

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Urban Studies Department
ENV 259, Natural History of Cleveland
RW 314 - Every other Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Geza Varhegyi **Office Hours:** By appointment **PHONE:** (216)-687- 2418

Assistant: Rick Varga

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TEXT: Field Guide to Trees, Field Guide to Birds

<u>GRADING:</u> Attendance:	20%
Field Note Book:	20%
Writing Assignment:	30%
In Class Presentation:	30%

COURSE GRADE: A=100% - 90%, B= 89% - 80%, C= 79% - 70%, D= 69% - 60%, F= Below 60%.
Your grade will entirely depend on the overall course work including attendance at class meetings, your paper and presentation and your filed notebook contents. There will be no extra credit points given under any circumstances.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Natural History of Cleveland is a non-majors science course that satisfies portion of the science credit requirements for graduation. The course involves learning about the natural history of Cleveland and generally Northeast Ohio. We will be examining the flora and fauna, geology and geography and weather of this region through classroom discussions, museum visits and several field trips to local parks. You will learn how this region developed geologically to what it is today, what animal and plant species are found in the region and how our climate and local weather systems are created.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required at all class meetings. We will meet according to the schedule in the morning in the assigned classroom and in the afternoon at the field trip location. Both times attendance will be taken by signing in on a sign in sheet. If you fail to attend class or miss the field trip, the appropriate points will be deducted from your possible total. Make sure you sign **both Morning and Afternoon** sign in sheets when in class.

FIELD NOTE BOOK: You will be required to keep a field note book with entries on observing nature. There should be a minimum of three separate, dated entries per week on observations of nature around your house, around the neighborhood, and anywhere else where you can watch nature and natural events. Please do not repeat entries about the weather or your pets to satisfy this requirement. Field note books will be collected at the last meeting and will be graded based upon the number of weekly entries and content.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: The writing assignment for this course is being based on a topic of your choice that **relates to the natural history of Cleveland and generally Northeast Ohio**. Your paper must be typed, double spaced with one inch margins using 10 or 12 point font. No other format will be accepted. It should be maximum five pages long with a reference section in the back citing your sources of information on your topic. Please pick a topic that you can easily deal with within five pages. Your topic must be approved by me before you may start work on your paper. **Your completed paper is due on the day of your presentation!**

IN CLASS PRESENTATION: Based on the writing assignment individuals or groups of up to three students must present their findings during a twenty minute in class presentation about their topic. If presenting in a group, all members of that group must participate in some way in the presentation. Any form of the usual media, except PowerPoint may be used to enhance your presentation. During the second in class meeting a sign up sheet will be circulated with the available dates for presentations. You may sign up to present on any day, but you can accumulate bonus points by presenting earlier during the semester. Usually a maximum of four presentations are possible during a class meeting, so sign up early for your talk.

FIELD TRIPS: During the afternoon of each class meeting we will go on field trips to enhance instruction and to get familiar with local geology, flora and fauna. We will be visiting the Museum of Natural History, several local parks and the library. We will be visiting parks alternating between the west and east side of the city. Maps will be provided before each field trip to make sure all students can meet at the field trip location at the meeting time. Most parks that we will visit will have paved or semi-paved walkways but occasionally **we may encounter some adverse conditions so please dress accordingly**. You are encouraged to bring field guides and binoculars with you for the park visits for identification purposes.

WITHDRAWALS: It is the student's responsibility to initiate withdrawal if he or she wishes no longer to attend. College policy dictates that students, who stop attending the course but fail to withdraw, will receive an "F" grade for the class.

ENV 259 Tentative Schedule

Spring 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Classroom Activity and Field Trip Location</u>
January 13	1 st meeting: Introduction, Natural History of Cleveland, Library Instructions Approval of research topics.
January 27	2 nd meeting: Natural History of Cleveland, Field Trip to Natural History Museum. Scheduling of presentations.
February 10	3 rd meeting: In class presentations, field trip to Cuyahoga Valley National Park
February 24	4 th meeting: In class presentations, field trip to East Side Location
March 10	5 th meeting: In class presentations, field trip to Rocky River Reservation
March 24	6 th meeting: In class presentations, field trip to North Chagrin Reservation
April 14	7 th meeting: In class presentations, field trip to West Side Location
April 28	8 th meeting: Last day. In class presentations if needed, field trip to Edgewater Park and Class Picnic. Field note books are due.