

# ENV/UST 259 Natural History of Cleveland

Spring 2006

Section 480

UR Bonda/ Dively Rooms

alternate Saturdays 9-5

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## Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the natural history of the Cleveland metropolitan area. General geology, ecology, flora, and fauna of the Cleveland area; field trips to parks and museums to study local rock formation, forest types, and plant and animal identification will be included. This course is designed primarily for non-science majors.

This course will focus on the characteristics of Ohio land, climate, and water, along with the natural landscapes present within the region, and finally we will examine the impact of humans on the region. We will use an interdisciplinary approach to explore spatial, geological, ecological and physical aspects of the region.

A primary objective of this course is to improve understanding of Ohio's unique heritage and the complex factors that have influenced and created its natural history.

A second objective of this course is to create a participatory environment where students can experience and see first-hand northeast Ohio's rich natural heritage. Both course readings and field trips will encourage greater appreciation and improved conservation/ resource management of our environment for both current and future generations.

*Talk to the instructor as soon as possible if you are having trouble keeping pace with the class.*

By participating in this course, the student is expected to gain a better understanding of:

- \* past and present state of the ecology of Northeast Ohio
- \* geological and glacial history of the region
- \* relationship between natural cycles and patterns and the influence of humans on the region

## Course Format, Assignments, and Grading

**Attendance.** Although this class may include lectures, multi-media presentations, field trips, guest speakers, class discussion, and group exercises, an emphasis will be placed on "active learning" techniques that cultivate a high level of student involvement. As such, regular attendance is required and is essential. Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus or assignment sheet, you will need to attend class—and *show up on time*—to receive full credit for all assignments. Please inform the instructor in advance of missing a class (by phone or email).

**Assignments and Grading.** Satisfactory performance will need to be demonstrated in the writing assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the class. All writing assignments must be submitted in person or emailed in Microsoft Word or similar word processing format as attachments, **double-spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font and standard 1"**

**margins. Also note that paper length requirements do NOT include cover page or references. If you do not have or use Microsoft Word, please submit emailed assignments in .rtf (rich text format) so that they will be readable.**

**Students are expected to complete the following assignments:**

1. Complete assigned readings each week and attend all required class sessions, including field trips.
2. Keep and turn in a field notebook, containing notes from readings, sketches, notes, observations from field trips and reflections. This field notebook may be used during your final exam, so it is to your benefit to make it as complete and organized as possible!
3. Complete written homework assignments as assigned by the Instructor.
4. Write a 5-6 page essay following the guidelines below.
5. Complete a final exam (short answer and short essay) based upon the readings, assignments, and discussion.
6. NO assignments will be accepted more than three days past their due date. One-half letter grade (5%) will be subtracted for each day late (up to a total of 3 days).

### **Essay Guidelines**

For this assignment, you may select one topic of interest discussed in the text to explore further. This assignment is purposely open-ended to give you some freedom in choosing a topic of interest, but please choose your topic carefully. Narrow your topic down to a very specific issue (e.g. “The Impact of Human Settlement on Doan Brook” rather than “The Impact of Humans on Ohio”). Maintaining a very narrow focus will greatly improve your ability to comply with the assignment’s length (no more than 6 pages!!) ***Your topic must be approved by the instructor by the Feb.25 class. The final paper is due by Saturday, March 25 at 9am.***

This paper will conclude with a references page, consisting of no less than 4 different sources (articles, books, reports, book chapters, etc). Of the references cited, only one may come from our required class readings. Of special note: when using internet sources during your research, only choose those which are reputable and scholarly. If it isn’t something that can be found in the CSU library, it probably isn’t a good source. For example, an online version of an article from the American Planning Association (APA) is a good source, but a citation from [www.janesbookreports.net](http://www.janesbookreports.net) is probably a terrible source for research information! If you need additional guidance regarding how to construct a research paper, please access the resources provided below under *Optional Readings* and/or contact the CSU Writing Center. You may format your essay using whichever set of guidelines that you are familiar with (APA or MLA) but be consistent throughout your paper.

**Your final grade will be based upon:**

Class participation/Attendance	15 %
Field notebook	30 %
Homework assignments	15 %
Essay	20 %
Final Exam	20 %
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	100 %

**Grading scale** is as follows:

A	94—100
A-	90—93
B+	86—89
B	80—89
B-	75—79
C	70—74
D	60—69
F	59 or less

**Last day to add a course: Friday, January 20, 2006.**

**Last day to drop a course: Friday, January 27, 2006.**

**Last day to Withdraw with a grade of W : Friday, March 31, 2006.**

**Academic Misconduct.** Cheating or collaborating on examinations, plagiarism (copying others work in any form without proper reference and citation), or any other form of academic misconduct is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Consequences for academic misconduct are based on university regulations, and are grounds for the grade of “F” for the course. Please refer to the university student handbook for further information.

**Students with special needs.** Anyone with special needs (persons with physical handicaps, university-documented learning disabilities, English as a second language) should identify themselves to the instructor by the end of the first week of class if he/she needs special accommodations.

### **Required and Optional reading Materials**

The following *required text* can be purchased at the CSU bookstore, or online. Please ask or email me if you are having trouble finding the text.

**Ohio’s Natural Heritage.** Michael B. Lafferty, Editor. Published by The Ohio Academy of Science, Columbus, Ohio. ISBN: 0-933128-02-9.

If deemed necessary by the instructor, other required course readings may be found on CSU’s *Electronic Course Reserve* at: [http://scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m\\_course.html](http://scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m_course.html) or on the Internet, as directed by the course schedule below.

*Optional readings* that may help you polish your writing skills are available at CSU’s University library Virtual Reference desk. On the library homepage, <http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/>, locate the drop-down menu “Virtual Reference” towards the top of the right side of the screen, in the drop-down menu, find and click on “Writing Resources”. There you will find style guides, writing guides, dictionaries, and thesauri at your fingertips. I do not care which style (APA, MLA) you choose for you documentation, just be consistent.

## **Course Schedule and Weekly Reading Assignments *with tentative field trips***

**ECR means reading is available on the CSU Library's Electronic Course Reserve.**

**Saturday, JAN. 14 – Course introduction ~ Bonda Conference Room**

**Reading:**

**Saturday, JAN. 28 – History of the land, geology ~ Bonda Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 1-57 (Ch.1-4)**

***Field Trip: Cleveland Museum of Natural History***

**Saturday, FEB. 11 – Climate, flora, fauna ~ Bonda Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 58-109 (Ch. 5-7)**

***Field Trip: Rocky River Nature Center***

**Saturday, FEB. 25– Water, historical landscapes ~ Bonda Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 110-157 (Ch. 8-9)**

***Field Trip: Old Woman Creek***

**Saturday, MARCH 11 – Spring Break**

**No Class Meeting.**

**Saturday, MARCH 25 – Ohio land forms ~ Dively Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 158-213 (Ch. 10-12)**

***Field Trip: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes***

**Saturday, APRIL 8 – Ohio land forms ~ Dively Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 214-259 (Ch. 13-15)**

***Field Trip: Cuyahoga Valley National Park***

**Saturday, APRIL 22 – Impact of humans ~ Dively Conference Room**

**Reading: pp. 260-313 (Ch. 16-19)**

***Field Trip: CanalWay Center***

**Saturday, MAY 6 – Final Exam ~ Dively Conference Room**