

GEOGRAPHY 2800: OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Spring 2025

Call number 28228/29372; 3 credit hours

Instructor: Elizabeth Mazzocco

Office hours:

- By appointment via CarmenZoom. The following link will be our meeting space. Log in using your OSU credentials.
 - <https://osu.zoom.us/j/4791631129?pwd=dWNQQLakxWZUU1Y1FBRmlLZINoUT09>
 - Password: 129920

E-Mail: mazzocco.7@osu.edu

TA: Tal Shutkin

Office hours: By appointment

E-Mail: shutkin.3@osu.edu

Course technology:

- **Carmen:** All course materials, including the syllabus and course calendar, lecture materials, assignments, grades, etc. are available on Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu/>). Download the app. Set up notifications. Course information/messages are sent regularly via Carmen and OSU email. (Download Outlook too.)
- **Microsoft Office 365:** All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.
- **CarmenZoom and Mediasite:** Virtual office hours will take place via [CarmenZoom](#), and voiceover lectures will be posted to [Mediasite](#).
- **General technology help:** For help with your University password or email, Carmen, or other technology questions or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7. Self-Service and Chat support: ocio.osu.edu/help; Phone: 614-688-4357(HELP); Email: servicedesk@osu.edu; TDD: 614-688-8743

Instructional approach: This is a fully online course composed of weekly modules. Modules are released weekly on Monday and are due the following Sunday. Students may work at their own pace throughout the week as there are no required scheduled class meetings. **Be aware that discussion forums may have midmodule due dates.** Material for this course will be shared via voice-over lectures on [Mediasite](#), PowerPoint slides, reading assignments, interactive activities & quizzes on Carmen, and discussion forums. Additionally, videos may be assigned from sites like YouTube or Kanopy.

Course Description: Geography has a rich heritage of investigating the relationships between people and the natural environment, and this course will provide an introductory overview of current environmental issues from a geographic perspective. The environmental issues we will explore vary in scale from global warming to local water resources, but for all issues there will be an emphasis on developing critical perspectives. In order to develop these critical perspectives, students will learn the basic physical processes underlying environmental change, the human/social dynamics that *also* shape environments, the multi-scalar interactions between physical and human processes, and the broader geographic perspectives on environmental issues. Lab exercises will complement lectures with practical exercises designed to develop skills, apply concepts, and expose students to both case studies and

research. This course is the first required course in the People, Society and Environment track for a B.A. in Geography, and/or it serves as a Natural Science elective for the Ohio State University General Education (GE) requirements for non-science majors.

Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes for Natural Science GE Course: Natural Science coursework fosters students' understanding of the principles, theories, and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, the implications of scientific discoveries, and the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

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.

Through lecture, in class demos, media clips, discussion, and assignments, students will be exposed to the major scientific principles and methodologies of environmental science, meteorology, and climatology. We will examine how environmental issues vary from location to location and the varying degrees to which different regions are equipped to handle such issues, especially those related to changing climates.

Module	Dates	Topic
1	Monday, January 6 to Sunday, January 12	Introduction to environmental science
2	Monday, January 13 to Sunday, January 19	Introduction to concepts in weather, Energy in the atmosphere
3	Monday, January 20 to Sunday, January 26	Climate
4	Monday, January 27 to Sunday, February 2	Climate reconstruction, and climate change
5	Monday, February 3 to Sunday, February 9	Temperature
6	Monday, February 10 to Sunday, February 16	EXAM 1 , Humidity

7	Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23	Precipitation & Flooding
8	Monday, February 25 to Sunday, March 2	Drought
9	Monday, March 3 to Sunday, March 9	Ice on Earth
10	Monday, March 10 to Sunday, March 16	Spring Break
11	Monday, March 17 to Sunday, March 23	EXAM 2 , Oceans
12	Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30	Potable water & food choices
13	Monday, March 31 to Sunday, April 6	Human health
14	Monday, April 7 to Sunday, April 13	Urbanization & green development
15	Monday, April 14 to Sunday, April 20	Deforestation & ethics of climate change
Finals week	Monday, April 21 to Wednesday, April 23	EXAM 3

Student Evaluation:

Discussion forums, assignments, & quizzes	70%
3 Exams (February 10-11, March 17-18, and April 21-23)	30%

The exams are a mix of multiple-choice and short & long-answer essay questions and are based on lecture, homework, handouts, and the textbook. Since exams occur at a time of your choosing over the course of two to three days, make-up examinations will only be given in exceptional circumstances **with supporting documentation** at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams may differ from the original version. **Late assignments and quizzes will be penalized 2% per day (Carmen will assign this penalty automatically).** No assignments will be accepted after 11:59 p.m., April 23.

Grading scale: A: 93% or more; A-: 90-92%; B+: 87-89%; B: 83-86%; B-: 80-82%; C+: 77-79%; C: 73-76%; C-: 70-72%; D+: 67-69%; D: 60-66%; E 0-59%

Academic 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, 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. Additional details:

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the quizzes, and exams yourself, without any external help or communication.
- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. Beware of information found on the internet; it's not always reliable.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. This includes both your past work as well as other students'.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for informal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups are encouraged, remember that using someone else's answers on any graded quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

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.

Disability Statement: 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.

Keys to Success:

- Take notes. Even though you have easy access to all course materials, organizing the material yourself in your own words helps you to process the information.
- Use the study guides provided!!!
- Seek help as soon as you have any questions or concerns. Your instructor & TA are available via email, text, phone, and video chat. Take advantage of this.
- Keep up with all reading and assignments.
- Take every chance you have to earn all of the credit you can. Many of the assignments allow multiple attempts.

This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes and requirements of the traditional semester classroom offering of this course. You will end the course with a good general understanding of the causes and environmental impacts of climate change.

The fine print:

I reserve the right to correct any erroneous information on the syllabus and supporting documents (e.g. the course calendar) as well as change the dates of the exams as needed.