

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) BU 201  
Spring Semester, 2008 11:00 am to 12:05 pm MWF**  
Email: [w.weizer@csuohio.edu](mailto:w.weizer@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 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. 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 read and come prepared to discuss the material that is assigned.*

**General Education Statement:** This course is approved as a general education course meeting the requirements for natural science.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on the results of exercises, tests, and class participation. There will be three tests given (two midterms and the final). Three exercises will be assigned at various points throughout the class. The grade weights will consist of the following;

Midterm One	10%
Midterm Two	15%
Final	25%
Application Exercise 1	15%
Application Exercise 2	20%
Quantitative Exercise	5%
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/requirements:** This syllabus is a *guide* to the semester schedule and its requirements. *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.*

**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 14 to January 19:** Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet  
Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2

**Week 2: January 21 to January 26:** The Earth's Global Energy Balance  
Read Chapter 3  
*Monday January 21<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King Holiday – No class*  
Application Exercise 1 Distributed January 25  
*January 25 Last day to drop (by 8:00 p.m.).*

**Week 3: January 28 to February 2:** The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature  
Read Chapter 4

**Week 4: February 4 to February 9** Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation  
Read Chapter 5  
*February 8 - Exercise 1 is due*

**Week 5: February 11 to February 16:** Winds and Global Circulation  
Read Chapter 6 and 7  
***February 15: Midterm #1 (Covers Chapters 1 to 4)***

**Week 6: February 18 to February 23:** Weather Systems, Global Climates  
Read Chapter 7 and 8  
*February 18 – President's Day no class*

**Week 7: February 25 to March 1:** Global Climates, Biogeographic Processes  
Read Chapter 9 and 10  
*February 27: Quantitative Exercise distributed*

**Class Schedule and Readings (continued)**

**Week 8: March 3 to March 8:** Global Biogeography, Global Soils  
Read Chapter 11 and 12

**March 10 through March 16<sup>th</sup> Spring Break – No class**

**Week 9: March 17 to March 22:** Earth Materials, The Lithosphere and Plate Tectonics  
Read Chapter 13  
*March 19: Quantitative Exercise due*  
**March 21 Midterm #2 (Covers Chapters 5 to 10)**

**Week 10: March 24 to March 29:** Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms  
*March 28 Last day to drop with a W on transcript*

**Week 11: March 31 to April 5:** Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms  
Read Chapter 14  
*April 4: Application Exercise 2 distributed*

**Week 12: April 7 to April 12:** Weathering and Mass Wasting  
Read Chapter 15

**Week 13: April 14 to April 19:** Fresh Water of the Continents  
Read Chapter 16 and 17

**Week 14: April 21 to April 26:** Landforms Made by Running Water, Landforms and Rock Structure  
Read Chapter 18 and 19  
*April 23: Application Exercise 2 is due*

**Week 15: April 28 to May 3:** Landforms Made by Waves and Wind, Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age  
*Friday May 2 Final Review*

**Friday May 9 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.

**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 for any assignment. If you are unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly, please contact the instructor before you submit your work. Copy and paste answers, while easy, are not a good way to learn to write. I would much rather have you restate the material than to copy and paste the answer. If you do use copy and paste, you must enclose the material in quotes and cite your source appropriately. Wikipedia is NOT to be used as a source for your papers. Students using Wikipedia will be penalized 5 points.

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/writingcenter/index.html>.

**Instructor PowerPoint:** The instructor will make copies of PowerPoint slides available to students in memo form as .pdf files (Adobe Acrobat). These can be accessed by going to <ftp://www.urban.csuohio.edu/> Choose "utility" at the next screen, then choose "weizer" and then choose "ust289". Chapters will be identified by number. I encourage students to print these out before class and use them as guides for note taking.

**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/registrar/calendar.html>

### **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. The Office of Disability Services provides additional assistance for those students who have special needs. Further information about services provided can be found online at <http://www.csuohio.edu/clc/disability/>. Students can contact the office at 687-2015.