Our Global Environment, Geog 2800, SP 2022

Course information

Course #33306, 3 credits
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 3-3:55 PM, in person, in Fontana Lab 2020
Lab: Students do lab work on their own, at their own pace. Derby Hall 1080 will be available for all students during the scheduled lab times, Tuesday and Thursday 4:10-5:05 pm.

Instructor: Professor Becky Mansfield, faculty member in the Department of Geography. Her role in this course is to design and deliver it, and to answer your questions about the content.
Contact: Ideally use Carmen messaging. To email her directly: mansfield.32@osu.edu

Teaching Assistant: Caroline Atwood, graduate student in the Department of Geography. Her primary job is to grade your work, manage the course online, and to answer any questions you have about the assignments.
Contact: You can use Carmen messaging or email her directly at atwood.96@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Office hours: Both Professor Mansfield and the TA will be available during the scheduled lab times in Derby Hall 1080. To schedule a meeting at another time (in person or via Zoom), please send either of us a message.

Carmen: See the course Carmen for all information and course materials. If you need assistance with Carmen, please contact OSU Tech Help and Support: https://ocio.osu.edu/help, 614-688-HELP (4357)

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, ortemporary 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 BakerHall, 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 urban and suburban lawn care. 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 and 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 your convenience.

Attendance at the lectures is required. Expect to participate in lively class discussion and to take notes in class. Much of the material we cover will only be available by attending class and taking notes. 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. Though I will post slides for each lecture, they are image-rich; my lectures provide much of the associated context and content. Bring laptops or tablets to in-class lectures. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a peer.

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 due Mondays at midnight (11:59pm).

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.

All readings, lecture slides, 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.

Course Requirements

Activity	**Share of Final Grade (100%)**
Attendance & Participation in lectures	10%
Labs: small assignments (approx. 1% each)	10%
Labs: larger assignments (approx. 5% each)	60%
Quizzes (in-class; 5% each)	10%
Final research proposal	10%

Attendance & Participation

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 other's 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.

Lab modules:

You will work through 14 lab modules over the course of the semester. These modules complement and reinforce the lecture material. They build comprehension of research methods and hypothesis-building throughout the course. Assignments might include discussion posts, surveys, photo essays, or other activities.

The workload for each week is not identical, but usually will have at least one small and one larger assignment.

- Small assignments are worth about 1% of your grade each (together they are 10% of your total grade). These are graded on completion: you get full credit if you complete the assignment.
- Larger assignments are worth about 5% each (together they are 60% of your total grade). These are graded on a 5-point scale: 5=excellent, 4=good, 3=adequate.

Most of the labs can be completed online, but some require you to—on your own or with others—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.

Each weeks' assignments are due at midnight (11:59pm) on the following Monday. 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.

Except under exceptional circumstances, lab assignments 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. The final weeks of the course are dedicated to this task.

Your 2.5 to 3 page, single-spaced proposal draft will be due at the end of the semester and is worth 10% of your final grade.

Policies

Grading 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

Late policy

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

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.

If you are having problems

Please communicate with either Professor Mansfield or the TA if you are having problems that prevent you from meeting course requirements. We may be able to make alternative arrangements.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic	Lab modules, due on Mondays
1	Tu 1/11 Th 1/13	Course introduction: Why Geography?	Introduction to the course and to geography
2	Tu 1/18 Th 1/20	Framing Human-Environment Relationships	The Nature of Nature
3	Tu 1/25 Th 1/27	Environmental Crisis Narratives	The Overpopulation Debate
4	Tu 2/1 Th 2/3	Political Ecology & Environmental Justice	Greenspace in your Hometown
5	Tu 2/8 Th 2/10	Climate Change I	Understanding Climate Science: What don't you know?
6	Tu 2/15 Th 2/17	Climate Change II	Natural Gas in Ohio
7	Tu 2/22 Th 2/24	Mitigating Climate Change	OSU's Combined Heat & Power Plant
8	Tu 3/1 Th 3/3	The U.S. Energy Mix: Transportation **QUIZ I**	Making Columbus a Car City
9	Tu 3/8 Th 3/10	Post-carbon Transportation	Your Transportation Options
10	Tu 3/15 Th 3/17	**SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**	**NO ASSIGNMENTS**
11	Tu 3/22 Th 3/24	Urban Socioecologies	Raising Food in the City
12	Tu 3/29 Th 3/31	Rural Socioecologies	"Invasive Aliens"
13	Tu 4/5 Th 4/7	The Human Right to Water **QUIZ II**	Why are we Buying Dasani?
14	Tu 4/12 Th 4/14	Developing a Research Question	Draft Proposal Topic, Question, and Sources
15	Tu 4/19 Th 4/21	Proposal Writing Workshops	Draft Proposal Methods and Budget
	Fr 4/29	**Research Proposal Due**	

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.

Academic integrity and misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism (see more below), collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM

determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me. Other sources of information on academic misconduct and academic integrity to which you can refer include:

- The OSU Committee on Academic Misconduct and its Resources page
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity*
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity*

***Plagiarism*:** Plagiarism encompasses all activities in which you use another person's ideas without acknowledging that you are doing so. Plagiarism ranges from direct copying of someone else's words to using someone else's ideas without being clear the ideas are not yours. Please use citations to differentiate between your ideas and those you got from other sources (such as books, articles, and webpages).

Talking with other students on assignments: You may talk with other students when doing assignments (other than quizzes), but the analysis and writing must be yours. I will question any assignments that are very similar. *Failure to follow these guidelines will be considered academic misconduct.*

OSU Counseling and Consultation Services

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 a student's 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 are suffering from any of these 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 suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Harassment

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.eduor by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu.