

Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
Instructor: Winifred Weizer

Physical Geography (UST 289 Section 50)
Fall 2008, T Th 6-7:50 pm UR 106
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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 covers physical environments, stressing relationships to people; study of the surface of the earth, including meteorology, science of weather, and geomorphology, the science of landforms. Additional material covered relates to the fields of biology and natural resources.

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. The student will also understand how general science knowledge is applicable to problem solving in their daily lives. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives:

Knowledge

- Understand the steps used in the scientific method.
- Recognize how scientific inquiry can be used to understand the development of the natural world that the student lives in.
- Understand how advancement in measurement and observation tools have led to advances in data collection that have enhanced knowledge of how our physical environment has developed over time.
- Understand the design of experimentation, data gathering, and observation.
- Develop an appreciation of the difference of results using analysis, logic and deduction from the scientific method versus other more subjective means.

Skills – quantitative literacy

- Use technology to solve mathematical problems as well as to prepare graphs and charts.
- Understand how to interpret graphs, tables and schematics and to draw inferences from them.
- Represent differences of annual data over time in a symbolic, visual, or verbal manner that has clarity of result.
- Understand of natural science phenomena by data collection and analysis using prescribed formulae.
- Recognize, understand and present the limitations of mathematical modeling used in the natural sciences.

Skills – writing

- Develop an ability to find the “real issue” in development of an argument.
- Understand how to apply material learned in the course to the natural world that the student lives in.
- Understand the process of developing an appropriate thesis statement for a paper and being able to apply it.
- Understand how to paraphrase material and to apply it in the context of a paper.
- Develop the ability to appropriately use a citation format.

General Education Statement: This course is approved as a general education course meeting the requirements for the natural science breath of knowledge. Skill areas for this class include writing and quantitative literacy.

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.* Application and quantitative assignments exercises will allow the student to apply what is learned in the class to the natural environment that they live in.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class periods, submit homework assignments when due, complete the midterms and final. Student success is enhanced by keeping up to date with *required* readings. Class attendance is also critical to the student being successful. Students are also strongly encouraged to print out copies of the instructor’s PowerPoint presentations. These are accessible in .pdf format (3 up with lines for taking notes). The student can access them from home or school via the internet by typing <ftp://urban.csuohio.edu> as your address. Once to the site, choose “utility” and then “weizer” and then “ust289”. Copies of the syllabus will also be accessible there.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of written assignments, tests, and class participation. There will be three tests given (two midterms and the final). Two papers will be assigned at various points throughout the class. Three quantitative literacy assignments are also a part of this class. The grade will consist of the following;

Midterm One	10%	
Midterm Two	15%	
Final	20%	
Application Exercise 1	15%	
Application Exercise 2	15%	
Quantitative Assignments (3)	15%	(5% per assignment)
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.

Grading scale: 95- 100 A 94-90 A- 89-87 B+ 86-83 B 82-80 B- 79-75 C+
74-70 C 60- 69 D

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 25 to 29

Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet

Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2

August 28 - Quantitative assignment 1 distributed

August 29 last day to add until 8:00 pm

Week 2: September 1 to September 5

The Earth's Global Energy Balance

Read Chapter 3

September 1 Labor Day, no classes

September 4 – Quantitative assignment 1 due, Application exercise 1 distributed

September 5 Last Day to Drop until 8:00 pm

Week 3: September 8 to 12

The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature

Read Chapter 4

Week 4: September 15 to 19

Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

Read Chapter 5

Week 5: September 22 to 26

Winds and Global Circulation

Read Chapter 6 and 7

Midterm #1

Week 6: September 29 to October 3

Weather Systems, Global Climates

Read Chapter 7 and 8

October 2 – Application exercise 1 is due

Week 7: October 6 to 10

Global Climates, Biogeographic Processes

Read Chapter 9

October 9, Quantitative assignment 2 is distributed

Week 8: October 13 to 17

Global Biogeography,

Read Chapter 10 and 11

October 13 Columbus day no classes

Week 9: October 20 to 24

Global Soils, Earth Materials

Read Chapter 12

October 23 - Quantitative assignment 2 is due, Application exercise 2 is distributed

Midterm #2

Week 10: October 27 to 31

The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics

Read Chapter 13

October 31: Last day to withdraw at 8:00 pm

Week 11: November 3 to 7

Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms

November 4 Quantitative assignment 3 is distributed

Week 12: November 10 to 14

Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms

Read Chapter 14

November 11 Veterans day no classes

November 13 Quantitative assignment 3 is due

Week 13: November 17 to 21

Weathering and Mass Wasting

Read Chapter 15 and 16

Week 14: November 24 to 28

Fresh Water of the Continents, Landforms Made by Running Water,

Read Chapter 17, 18 and 19

November 25 - Application exercise 2 is due

Thanksgiving recess 27-30

Week 15: December 1 to 5

Landforms and Rock Structure, Landforms Made by Waves and Wind, Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age

Final Examination: December 11, 6-8 pm**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

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216)687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively. Further information regarding the office can be accessed on the web at <http://www.csuohio.edu/clc/disability/>.

Writing Assistance All submitted work is to be written according to academic standards with appropriate citations. The student should contact the instructor **before** submitting work if unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly. The Writing Center at Cleveland State is available to assist the student with writing issues. Information on the writing center is found at <http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/>. Wikipedia is NOT to be used as a source for any assignment in this course. If it is used, the assignment is subject to a 5 point penalty.

Questions regarding the university calendar (holidays and finals week schedule) can be resolved by using the following link to the registrar's office.

<http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/registrar/calendar/>