

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 1)
Spring Semester, 2006 11:00 am to 12:05 pm MWF
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 and internet discussion. *Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the material that is assigned.*

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of exercises, tests, on-line Internet discussions 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	15%
Application Exercise 2	15%
Earthweek discussions	10%
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 or by written addendum posted on WebCT.

Text: Strahler, Alan, Strahler, Arthur. 2006. Introducing Physical Geography Fourth Edition. New York, NY. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1: January 16 to January 20: Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet

Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2

Monday January 16th Martin Luther King Holiday – No class

Week 2: January 23 to January 27: The Earth's Global Energy Balance

Read Chapter 3

Application Exercise 1 Distributed January 27

January 27 Last day to drop and not have it appear on transcript.

Week 3: January 30 to February 3: The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature

Read Chapter 4

Week 4: February 6 to February 10: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

Read Chapter 5

February 8: Last day to post for Earthweek discussion week 1 to 3

Week 5: February 13 to February 17: Winds and Global Circulation

Read Chapter 6 and 7

February 15: Midterm #1 (Covers Chapters 1 to 4)

Week 6: February 20 to February 24: Weather Systems, Global Climates

Read Chapter 7 and 8

February 20 – President's Day no class Research Day

February 22 Application Exercise 1 is due

Week 7: February 27 to March 3: Global Climates, Biogeographic Processes

Read Chapter 9 and 10

March 1: Last day to post for Earthweek discussion week 4 to 6

Week 8: March 6 to March 10: Global Biogeography, Global Soils

Read Chapter 11 and 12

March 13 through March 17th Spring Break – No class

Week 9: March 20 to March 24: Earth Materials, The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics

Read Chapter 13

March 22 Midterm #2 (Covers Chapters 5 to 10)

Class Schedule and Readings (continued)

Week 10: March 27 to March 31: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms

March 31 Last day to drop with a W on transcript

March 29: Last day to post for Earthweek discussion week 7 to 9

Week 11: April 3 to April 7: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms

Read Chapter 14

Application Exercise 2 distributed

Week 12: April 10 to April 14: Weathering and Mass Wasting

Read Chapter 15

Week 13: April 17 to April 21: Fresh Water of the Continents

Read Chapter 16 and 17

April 19: Last day to post for Earthweek discussion week 10 to 12

Week 14: April 24 to April 28: Landforms Made by Running Water, Landforms and Rock Structure

Read Chapter 18 and 19

April 24: Application Exercise 2 is due

Week 15: May 1 to May 5: Landforms Made by Waves and Wind, Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age

May 3: Last day to post for Earthweek discussion week 13 and 14

Friday December 5 Final Review

Friday May 12 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Final Exam

Note: 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.