Cleveland State University  
Levin College of Urban Affairs  
Department of Urban Studies  
Instructor: Winifred Weizer  
Office: UR213  Hours by appointment

Physical Geography (UST 289 Section 1) UR 112  
Spring Semester, 2010  1:30 am to 2:35 pm MWF  
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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. The student will also understand how general science knowledge is applicable to problem solving in their daily lives. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives:

Knowledge
- Understand the steps used in the scientific method.
- Recognize how scientific inquiry can be used to understand the development of the natural world that the student lives in.
- Understand how advancement in measurement and observation tools have led to advances in data collection that have enhanced knowledge of how our physical environment has developed over time.
- Understand the design of experimentation, data gathering, and observation.
- Develop an appreciation of the difference of results using analysis, logic and deduction from the scientific method versus other more subjective means.

Skills – quantitative literacy
- Use technology to solve mathematical problems as well as to prepare graphs and charts.
- Understand how to interpret graphs, tables and schematics and to draw inferences from them.
- Represent differences of annual data over time in a symbolic, visual, or verbal manner that has clarity of result.
- Understand natural science phenomena by data collection and analysis using prescribed formulae.
- Recognize, understand and present the limitations of mathematical modeling used in the natural sciences.
Skills – writing

- Develop an ability to find the “real issue” in development of an argument.
- Understand how to apply material learned in the course to the natural world that the student lives in.
- Understand the process of developing an appropriate thesis statement for a paper and being able to apply it.
- Understand how to paraphrase material and to apply it in the context of a paper.
- Develop the ability to appropriately use a citation format.

General Education Statement: This course is approved as a general education course meeting the requirements for the natural science breath of knowledge. Skill areas for this class include writing and quantitative literacy.

Course Method: Although lectures by the instructor are the primary course method, other methods will also be used including guest speakers, videos and class discussion. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the material that is assigned. Application and quantitative assignments exercises will allow the student to apply what is learned in the class to the natural environment that they live in.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class periods, submit application and quantitative assignments when due, and complete the midterms and final as scheduled. Student success is enhanced by keeping up to date with required readings. Class attendance is also critical to the student being successful. Students are also strongly encouraged to print out copies of the instructor’s PowerPoint presentations. These are accessible in .pdf format (3 up with lines for taking notes). The student can access them from home or school via the internet on Blackboard. Copies of the syllabus and other assignments will also be accessible there. Please be sure to click on the “check browser” to the right of the login block when you go to the site. This will help you determine what you might need to do. Some items will not display on Blackboard unless your pop-up blocker is set to allow pop-ups from the site. We will also use blackboard as a communication medium between class sessions.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of written assignments, tests, and class participation. There will be three tests given (two midterms and the final). Two papers will be assigned at various points throughout the class. Three quantitative literacy assignments are also a part of this class. The grade will consist of the following:

- Midterm One 10%
- Midterm Two 15%
- Final 20%
- Application Exercise 1 15%
- Application Exercise 2 15%
- Quantitative Assignments (3) 15% (5% per assignment)
- Class Attendance 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, by written addendum or by announcements through Blackboard.

Please note that your text is available in a number of ways. You can purchase the book or the card that will allow you access to Wiley.com. The card gives you access to an electronic form of the book and provides a savings over the soft or hard bound copy. Please note: if you purchase the electronic copy of the book, you cannot resell it back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1: January 18 to January 24: Course Introduction. What is Physical Geography? The Earth as a Rotating Planet
Monday January 18th Martin Luther King Holiday – No class
January 22 Last day to add (by 8:00 p.m.).
Read Prologue, Chapter 1 and 2

Week 2: January 25 to January 31: The Earth as a Rotating Planet, The Earth’s Global Energy Balance
Read Chapter 3
Quantitative Assignment 1 Distributed January 25
January 29 Last day to drop
January 28 Quantitative assignment assistance UR40 computer lab 6 to 8 pm
January 31: Quantitative assignment assistance UR40 computer lab 3:30 to 5:30pm

Week 3: February 1 to February 7: The Earth’s Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature
Read Chapter 4
February 5: Quantitative assignment 1 is due
February 5 Application Assignment 1 distributed

Week 4: February 8 to February 14 Air Temperature, Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
Week 5: February 15 to February 21: Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation
  Read Chapter 5
  February 15th President's Day NO CLASS

Week 6: February 22 to February 28: Winds and Global Circulation, Midterm 1 review
  February 22 Application Exercise 1 is due
  Read Chapter 6

Week 7: March 1 to March 7: Winds and Global Circulation, Weather Systems
  Read Chapter 8
  March 1: Midterm #1 (Covers Chapters 1 to 4)
  March 1: Quantitative Exercise 2 distributed

Week 8: March 8 to March 14: Weather Systems, Global Climates, Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics
  Read Chapter 9
  March 12 Application Exercise 2 is distributed

March 15 through March 21 Spring Break – No class

Week 9: March 22 to March 28: Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics, Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms
  March 24: Quantitative Exercise 2 is due

Week 10: March 29 to April 4: Volcanic and Tectonic Landforms
  Read Chapter 11
  April 2 Last day to drop with a W on transcript
  April 2: Application Exercise 2 due
  March 31 Midterm #2 (Covers Chapters 5 8)

Week 11: April 5 to April 11: Fresh Water of the Continents
  Read Chapter 14
  April 9: Quantitative Exercise 3 is distributed

Week 12: April 12 to April 18: Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age

Week 13: April 19 to April 25: Glacial landforms and the Ice Age, Biogeographic Processes
  Read Chapter 16
  April 23 Quantitative Exercise 3 is due

Week 14: April 26 to May 2: Biogeographic Processes

Week 15: May 3 to May 9 Biogeographic Processes
  Friday May 9 Final Review
Wednesday May 12 1-3pm Final Exam

Additional Course Information:

Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off or set to vibrate during the class session. Texting should be reserved for non-class times.

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. There will be a point penalty assessed on any assignment where Wikipedia is used. 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 The course page at Blackboard. The Home page for the site will have this material.

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/enrollmentservices/registrar/calendar/index.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/offices/disability/ Students can contact the office at 687-2015.