

Environmental Geology: GLY-3039

Meeting time: 11:00-11:50 M, W, F. Meeting location: ECS-135

Course Level: Undergraduate 3039

Web page: <http://www.fiu.edu/~sukopm/GLY3039/GLY3039.htm>

Course Catalogue Description

GLY 3039 Environmental Geology (3). GLY 3039L Environmental Geology Lab (1). The composition and structure of the earth, the internal and external forces acting upon it and the resulting surface features. Case studies and general principles illustrated from South Florida and the Caribbean. Field trips expected. No prerequisites. (F, S, SS)

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Department: Earth and Environment

Office: AHC 5, Room 369

Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30, Th 1:30-2:30, as available, and by appointment (Best: send e-mail to arrange appointment.)

Outline

- Syllabus, Policies, Introduction
- Chapter 1. What Does “Living with Earth” Mean?
- Chapter 2. Earth Systems
- Chapter 3. The Dynamic Geosphere and Plate Tectonics
- Chapter 4. Geosphere Materials
- Chapter 5. Earthquakes
- Chapter 6. Volcanoes
- Chapter 7. Rivers and Flooding
- Chapter 8. Unstable Land
- Chapter 9. Changing Coasts
- Chapter 10. Water Resources
- Chapter 11. Soil Resources
- Chapter 12. Mineral Resources
- Chapter 13. Energy Resources
- Chapter 14. Atmosphere Resources and Climate Change
- Chapter 15. Managing People’s Environmental Impact

Performance Measures, Grading/Attendance Standards

Quizzes and Attendance: 1/2 of grade. 10-minute quizzes will be administered on a random day at a random time during class generally following completion of a book chapter of material. The sum of all quiz grades will be weighted to account for 1/2 of your overall course grade. There will be approximately 12 quizzes; therefore each one is worth about 4% of your overall grade. There will be no make up quizzes (except when

due to religious holy days; see below), so they will also serve as a measure of your attendance. Quizzes will be based on lecture, text, and study guide material.

The field trip is a special required event held on a whole Saturday arranged early in the semester. Those who are unable or unwilling to attend the field trip will be assigned a single-spaced 2-3 page paper and a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic of the instructor's choosing.

Examinations: 1/4 of grade each. One mid-term and one final examination will focus on concepts. Examinations will be based on lecture, text, study guide, and quiz material.

Grading: Grading will be based on visual inspection of the cumulative grade distribution with adjustments made for the field trip or paper/presentation requirement. Papers and presentations will be assessed for effort, understanding developed, quality of sources, and quality of writing. Cut-and-paste papers are not acceptable as satisfying the requirement.

University Policy on Religious Holy Days:

1. Each student shall, **upon notifying his/her instructor**, be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his/her faith.
2. While the student will be held responsible for the material covered in his/her absence, each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed.
3. No major test, major class event, or major University activity will be scheduled on a major religious holy day.
4. Professors and University administrators shall not arbitrarily penalize students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances.

I am planning to have the midterm examination on October 9, 2015, which conflicts with the Canadian Interfaith observance of Thanksgiving according to <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2015.htm>.

Please provide the notifications required by Number 1 of the policy via e-mail by close of business Monday, August 31, 2015.

Text

Recommended Textbook:

Travis Hudson, *Living With Earth, An Introduction to Environmental Geology* (ISBN 978-0-13-142447-0) available in the bookstore (~\$100 new). Printed version contains full access to all premium materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com. Recommend you bring textbook to class, as I will refer to it.

E-text options:

- a. CourseSmart (www.coursesmart.com) 180 day subscription (~ \$51). Note: this option does not include materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com
- b. MyGeosciencePlace: A fully hyperlinked e-text subscription (through Pearson/Prentice Hall) along with website content www.mygeoscienceplace.com (~\$76).
- c. MyGeosciencePlace: Pearson/Prentice Hall website content may be purchased at www.mygeoscienceplace.com (~\$30).