GEOGRAPHY 2800
OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Course # #26712; 3 credits

Lectures Journalism Building 300, TuTh 9:35-10:30 AM

Labs Derby Hall 1080
Tuesday (#26713): 11:10-12:05 PM **OR**
Thursday (#26714) 11:10-12:05 PM

Instructor Dr. **Kendra McSweeney,** Office: 1164 Derby Hall; E-mail: mcsweeney.14@osu.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 12-2 pm in Derby Hall 1164; other times are also available. Please email me to set up a meeting. I am a professor of geography. My role in this course is to design and deliver it, and to answer your questions about the content. I will also help Mansi grade the exams.

TA **Mansi Goyal,** E-mail: goyal.154@buckeyemail.osu.edu; Office: 1083 Derby Hall
Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:05-1:05 pm (immediately following lab).
Mansi is a PhD (doctoral) student in History and teaching assistant in the geography department. Her primary job is to grade your work, manage the course online, and to answer any question you have as you review material for the exams.

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. Our starting point is that we live in a world of change, and we will focus particularly on four areas: Changing populations, changing climates, energy transitions, and land cover change. We will investigate this dynamism by combining conceptual approaches from earth systems science and geography. 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, you 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; and be able to wield a flexible, portable lens to multiple forms of environmental change. The course also offers an introduction to the process of scientific research through hands-on exercises.

This course serves as a required course in the Social and Environmental Geography 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 combines lectures on T Th (for all students) with one lab per week (students are assigned to either the T or Th lab). Except for a few occasions when class is asynchronous, all lectures are in person in JB 300. Half of the labs require in-person attendance; others can be completed on your own time.

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 by attending class and taking notes. BRING LAPTOPS/TABLETS to in-class lectures and to labs.

There is no substitute for class attendance. I will post the slide deck for each lecture AFTER the lecture. The slides are image-rich; my lectures provide much of the associated context and content so you should be prepared to take 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, and you will tested on lecture content. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a colleague.

<u>Weekly Readings</u>
Readings are posted in Carmen. Please get in the habit of doing the reading prior to Tuesday's class, because they will help to set you up for the lectures and labs that week. The readings include scientific articles, government reports, and news media. They are accompanied by some reading guides to help you identify the key ideas.

<u>Weekly Labs</u>
The details of all labs can be found by clicking on the link in the Carmen course schedule. All labs are designed to give you an opportunity to apply concepts and insights from lecture to a real-world context. The labs combine online research, fieldwork-based data collection, field visits, and group work. 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. All in-person labs will be completed during the lab period. All asynchronous lab work is due by MIDNIGHT on Thursdays. This allows the TA sufficient time to grade them before the following week's Tuesday lecture.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	11%
Labs (9 graded at 5%; 2 graded at 2%)	49%
Exam I (in-class) Thurs, Oct 20	20%
Exam II (Online, synchronous) Date TBA	20%

Attendance & Participation
We meet 26 times in-person this semester; attendance & participation are required to do well in the class and is worth 10% of your grade. Participation in class discussion 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 attendance/participation grade.

Readings
Every week, there are readings that complement the lectures and set you up for the labs. Please come to class on Tuesdays with the readings done. Exams will include questions about the readings.

Labs
There are 12 labs in total, half in person and half done on your own. Two of the in-person labs are worth only 2%. The remainder are worth 5% each. Whether done on your own or with others, the labs allow you to review concepts from lecture practice field methods around campus or in the city. Please alert me to anything that might keep you from being able to engage in a lab activity. You may drop your lowest lab grade (you will only be graded on 9 of the 5% labs). In-person labs are completed during the lab time; labs done on your own are due on Thursdays by midnight. Labs cannot be made up. If you anticipate being late to submit a lab, please notify the TA in advance.

Exams
There are two exams (20% each; 40% total). The first will be done in-class; the second online, synchronously. The second exam is not cumulative; it tests you on material covered since the first exam. Exams comprise multiple choice and short-answer questions.

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 in-person lectures and in-person labs. If you must miss a class or a lab, 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 main reason to have a screen in front of you in class is to take notes. Occasionally, I may ask you to use your device to access information or review material in Carmen. If you are consistently distracted by your screen, it is likely you are also distracting those around you and therefore negatively contributing to the learning environment; your behavior will be reflected in your participation grade. Showing up to class but being 'checked out' on a screen is effectively the same as being absent.

Code of Conduct
In lectures and in labs, you will have the opportunity to discuss and debate ideas. Please consider the following:

1. Polite interjection is welcome. If there's something you don't understand, or would like to comment on, please feel free to raise your hand to jump in.
2. Debate is welcome; we all bring different perspectives. But we must debate respectfully. We can all develop our skills at negotiating different ideas, seeing multiple sides of an argument, and holding different ideas in productive tension.
3. If you are comfortable talking and contributing on-the-spot, be sure to leave time and space to those who may take longer to articulate their thoughts or may be less quick to speak out.
4. Active listening is expected. Manage your devices to be maximally present.
5. Academic integrity is upheld in all course activities. I will be clear when I am unsure of something, and I expect you to do the same. The idea is to create an environment where we learn from one another and acknowledge and appreciate others' contributions to our learning.

Health & Safety (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/

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 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 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;
- 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 slight modification in Carmen)

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic (see Carmen for Readings)	Lab ('In person' = DB1080; all 5% unless otherwise noted)
1	T 8/23 Th 8/25	Course Introduction: World of Change Why Geography?	IN PERSON: Introductions (2%)
2	T 8/30 Th 9/1	Framing H-Environment Relationships Earth System Science I	ON YOUR OWN: The Nature of Nature
3	T 9/6 Th 9/8	Earth System Science II Political Ecology	ON YOUR OWN: Earth's Energy Budget
4	T 9/13 Th 9/15	Environmental Justice Ethics of Care	ON YOUR OWN: Greenspace in Your Community
5	T 9/20 Th 9/22	Global Population Change An 'Overpopulation Crisis'?	IN PERSON: 'Overpopulation' Debate
6	T 9/27 Th 9/29	Climate Change 1: Basics Climate Change 2: Sources, Sinks, Feedbacks	ON YOUR OWN: How My Community is Changing
7	T 10/4 Th 10/6	Climate Change Impacts & Adaption Climate Change Mitigation	IN PERSON: Communal Mitigation Strategies
8	T 10/11 Th 10/13	The US Energy Mix **AUTUMN BREAK**	NO LAB
9	T 10/18 Th 10/20	[Asynchronous] Natural Gas I **EXAM I**	NO LAB
10	T 10/25 Th 10/27	Natural Gas II Powering OSU	IN PERSON: Visit McCracken Power Plant (2%)
11	T 11/1 Th 11/3	History of Electric Transportation The E-V	ON YOUR OWN: Tracking Your Mobility
12	T 11/8 Th 11/10	Sustainable Mobilities The Lawn as System	IN PERSON: Multi-Modal Cities
13	T 11/15 Th 11/17	Beyond Lawns Global Forest Change	ON YOUR OWN (Groups): Designing Sustainable Land Use on OSU Campus
14	T 11/22 Th 11/24	[Asynchronous] Case Study: Forest Loss **THANKSGIVING**	NO LAB
15	T 11/29 Th 12/1	Case Study: Forest Recovery Future Forests	IN PERSON: Present OSU Sustainable Landscape
16	T 12/6	Course wrap-up and review	NO LAB
	Dec TBA	**EXAM 2 [Remote, Synchronous]**	