

Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
Lecturer: Winifred Weizer
Office: UR217 Hours by appointment

Physical Geography UST 289 Section 501
Spring Semester, 2006 WebCT
Email: w.weizer@csuohio.edu or
wei1656@urban.csuohio.edu
Phone: 216-687-2136 (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. 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. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as problems arise that might hinder your ability to submit your work on time.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of application exercises, quizzes, a short paper and participation on discussion boards. There will be six quizzes given (dates as noted in the syllabus). Seven short answer exercises are also required. Chapter and Earthweek discussion board postings are required on a weekly basis. One short paper will also be assigned. The grade points will be distributed as follows;

Quizzes (6)	24%
Short Exercises (7)	35%
Short Paper	13%
Earthweek board	14%
General Discussion	14%

Students are required to post weekly. 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 WebCt 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 (1-14 to 21): Chapter 1 What is Physical Geography, The Earth as a Rotating Planet, *Earthweek ending 1-13*

Week 2 (1-21 to 28): Chapter 2: Earth's Global Energy Balance, *Earthweek ending 1-20*

January 27 Exercise 1 is Due.

January 27: Last day to drop without a "w" on transcript.

Week 3 (1-28 to 2-4): Chapter 3: Air Temperature, *Earthweek ending 1-27*
February 4. Exercise 1 will not be accepted after this date!

Week 4 (2-4 to 11): Chapter 4: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation,
Earthweek ending 2-3

February 10: Last date to submit Quiz 1

February 10: Exercise 2 is Due

February 11: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek weeks 1 - 3

Week 5 (2-11 to 18): Chapter 5: Winds and Global Circulation, *Earthweek ending 2-10*

February 17: Exercise 2 will not be accepted after this date!

Week 6 (2-18 to 25): Chapter 6: Weather Systems, *Earthweek ending 2-17*
February 24: Exercise 3 is due

Week 7 (2-25 to 3-4): Chapter 8: Biogeographic Processes, *Earthweek ending 2-24*

March 3 Last date to submit Quiz 2

March 3 Last date to submit Exercise 3

March 4: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings weeks 4 - 6

Week 8 (3-4 to 3-11): Chapter 9 and 10 Global Biogeography, Global Soils,
Earthweek ending 3-3

March 10 Exercise 4 is due

Week 9 (3-18 to 3-25): Chapter 11: Earth Materials, *Earthweek ending 3-17*
March 24: Quiz 3 is due

March 24: Last date to submit Exercise 4

Week 10 (3-25 to 4-1): Chapter 12: The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics,
Earthweek ending 3-24

March 31: Exercise 5 is due

March 31 Last day to withdraw with w on transcript

April 1: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings weeks 7 - 9

Week 11 (4-1 to 8): Chapter 13: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms, *Earthweek ending 3-31*

Short Paper is due

April 7: Last Date to submit Exercise 5

Week 12 (4-8 to 15): Chapter 14 and 15: Weathering and Mass Wasting, Fresh Water of the Continents, *Earthweek ending 4-7*

April 14: Quiz 5 is due

April 14: Exercise 6 is due

Week 13 (4-15 to 22): Chapter 16 and 17: Landforms Made by Running Water, Landforms and Rock Structure, *Earthweek ending 4-14*

April 21: Last date to submit Exercise 6 and short paper

April 22: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings for weeks 10 - 12

Week 14 (4-22 to 29): Chapter 18: Landforms Made by Wave and Wind
Earthweek ending 4-21

April 28: Exercise 7 is due

Week 15 (May 1 to 5): Closing Thoughts and Discussions

May 4 Quiz 6 is due

May 4: Last day to submit Exercise 7

Finals week (May 8 to 12)

May 10: Last date for Discussion and Earthweek postings for weeks 13-15

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. I will post a review sheet that will 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. I strongly suggest that you take the time to fill out your review sheet before taking the quiz.

Application Exercises: The application exercises consist of a few questions that can be answered in a few paragraphs. These questions are designed to help you apply the material from the book to real life. These are to be submitted to the instructor by the due date by email. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus.

Short Paper: There is one short paper (6 to 8 pages). Due date is as noted in the syllabus.

EarthWeek Discussion Board: The student is required to access the weekly map that is posted on WebCt in the Earthweek file or at EarthWeek.com or is published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer each Saturday on page A2. Comments, questions, and

observations are to be posted weekly by all students. Please note, credit is NOT given for postings that are repetitions of what is stated on Earthweek. Your comments should expand on the material or note what you found most interesting about it.

General Discussion Board: This board will be used for weekly postings by the student with comments, questions, and observations regarding the chapter(s) assigned for reading each week. Comments should show some thoughtful consideration of the material. Hence postings like “isn’t it interesting that the earth rotates” will not receive credit. The instructor may put postings on this board for student discussion but I encourage students to take the lead here. When you open the discussion board on WebCT and see the topic that you wish to comment on, please click on the green arrow next to it to reveal the thread. Add your comments to the existing thread.

Discussion Board Posting: When you open the discussion board on WebCT for the appropriate week you can begin a new topic thread by using the “compose message” button at the top. You will NOT see your posting appear once you submit it. You must click on the “update listing” button at the top of the board so that it will appear. If someone has already posted the topic that you wish to comment on, please click on the green arrow next to it to reveal the thread. Add your comments to the existing thread. This way we can keep all of the comments about one topic together. This makes it easier to follow the discussion.

A special note on plagiarism: 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 be graded as an F. If you are unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly, please contact the instructor before you submit your work.

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.