio.edu/writingcenter/> to see what assistance they can provide. You may use any of the standard citation formats for your work. (APA, Chicago, MLA etc)

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 Blackboard 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 Dropbox within Blackboard or at least by using the email function in Blackboard. As a ***last*** resort you can send them to my regular email addresses.