GEOGRAPHY 2800
OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Course # #23599; 3 credits

Lectures Scott Lab E040
MW 3:00-3:55 PM

Labs Students do lab work on their own, at their own pace. Derby Hall 1080 will be available for student use MW, 4:10-5:05 pm.

Instructor Dr. **Kendra McSweeney**
Office: 1164 Derby Hall
E-mail: mcsweeney.14@osu.edu
Student Office hours: Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm in Derby Hall 1164; other times are also available. Please email me to set up a meeting. Dr. McSweeney is a professor of geography. Her role in this course is to design and deliver it, and to answer your questions about the content.

TA **Max Martin**
E-mail: martin.4160@buckeyemail.osu.edu
Student Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-3 pm, 1155 Derby Hall.
Max is a Master's graduate student and teaching assistant in the geography department. His primary job is to grade your work, manage the course online, and to answer any questions you have about the assignments.

Disability Services

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Course Description

Geography has a rich heritage of investigating the relationships between people and the natural environment, from the fundamental biophysical processes upon which human existence depends, to humanity's role in transforming nature. This course provides an introduction to current environmental issues from the uniquely integrative perspective of geography. Topics range from global-scale processes such as climate change, to the local-scale impacts of drinking water contamination. In each case, the nature and scope of the problem is reviewed, its underlying mechanisms outlined, and ongoing efforts to resolve the problem are explored. Particular attention is paid to how specific environmental issues are manifest here in Ohio, in Columbus, and on campus.

After taking this course, students should: better understand the basic processes underlying important types of environmental change at local, regional, and global scales; grasp how geographers approach environmental science, assessment, and problem-solving; better identify the links between everyday consumption choices and environmental outcomes; and understand the political-economic drivers of environmental change. The course also offers an introduction to the process of scientific research, through hands-on exploratory research leading to research hypotheses and a preliminary research proposal.

This course serves as the first required core course in the Environment & Society track for a BA in Geography, and serves as a Natural Science elective for OSU's General Education (GE) for non-Science majors.

Course Structure & Expectations

This course is structured to be flexible in response to prevailing Covid conditions. That means that we have fixed lecture times for in-person instruction, but all modules/labs can be completed during the week at the students' convenience.

You are expected to attend the lectures; attendance will be taken. Expect to participate in lively class discussion and to take notes in class. Much of the material we cover will only be available except by attending class and taking notes. BRING LAPTOPS/TABLETS to in-class lectures.

There is no substitute for class attendance. Though I will post the powerpoint slides for each lecture, they are image-rich; my lectures provide much of the associated context and content.

Success in the class requires review and understanding of the material presented in lecture, because the lectures provide the context and content you need to do the weekly lab assignments. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a colleague.

Modules

All readings, assignments, and labs can be found within the weekly module. There is no textbook for this course; all the materials you'll need can be found in Carmen.

Weekly labs are located within the module structure. They are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the insights learned in class to the local scale, by working through a problem in the context of Ohio, Columbus or the OSU campus.

The labs set you up for the week's learning and often generate data we need to review in class. They are therefore due on MONDAYS at 10 am.

Some of the labs require fieldwork. That means they will ask you to visit outdoor (and some indoor) spaces to map, measure, photograph or survey various phenomena. The labs will give you experience in different methods of data generation used by geographers, will help you see the 'global in the local,' and have you explore in greater depth the city in which we are all living. They will also give you practice in the sort of methods you might use in your own (proposed) research.

You are welcome (and encouraged!) to do the lab work with a partner or in a small group. However, you must submit your answers and data individually, and those answers/data cannot duplicate those of your partners.

Evaluation

Activity	**Share of Final Grade (100%)**
Attendance & Participation in lectures	10%
Modules	65%
Quiz I (in-class) Wed., Oct 13	5%
Quiz II (in-class) Wed., Nov 17	5%
Final research proposal	15% (10% draft; 5% presentation)

Attendance & Participation
We meet 29 times in-person this semester; attendance is required to do well in the class and is worth 5% of your grade. Participation in class discussion (5%) makes for a lively experience and facilitates peer learning. This class is typically comprised of students from a varied mix of majors, and we have much to learn from each others' experiences. I will provide multiple opportunities for you to share your opinions and to debate issues. Being an engaged and encouraging listener is also a form of participation.

If you do not think you can participate in these ways in class, please let me know in advance and I will find ways to accommodate you. Otherwise, students who are constantly distracted by their screens, are disruptive or unwilling to engage in friendly and respectful discussion, should expect a "0" in their participation grade.

Modules/Labs: due weekly on Monday mornings
You will work through 14 modules/labs over the course of the semester. These modules complement and reinforce the lecture material, and include discussion posts, surveys, and quizzes. Points per module vary by week (between 3-6%); overall, they comprise 65% of your grade.

The majority of the labs can be completed online, but some require you to—on your own or with others—actually practice field methods by collecting data (visual, numeric, etc.) around campus or in the city. Please alert me to anything that might keep you from being able to engage in a lab activity.

Modules are **due weekly at 10 am on Mondays**. This allows enough time for me and the TA to grade them and/or to process the data in time to review that week in class, and to give you individual and collective feedback on the results.

The labs "build" comprehension of research methods and hypothesis-building throughout the course.

Except under EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, modules cannot be made up and late work will receive a '0.' Please be aware of all pending assignments.

Quizzes
There are two quizzes (5% each; 10% total). They will be done in-class, to test you on your retention and understanding of concepts and other course content from the preceding lectures.

Research proposal
OSU strongly encourages undergraduates to engage in research, and often generously funds student research projects (for more, visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry). An important step in doing research is to write a research proposal. Throughout this course, and especially during the lab portions, we will build the skills you need to come up with a (draft) proposal for a potential research project. From the week of Nov. 22 onwards, we will focus on this task.

You will present your proposals in the final week of class (5%); your five-page, double-spaced proposal draft will be due at the end of the semester (Dec. 13) and is worth 10% of your final grade.

Opportunities for Extra Credit

OSU is a big university and there are typically many events over the semester that are related to course themes. If you attend one of these events (virtually or otherwise), and are willing to share your impressions with the class (please emphasize one or two 'take home' insights from the experience), you can earn **up to an additional 5%**. Please confirm with the instructor or TA if you are not sure if an event qualifies, and let them know in advance if you plan to address the class.

Letter Grades & Requirements

We will use OSU's Standard Grade Scheme:
93 - 100 (A); 90 - 92.9 (A-); 87 - 89.9 (B+); 83 - 86.9 (B); 80 - 82.9 (B-); 77 - 79.9 (C+); 73 - 76.9 (C); 70 - 72.9 (C-); 67 - 69.9 (D+); 60 - 66.9 (D); Below 60 (E).

For information about grade requirements for GE courses, see:
https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/academics/current-students/advising/ge

Policies

You are expected to attend the lectures. If you ABSOLUTELY must miss class, you must notify the Instructor or TA beforehand. Pending our approval, we will discuss potential make-up options. **Exceptions will only be made for serious, unanticipated reasons (emergencies, illness), for which documentation will be required.**

Screen Policy: The only reason to have a screen in front of you in class is if you are using it to take notes. Occasionally, the instructor may ask you to use a smart device to access information or review material in Carmen. Students who are consistently distracted will see that behavior reflected in their participation grade.

Health & Safety Requirements (COVID-19 policies)
All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu), which currently includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space. Those who are non-compliant will be warned first; subsequent non-compliance will result in disciplinary actions. A more detailed description of expectations and accountability measures can be found here:
https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2020/07/safe_and_healthy_campus_expectations_accountability_measures_7.24.2020_website.pdf

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614- 292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273- TALK or at https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. **Instructors are obliged to report** all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487).

GE Statement

This course fulfills the requirements of a ***Natural Science: Physical Science*** GE course. The goal of the Natural Science GE is for students to understand the principles, theories, and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, the implications of scientific discoveries and the potential for science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

There are four central learning objectives:

1. Students understand the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science.
2. Students understand key events in the development of science and recognize that science is an evolving body of knowledge.
3. Students describe the inter-dependence of scientific and technological developments.

4. Students recognize social and philosophical implications of scientific discoveries and understand the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

This course meets these objectives by:

- reviewing physical science insights into contemporary environmental challenges;
- understanding how science is socially produced and contested;
- emphasizing and applying different scientific methods for research design, data generation, and data analysis;
- outlining the evolution of geographical and ecological science over time, and the ways in which some ideas about nature and society become dominant;
- critically discussing and writing about the role of technology in scientific discoveries, environmental management and adaptation;
- critically evaluating our relationship to the natural world using case studies, in-class activities and discussion, and hands-on field- and lab-based work;
- debating the social and ecological costs and benefits of different forms of environmental adaptation and mitigation.

SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Week/ Module	Dates	Lecture Topic	Module-Lab, due following Monday
1	8/25	Course Introduction	Introduction to course and to geography (due 8/31) (3%)
2	M 8/31 W 9/1	Why Geography? Framing Human-Environment Relationships	The Nature of Nature (due 9/6) (6%)
3	M 9/6 W 9/8	**(LABOR DAY)** Environmental Crisis Narratives	The Overpopulation Debate (due 9/13) (4.5%)
4	M 9/13 W 9/15	Political Ecology & Environmental Justice	Greenspace in your Hometown (due 9/20) (4.5%)
5	M 9/20 W 9/22	Climate Change I	Understanding Climate Science: What don't you know? (4%)
6	M 9/27 W 9/29	Climate Change II	Natural Gas in Ohio (4.5%)
7	M 10/4 W 10/6	Mitigating Climate Change	OSU's Combined Heat & Power Plant (4.5%)
8	M 10/11 W 10/13	The U.S. Energy Mix: Transportation **QUIZ I**	Making Columbus a Car City (4.5%)
9	M 10/18 W 10/20	Post-carbon Transportation	Your Transportation Options (4%)
10	M 10/25 W 10/27	Urban Socioecologies	Raising Food in the City (6%)
11	M 11/1 W 11/3	Rural Socioecologies	"Invasive Aliens" (6%)
12	M 11/8 W 11/10	The Human Right to Water	Who has the Best Water in Columbus? (4.5%)
13	M 11/15 W 11/17	Water Wars **QUIZ II**	Why are we Buying Dasani? (6%)
14	M 11/22 W 11/24	Developing a Research Question **(THANKSGIVING)**	NO LAB
15	M 11/29 W 12/1	Proposal Writing Workshops	Draft Proposal Question (3%)
16	M 12/6 W 12/8	Research Proposal Presentations	NO LAB
	Dec 13	**Research Proposal Due**	