

**Geography 210: Physical Geography and Environmental Issues**  
**Winter 2011 Syllabus**  
*5 credits, no prerequisites*

	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Class #</i>
<b>Lecture:</b>	MW	9:00-10:18 AM	Derby Hall 1080	23480
<b>Labs:</b>	F	9:00-10:18 AM	Derby Hall 1080	23481
	F	1:00-2:18 PM	Derby Hall 1080	23482

<b>Instructor:</b>	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	<b>Assistant:</b>	Young Rae Choi
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Phone:	614-292-2704	Phone:	614-648-2059
Office hours:	MW 11:00-12:00 or by appointment	Office hours:	F 10:30-11:30, 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

**Course description:**

This course provides an introductory overview of current environmental issues from a geographic perspective. The academic discipline of geography features a rich heritage of investigating the relationship between people and the natural environment. In this course, students will be introduced to aspects of physical geography that will provide an objective understanding of fundamental processes to then critically examine global environmental concerns. There will be an emphasis on developing a critical perspective, requiring an appreciation for a broad range of concepts in physical sciences as well as human/social dynamics. The environmental issues explored vary in scale from global warming to local water pollution. Weekly lab sessions will complement lectures with practical exercises designed to develop skills and apply concepts to case studies, many relating to local environmental issues.

Students should learn from the course: basic processes underlying environmental change at different scales (local, regional and global); geographic perspectives on environmental issues; how to critically engage issues presented in the media; how to discern the linkages between their daily actions, consumption choices and environmental impacts. The course is the first required course in the *Environment and Society* track for a B.A. in Geography, and/or serves as a *Natural Science elective* for the Ohio State University *General Education Curriculum (GEC)*<sup>1</sup> for non-science majors.

**Course structure & expectations:**

There are two lectures and one lab per week. Students are *required* to attend all scheduled lectures and labs, and will be responsible for all material presented in lecture and lab during exams. There will be material presented in class and/or lab that is not found in the text, so students must make arrangements to get any information they may have missed. Attendance will not be taken, but the instructor will give quizzes at the beginning of class; anyone absent at that time will not receive credit.

**Readings** from the text and other sources (available on Carmen) will complement the lecture, and students are accountable for all assigned readings on the exams. Note that readings/topics are subject to change from those

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<sup>1</sup> **Natural Science GEC Goals/Rationale:** Courses in natural sciences foster an understanding of the principles, theories and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, and the effects of science and technology on the environment. **Learning Objectives:** (1) Students understand the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science; (2) Students learn key events in the history of science; (3) Students provide examples of the interdependence of scientific and technological developments; (4) Students discuss social and philosophical implications of scientific discoveries and understand the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

listed on this syllabus, and reading beyond assigned chapters is encouraged. You will need to complete the readings when assigned in order to do well in this class, as the readings cover material not found in the lectures that you are expected to know.

### **Weekly Labs:**

Weekly labs allow students to review, apply and explore in detail material presented in lecture. Students may only attend the lab session in which they are registered, and must complete all lab exercises by the end of the lab period, unless specifically granted an extension to the beginning of next Monday's class. Any late exercises will be penalized by 10% *PER DAY*, and will only be accepted from those in attendance during lab. There are *no make-up* opportunities. Teamwork is encouraged in lab, but grading is based on quality of individual work and participation. Students are required to attend all lab sessions properly prepared. Please bring your text to lab. Advanced notice will be given for labs that require use of a ruler and calculator.

### **Required Text:**

Weekly readings will be assigned from a required text and supplemental readings on Carmen or eReserve. The required text is: Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, by Withgott and Brennan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pearson. ISBN: 0136045316. The text should be available at OSU and other bookstores.

### **Course Website:**

This course uses the Carmen system as a course webpage. It can be found at <http://carmen.osu.edu> and is a useful class resource. To access the site for this class, you will need to login using your OSU ID and password, and look for GEOG 210 under the Winter 2012 heading. On the webpage, you will find announcements, copies of the PowerPoint™ slides used in lecture, additional readings, discussion boards for asking and answering questions, and you can track your progress in the course by viewing your grades.

### **Course evaluation:**

1.	Mid-term in-lab exam	25%	Fri. Feb. 10, 2012
2.	Final exam	35%	Tue. March 13, 2012
3.	Lab assignments	35%	Due at the end of lab
4.	Attendance/participation/professionalism <sup>2</sup>	5%	

### **Other policies:**

***NO EMAIL, TEXT, PHONE, WEB DURING LECTURE!*** So turn off the mobile devices (phone, laptops, etc). If you need a laptop during class as an accommodation, you must advise instructor before class.

Students who anticipate missing an exam must arrange with the instructor at least **one week prior**. Furthermore, no in-class activity or exam can be made up without special advanced notice, given at the instructor's discretion. *Documentation will be required for an excused absence.*

### **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 shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. ALL SUSPECTED CASES OF MISCONDUCT WILL BE REPORTED**

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<sup>2</sup> *Professionalism* includes arriving in a timely fashion, being attentive and engaged, making sure your cell phone or mobile device will not disrupt class, and treating your classmates with respect.

## Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

### Tips for success:

- Office hours are held for your benefit. Please take advantage of them to get the most out of the class, and be prepared when it comes time for your examinations. We don't bite.
- Some of the concepts in the class can seem tricky. Ask questions! It far is better to ask a question and review a concept in class than to miss a question on an exam. *"The dumb questions are the ones that you don't ask..."*
- When completing the assigned readings, pay attention to the figures. Sometimes a concept is better taught graphically. The authors included the figures to help you, not to fill up space.
- Keep up on the readings. If you have prepared for class by doing the readings, you will be able to follow the lectures and take quality notes.
- Use the discussion boards on Carmen and your fellow students as resources.
- Find relevance and take an interest. You will find that you learn better when you engage the material.
- Attend class regularly and participate. A large portion of life hinges on just showing up and experiencing. Classes are no different, except you are graded on both.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>(Readings)</i>
1	04 Jan	Introduction	
	06 Jan	Lab 1: The Environment and You	
2	09 Jan	Foundations of Environmental Geography	(Chp 1, Hist. of Env. Movement)
	11 Jan	Ways of valuing the environment	(Chp 2, Fish 1-3)
	14 Jan	Lab 2: Economic Solutions?	
3	16 Jan	MLK Day	
	18 Jan	Environmental Systems: Chemistry & Energy	(Chp 3)
		Water quality & supply in the Earth System	(Chp 12)
	20 Jan	Lab 3: Water Cycle	
4	23 Jan	Global energy balance	(Chp 13a, IPCC)
	25 Jan	Global climate change	(Chp 14)
	27 Jan	Lab 4: Ice Albedo	
5	30 Jan	Nonrenewable Energy	(Chp 15)
	01 Feb	Alternative energy & the environment	(Chp 16, Alt. Energy Report)
	03 Feb	Lab 5: Peak Oil	
6	06 Feb	Is population THE environmental problem?	(Chp 6, Hardin)
	08 Feb	Review session- Bring questions!	
	10 Feb	<b>MIDTERM EXAM (IN LAB SECTIONS)</b>	
7	13 Feb	Biogeographic processes & patterns	(Chps 4, 5)
	15 Feb	Biodiversity and conservation	(Chp 8)
	17 Feb	Lab 6: Ohio forests	
8	20 Feb	Agricultural practice, pests & soil	(Chp 7)
	22 Feb	Cities and resource management	(Chp 9)
	24 Feb	Lab 7: Critically engaging local environmental issues (homework)	
9	27 Feb	Food, Inc.	
	29 Feb	Waste management	(Chp 17)
	02 Mar	Lab 8: Ohio agro-ecosystem & food miles	
10	05 Mar	Air pollution	(Chp 13)
	07 Mar	Sustainable solutions	(Epilogue)
	09 Mar	<b>Lab 9: Review for final exam</b>	

**FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 13 FROM 7:30-9:18 AM**