

## UST 289 Physical Geography Fall 2023

Cleveland State University                      Physical Geography (15 weeks)  
Maxine Goodman Levin School of Urban Affairs, Levin College of Public Affairs and  
Education  
Department of Urban Studies                      Email: r.ruud@csuohio.edu  
Instructor: Ruth Ruud                              Fall 2023

**Course Description:** This course is an introductory examination of the development of the physical environment in which we live. The course will cover drawing from several 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 students 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.

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- 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 will ONLY be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and with a point penalty. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as problems arise that might hinder your ability to submit your work on time. There are Panopto recordings found on Blackboard to further explain the course requirements and assignments. Information is found in the Fall 20 Course Folder on the Course Content Page of Blackboard.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on the results of short answer exercises, quizzes, a short paper and posting on Earthweek discussion boards. There will be six quizzes given (dates as noted in the syllabus, five Earthweek discussion board postings are required, one short paper, three Quantitative assignments, and five short answer exercises. The grade points will be distributed as follows.

Quizzes (6)	20%	20 points
Exercises (5)	30%	30 points
Short Paper	20%	20 points
Earthweek posting (5)	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 **Note: there is a copy on reserve in the CSU Library. It is under the course number UST 289 and my last name. It can be used in the library for 2 hours at a time.**

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**Class Schedule and Readings**

**Note: All work is due on or before Sundays at 11: 59 PM**

**Week 1: August 28 to September 3rd**

**Read the class information and Syllabus found in the Fall 23 Course Folder on the Course Content page of Blackboard. View the Panopto videos.**

**Chapter 1:** Earth As a Rotating Planet

**Week 2: September 4th to September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 2:** The Earth's Global Energy Balance

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Earthweek 1 is due

**Week 3: September 11<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 3:** Air Temperature

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Exercise 1 is due (Sources and Citations)

Quiz 1 is due

**Week 4: September 18<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 4:** Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Earthweek 2 is due

Quantitative 1 is due.

**Week 5: September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Chapter 5:** Global Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Exercise 2 is due.

**Week 6: October 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 6:** Weather Systems

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Quiz 2 is due.

Quantitative 2 is due.

**Week 7: October 9<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 7:** Global Climates and Climate Change

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Earthweek 3 is due.

Short Paper is due.

**Week 8: October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Chapters 8 and 9** The Earth from the Inside Out: Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Quiz 3 is due.

Earthweek 4 is due.

**Week 9: October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapters 10 and 11:** Weathering and Mass Wasting: Fresh Waters of the Continents

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Exercise 3 is due.

**Week 10: October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 12:** Landforms Made by Running Water

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Quiz 4 is due.

Quantitative 3 is due.

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### **Week 11: November 6<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 13:** Landforms Made by Waves and Wind

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Earthweek 5 is due

### **Week 12: November 13<sup>th</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 14 and 15:** Glacial and Periglacial Landforms: Global Soils

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Quiz 5 is due.

Exercise 4 is due.

### **Week 13: November 20<sup>th</sup> to November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Chapter 16:** Biogeographic Processes

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Exercise 5 is due.

### **Week 14: November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Chapter 17:** Global Biogeography

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz 6 is due.

### **Week 15: December 4<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>**

All work is to be completed and turned in

**December 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Exam Week There will not be a final exam. All work is to be turned in.**

### **Additional Information**

**Submissions:** Submission should be done via the Blackboard drop box for the application exercises, quantitative exercises, and short paper. Please, save your files in .rtf format (rich text format) before attaching and submitting them. To save a file in .rtf format, use "save as", when the drop box appears, name your file and then in the box below the file name use the drop-down arrow to see the different file formats that you can use. Scroll and select the one that reads "rich text format" .rtf. This is especially important if you are using the most updated version of Word. Your word files that are saved as .docx files cannot be read by previous versions of Word. Saving them out as .rtf files will make your instructors lives easier.

Sources of information are required for your submissions. Citations must be in proper academic format which is American Psychological Association (APA) 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 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 and you have 45 minutes to take the quiz. 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 three to four 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 may be one to two activities given that can be done with simple materials

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and will relate to how science relates to everyday life. Sources must be stated with all answers. Citations must be in the proper academic format which is APA. 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. You may use APA or MLA 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, you may earn a grade of 40 points.

**Short Paper:** There is one paper with a minimum of 7 pages. Due date is noted in the syllabus. You are to choose one topic from the topics that are posted. You are to include a bibliography in your short paper that states all your sources. The bibliography page does not count as a page. Please be sure to adhere to academic writing standards (do not copy and paste without proper form). You are to use paraphrasing with your answers. Appropriate citations are required. You may use APA or MLA for your paper but you must cite appropriately and reference your sources. [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. I strongly suggest you submit your paper to turnitin.com to check the percentage of use of copying material.

**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 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. Anyone found not appropriately citing their sources will receive a grade of 40 (F) for this assignment.

**There is a new feature when you submit your assignments in Blackboard. “Safe Assign” is an anti- plagiarism program that will show if you have copied material. You will also find Exercises 2,3 and 4 and the short paper will be checked by Turnitin.com. Submitted work is subject to review at turnitin.com at the discretion of 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.**

**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

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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. You will find tutorials for Excel 10 and Excel 13 in the Quantitative Folder and Fall 21 Course Folder on the Course Content page of Blackboard.

**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. 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. You are to state your sources and may include your personal observation. A sample of an exemplary Earthweek posting is on the Course Content page. There is a Panopto recording with an Earthweek Explanation on completing Earthweeks.

**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 to the General Discussion Board as this is open for all students to read.

**Blackboard:** Your assignments are posted on Blackboard Learn under the Assessment tab on the left side. You are to send your assignments through Blackboard Learn. Make sure you allow "pop-up" blockers. There is an information sheet on posting assignments in the Fall 21 Course Folder on the Course Content page of Blackboard. You will find information on assignments and UST 289 Physical Geography in the Fall 21 Course Folder on the Course Content page of Blackboard. There are also Panopto recordings to further explain the course requirements and assignments. These are found on the left side of Blackboard home page.

### **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. I prefer you send me an email if you are having difficulties.

**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. You may contact The Writing Center at Cleveland State which is located in Rhodes Tower 124 to assist with writing issues. Information on the writing center is found at <http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/>. You should use American Psychological Association (APA) format for citations and reference pages. Be sure to get the name of the tutor that helped you.

**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**  
**University Deadlines •**

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For the current semester, the deadline for dropping a course is September 01, 2023. The last day to withdraw from the course is November 3, 2023 • The final examination week is Monday – Saturday, December 11 to December 16<sup>th</sup>. No final in this class.

Mid- term grades – October 23, 2023

There are no mid term or final test in the UST 289 501 web class.

### **Class Withdrawals and Add/Drop Procedures**

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

### **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 (there is no C+ grade for graduate students;

C = 70-76 for undergraduates, 70-79 for grad students

D = 60-69 (there is no D for graduate students)

F = 59 and below for undergraduates, 69 and below for graduate students

Grade of "I" • 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.
3. Student has notified the instructor prior to the end of the grading period.

You must complete an Incomplete Grade Agreement with your student found here:

[https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/Incomplete\\_Grade\\_Agreement.pdf](https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/Incomplete_Grade_Agreement.pdf)

### **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, email at [ods@csuohio.edu](mailto:ods@csuohio.edu), or visit the Office's Virtual Front Desk at <https://www.csuohio.edu/disability/disability> to connect with a staff member.

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.

### **Writing Assistance**

Students with difficulty writing or who want to strengthen their writing skills may contact the Writing Center for assistance at <https://www.csuohio.edu/writing-center/writing-center>. Tutors are available for online appointments; check out the guidelines on

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<https://www.csuohio.edu/writing-center/onlinewriting-assistance>. Be sure to have the name of the tutor.

### 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.

<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02.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:

<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02.pdf>

### 5. Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty is essential to maintain the integrity of the university as an institution and to foster an environment conducive to the pursuit of knowledge. The Cleveland state university academic community values honesty and integrity and holds its members to high standards of ethical conduct. Academic dishonesty is, therefore, unacceptable, and students shall prepare to accept the appropriate sanctions for any dishonest academic behavior as outlined in this policy on academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to any fraudulent actions or behaviors that affect the evaluation of a student's academic performance or record of academic progress. It includes:

**Cheating** - Fraudulent acquisition and/or submission of another's intellectual property. This includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized giving or receiving of a copy of examination questions, the use of unauthorized or fabricated sources in carrying out assignments, and copying the examination answers of others.

**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.

**Tampering** - Altering through forgery, fabrication, deletion, and/or misrepresentation one's own or another's academic record. This includes but is not limited to the tampering of graded material, grade books, or electronic records of graded material and the misrepresentation of degrees awarded, honors received, or sanctions issued.

Source: [\*Cleveland State University Student Code of Conduct\*](#)

### Health and Safety syllabus statement



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The COVID-19 pandemic is still present and serious, especially with the Delta variant. While you are in class on campus, you are required to have a properly worn mask regardless of vaccination status, always cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue, and adhere to other public safety protocols and directives for your specific classroom/lab/studio. Students who do not follow these health and safety requirements will be instructed to leave class immediately. If you violate this protocol, you will need to leave the classroom and MAY be marked absent. Repeated violations of these health-saving protocols may lead to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct (3344-83-04 [E] and [Z]) up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask should register with the Office of Disability Services to explore reasonable accommodation options as soon as possible. To register with the office, please visit their webpage at: <https://www.csuohio.edu/disability/register>. The CSU community thanks you for your cooperation!

### **OIE Language**

Federal law, including Title IX, and University policy require that CSU address discrimination, harassment and sexual violence and enable students affected by these issues to have the same opportunity to succeed as other students. To do this, the CSU Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) provides information, identifies resources (counseling, medical, advocacy, safety planning), issues academic accommodations (excused absences, extended deadlines, late withdrawals, alternative assignments) and other accommodations (No Contact Directives, changing living arrangements). Any student affected by discrimination, harassment and/or sexual violence and seeking assistance should contact the Office for Institutional Equity by calling 216687-2223, sending an email to [OIE@csuohio.edu](mailto:OIE@csuohio.edu), or visiting AC 236.

**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.