

## UST 289 Physical Geography

Summer 2023 Section 501

Cleveland State University  
Levin College of Urban Affairs  
Department of Urban Studies  
Instructor: Ruth Ruud  
Office: Hours by appointment

Physical Geography  
Summer 2023- 6 weeks 1<sup>st</sup> session  
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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 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 and what can be done to protect our fragile environment.

### *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 has 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 of 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.
- **Note: 15% of student grade is based on an evaluation of quantitative literacy**

### *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:** 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 have a 5% late penalty. Assignments will be due on the Sunday evening by 11: 59 PM.

Internet classes do require research and writing assignments since no formal class time is required.

There are Panopto recordings that will provide audio explanations for Earthweeks, Class Information, and Information concerning Plagiarism. These are found on the right side of Blackboard.

Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as problems arise that might hinder your ability to submit your work on time. There is one scheduled meeting that will occur on the first day of the semester should you need to meet with the instructor. This meeting is NOT mandatory. Rather it is scheduled to give students a set time that they know the instructor will be available to meet with them to introduce the class.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on the results of application exercises, quizzes, a short paper and posting on Earthweek discussion boards. There will be five quizzes given (dates as noted in the syllabus). Four short answer exercises are also required. Four Earthweek discussion board postings are required. One short paper will also be assigned. Three quantitative exercises are required. The grade points will be distributed as follows:

Quizzes (5)	20%	20 points
Short Exercises (4)	30%	30 points
Short Paper	20%	20 points
Earthweek Posting(4)	15%	15 points
Quantitative Literacy (3)	15%	15 points
Total	100%	100 points

Students are required to post as noted. 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 Blackboard calendar.

**Note: if you do not turn in an assignment you will receive a zero for the assignment.**

**The grade scale is as follows: 94- 100 A 93-90 A- 89-87 B+ 86-83 B 82-80 B- 79-77 C+ 76-70 C 60- 69 D**

**How is your final grade determined?** Each assignment is graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Each assignment does NOT count equally toward your final grade. The weight of each assignment is listed above). For example: the short paper is worth 20 points towards your final grade. A grade of 100 on the paper will give you the full 20 points. A grade of 80 will get you 16 out of the 20 possible points. Please ask if you have questions concerning the grading.

**Text:** Foresman, Strahler 2012. Visualizing Physical Geography. Hoboken, NJ, John Wiley and Sons. Second Edition: ISBN: 13:978-0-470-62615-3

### **Class Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1: Chapters 1 to 3** The Earth As a Rotating Planet, The Earth's Global Energy Balance, Air Temperature

*Earthweek 1: Due May 28th*

*Exercise 1 is due May 28th*

*Quiz 1 is due May 28th*

**Week 2: Chapter 4 to 6:** Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation, Winds and the Global Circulation, Weather Systems

*Earthweek 2: Due date June 4th*

*Exercise 2 is due June 4th*

*Quiz 2 is due June 4th*

**Week 3: Chapter 8 and 9:** Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics

*Quantitative 1: Due date June 11th*

*Earthweek 3: Due date June 11th*

*Exercise 3 is due June 11th*

*Quiz 3 is due June 11th*

**Week 4: Chapters 10,11 and12:** Weathering and Mass Wasting, Fresh Water of the Continents, Landforms Made by Running Water

*Quantitative 2: Due date June 18th*

*Short Paper is due June 18th*

*Quiz 4 is due June 18th*

**Week 5: Chapter 13,14 and 15 :** Landforms Made by Waves and Wind, Glacial Landforms and the Ice Age and Global Soils

*Quantitative 3: Due June 25th*

*Earthweek 4: Due June 25th*

*Quiz 5 : Due June 25th*

*Exercise 4: Due June 25<sup>th</sup>*

**Week 6:** All work turned in by Friday July 30, last day of the session.

### **Additional Information**

**Special Summer Semester Note:** Please be aware that taking semester classes in a six-week period is different than taking a class over 15 weeks. Students like 6 week classes since they are over quickly. Students also dislike 6 week classes since they can easily fall behind in the work and the time to catch up is short. Internet classes can be more of a challenge since we do not meet face to face where the instructor is reminding you of what is due. I would point out to the student though that a six week class can be a fantastic opportunity to hone your time-management skills. To help encourage you to work on those skills assignments are due on a weekly basis and you are required to post weekly. This should help you stay on task. Please take the time to refer to the calendar on Blackboard to verify final due dates for assignments. You can post assignments in advance of due date. Quizzes and exercises will be posted early.

**Blackboard:** Your assignments are posted on Blackboard Learn. You will also send your assignments through Blackboard Learn. Make sure you allow “pop-up” blockers. Go to <https://mycsu.csuohio.edu/elearning/students/stuhelp.html> if you have trouble accessing Blackboard. There is an information sheet on Course Content page about posting on Blackboard.

### **Communication with the Instructor:**

Please check email as frequent emails are sent from the instructor to students through Blackboard and CSU email. Do make sure your CSU email is forwarded to an email that you regularly check so you do not miss the messages. Also check the announcements and course content page on Blackboard for course weekly updates

**Submissions:** Submission should be done via the Blackboard drop box for the application exercises, quantitative exercises and short paper. If you are using a MAC computer be sure to save your documents in a doc. Format so they can be opened in Word and Excel format.

Sources of information are required for your submissions. Citations must be in proper academic format.

Note that the university does not permit the usage of Wikipedia as a source of information. **Five points will be deducted if you use Wikipedia**

**Quizzes:** There are five 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 10 to 15 questions on each quiz. Quizzes are timed, 45 minutes. You will only have one opportunity to take each quiz. 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 two to three questions. Each question 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. Due dates are as noted in the syllabus and in the assignment area. There will be one to two activities given that can be done with simple materials and will relate to how science relates to everyday life. Sources must be stated with all answers. Citations must be in proper academic format.

The questions listed are to guide your discovery and help you answer the topic question. You will need to go beyond one sentence responses to these questions. Your assignment should be in paragraph form, word processed, double spaced, and grammar

and spell checked. Please be sure to adhere to academic writing standards (do not copy and paste without proper form). I prefer you not quote extensively, but rather use paraphrasing in your answer. Two quotes per topic are sufficient. You may use APA for your paper but you must cite appropriately and reference your sources at the end of each question. [Http://library.csuohio.edu/research/vrd/citations.html](http://library.csuohio.edu/research/vrd/citations.html) will take you to the citation guides at the CSU library. You may also try [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net)  
NOTE: If you submit work from another semester or another student, you may earn a grade of 40 points.

**Short Paper:** There is one short paper (minimum 7 pages). Due date is as noted in the syllabus. You are to choose from the topics that are posted. Paper is to be doubled-spaced. You are to include a bibliography in your short paper that states all your sources.

Please be sure to adhere to academic writing standards (do not copy and paste without proper form and citation). You are not to quote extensively, but rather use paraphrasing in your paper. You should not need to quote more than twice per question. You may use APA for your paper. You must cite appropriately and reference your sources at the end of each question. [Http://library.csuohio.edu/research/vrd/citations.html](http://library.csuohio.edu/research/vrd/citations.html) will take you to the citation guides at the CSU library. You may also try [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net)  
Directions for completion of the paper are included with each topic.

***A note about plagiarism.*** All material, quoted and paraphrased, must contain correct citations. Changing the order of words in a sentence is still considered copying and must contain citations. If you are unsure how to cite, please contact the Writing Center. If you are directly quoting be sure to put quotation marks around the copied area and then show where you copied this information from. When you copy material, you are quoting the material. If you do NOT put the material into quotation marks and show where it comes from (give the citation), you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism could result in your paper being graded a 40 (F) for this assignment. Other material that is paraphrased from an outside source should be cited at the end of your paper in a bibliography. **Submitted work is subject to review at turnitin.com at the discretion of the instructor.** You may turn your work into turnitin.com to check your work before you submit it. **You must submit your work on Blackboard or to the instructor if you use Turnitin.com**

There is a new feature when you submit your assignments in Blackboard. "SafeAssign" is an anti- plagiarism program that will show if you have copied material. You and I still have the option to utilize turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. If you submit your work to turnitin.com you will still need to turn your work into Blackboard or to me as turnitin.com does not submit the work for you.

All material, quoted and paraphrased, must contain correct citations. Changing the order of words in a sentence is still considered copying and must contain citations. If you are unsure how to cite, please contact the Writing Center. If you are directly quoting be sure to put quotation marks around the copied area and then show where you copied this information from. When you copy material, you are quoting the material. If you do NOT put the material into quotation marks and show where it comes from (give the citation), you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism will result in your paper being graded a 40 (F) for this assignment. Other material that is paraphrased from an outside source should be cited at the end of your paper in a bibliography **Submitted work is subject to review at turnitin.com at the discretion of the instructor.** You may turn your work into

turnitin.com to check your work before you submit it. You must submit your work on Blackboard or to the instructor.

**Warning: Assignments change from semester to semester. Submitting something written by another student from a previous semester is easily identified or an assignment from a previous semester will receive a grade of 40.**

Writing Center web page on

plagiarism:<http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/WAC/Plagiarism.html>

**Quantitative Exercise:** The Quantitative Exercise utilizes math and science concepts to improve your quantitative skill development as part of the General Education requirements. The questions require you analyze data primarily through graphing and interpreting the findings. There will be three assignments given over the course of the semester. The total of the assignments will count as 15% of your grade. You may use the Excel Program for your graphs or do them on graph paper.

**There is an Excel Tutorial posted on Blackboard Course Content page. It is a step-by-step tutorial to help you set up the graph. You may also submit a hard copy using graph paper.**

**Earth Week Discussion Board:** The student is required to access the weekly map that is posted on Blackboard in the Earthweek file or at EarthWeek.com or is published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer each Saturday. Comments, questions, and observations are to be posted at least 4 times during the semester by all students. Please note that 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. You are to state your sources. A sample Earthweek is on the Course Content page.

**General Discussion Board:** This board is to be used for general questions that are of interest to all students. You are not to post your work under General Discussion Board as this is open for all students to read.

**Communication with the Instructor:**

Please check email as frequent emails are sent from the instructor to students through Blackboard and CSU email. Also check the announcements and course content page on Blackboard for course updates. You should contact the instructor immediately if you have difficulties completing assignments by the due dates.

**Writing Assistance** All submitted work is to be written according to academic standards with appropriate citations. The student should contact the instructor **before** submitting work if unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly, 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/academic/writingcenter/>

**Starfish Advising System: I will utilize Starfish to notify students and advisors when students are having difficulties completing assignments and meeting deadlines for UST 289 web. This will be in addition to sending emails directly to students.**

**CSU Policy Statements**

**1. Plagiarism**

**Defined**

The CSU Student Handbook defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism – Stealing and/or using the ideas or writings of another in a paper or report and claiming them as your own. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

(Academic Regulations <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf> )

**Penalties for Plagiarism**

The penalties for plagiarism are found in full in the Student Handbook under Academic Regulations (Policy on Academic Misconduct) at the following link:

(Academic Regulations <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf> )

Writing Center web page on

plagiarism: <http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/WAC/Plagiarism.html>

**2. Class Withdrawals and Add/Drop Procedures**

Students should refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin for procedures regarding add/drop and withdrawals.

**3. Physically challenged/Special Needs**

**Students with Special Needs**

“Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at 216/687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.” Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they have been granted an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services.

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust and modify the syllabus as needed throughout the semester. It is strongly suggested that the student log on Blackboard often and review all announcements to keep current on all announcements and changes.

**CSU Policy Statements**

**University Deadlines**

**Summer 6-week Session**

Term Begins	May 21, 2022
First Weekday Class	May 23, 2022
Last Day to Join a Course Waitlist	May 24, 2022
Last Day to Add (Campus Net Registration)	May 25, 2022

Last Day to Drop	May 27, 2022
Course Withdrawal Period Begins - 'W' Grade Assigned	May 28, 2022
Last Day to Withdraw from Courses	June 20, 2022
Last day of classes	July 1, 2022

## Student Grading

CSU uses the following letter grades with plusses and minuses. In the Levin College the letter grades follow this numeric scale:

A = 94-100%

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 70-76 for undergraduates,

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below for undergraduates

### Grades of "I" and "X"

**X** - The grade of "X" can be assigned by the instructor when an attending/participating student has stopped attending/participating without notification and has not completed all assignments for reasons that cannot be determined by the end of the grading period. An "X" automatically becomes an F if not resolved by the last day of instruction of the following semester. An "X" also will be assigned by the University Registrar when no grade is submitted by an instructor.

**I - Incomplete.** The "I" grade is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but when some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student.

**An "I" grade can be assigned by the instructor when all three of the following conditions**

**are met:**

1. Student is regularly attending/participating in the class and has the potential to pass the course;
2. Student has not completed all assignments and has stopped attending/participating for reasons deemed justified by the instructor; and
3. Student has notified the instructor prior to the end of the grading period.