

*Department of Atmospheric Sciences*

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT – SEMESTER I – 2002–03

**ATMOS 130: People in the Changing Earth System**

(Same as GEOG 130 and GEOL 130)

*Call number:* 00929 (A1), 00930 (A2), 00931 (A3)

*Instructor:* Prof. Walter Robinson, 110 Atmospheric Sciences Bldg., 333-2292

*E-mail:* robinson@atmos.uiuc.edu

*Credit:* 3 hours

*Room and Time:* 256 M E Bldg; 11:00 a.m.–11:50 p.m. Tu Th (Lecture)

106B1 Engr Hall, - A1 (2 PM Th), A2 (9AM, F), A3 (10 AM, F)

(Discussion)

*Prerequisites:* None

*Linked to History (Environmental Studies) 160<sup>1</sup>, “Comparative Environmental History: People, Crops, and Capital” as Foundations Courses.* Simultaneous enrollment in HIST 160 is encouraged.

ATMOS 130 introduces the systems – climate, geology, water, land surface, soils and life – that set the context for human interaction with the environment, and how humans change and often degrade these systems. We address how our environment has been influenced by the geologic and climate history of the earth, how it may change in the future, and the implications of such changes for people.

The scope of 130 is global, but the focus is on the Illinois Prairie: its origins in geology and the ice ages, its transformation to the most productive agricultural landscape in the world, and its future. How is Illinois affected by global warming, by acid rain and air pollution? Is high agricultural productivity sustainable? Is there enough water?

ATMOS 130 is linked to History 160, which explores major themes in environmental history with a special emphasis on agriculture and the different impacts it has had on the landscape throughout time and space. In addition to the Illinois Prairie, 160 addresses the environmental histories of the American Great Plains, and tropical and subtropical grasslands in Africa and Latin America. The physical environments of these regions will be discussed in 130, and the syllabi of the two courses are coordinated.

**Texts:** *Illinois’ ice Age Legacy*, Myrna M. Killey, Illinois State Geological Survey, 1998 (Required)  
*Dr. Art’s Guide to Planet Earth*, Art Sussman, Chelsea Green Publ. Co., 2000 (Required)

*This course is approved for General Education credit in the category of  
Natural Sciences and Technology: Physical Science.*

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<sup>1</sup> Satisfies the General Education requirement for Historical and Philosophical Perspectives and for Western Cultures