

Florida International University
Department of Earth and Environment
GLY 1010-U01: **Introduction to the Earth Sciences**
Fall Term, 2014, MWF 1000-1050, PC 310

Instructor

Dr. Dean Whitman

Office: ACH5 - 396; Tel: 348-3089; email: whitmand@fiu.edu

Office Hours: M/W 2:00-4:00 PM, Tu 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course provides a basic survey of geology and the solid earth sciences. Subjects covered include: formation of the solar system and the Earth, plate tectonics, formation and classification of minerals and rocks, geologic time, deformation of the Earth's crust, the geologic history of North America, ground water, and geologic aspects of South Florida. This course with its Lab (GLY1010L) fulfills the Physical Science Core Curriculum requirement.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students should leave this course with a solid appreciation of the geological sciences and their impact on such societal issues such as natural hazards and mineral and energy resources. After completing this course, students should be able to apply their knowledge of Geology to 1) apply scientific principles and theories to problem solving; 2) test scientific hypothesis by applying the scientific method; 3) evaluate scientific statements and graphics; and 4) interpret new information within the context of existing knowledge.

Reading

1. Required Textbook: (Required means **you must purchase this book**)

C. Fletcher, *Physical Geology, the Science of Earth 2nd Edition*.

ISBN 978-1-118-55968-0

- *Bookstore:* \$152 new, \$113 used, \$68 rental
- *E-text options:* at www.wiley.com : \$52 (180 day), www.coursesmart.com : \$42 (120 days)

You are responsible for reading the assigned readings **before** lecture. Attending the lectures is not a substitute for reading the text and reviewing materials outside of class.

Reading assignments will average around 50 pages per week.

2. The *New York Times*: Throughout the term, we will be discussing current articles in the *New York Times* relating to Earth science. Articles in the *Times* will also form the basis of an extra credit assignment: *Geology in the News* (more on this next week). Paper copies of the Times are available free to students on campus through an arrangement with your Student Government Association. Digital subscriptions are also available at a discounted rate. Please visit www.nytimes.com/collegerate for more information.
3. Additional required readings will be posted on the Blackboard website.

Internet Resources

This is a web assisted course. A course webpage will be maintained with **Blackboard**.

This page will contain this syllabus, copies of resources, exercises, links, exam scores, and announcements for the course.

To access this resource, go to <https://ecampus.fiu.edu/> and click on **Blackboard** under the **Login** menu. In the Blackboard Login window enter your FIU MyAccounts User Name and Password. Select [1148 - GLY1010 - Introduction to Earth Science - Section U01 - Fall 2014](#). For help with Blackboard, click the *Student* menu on the ecampus website call the UTS Help Center at (305) 348-2284.

Lecture attendance:

Attendance at lectures is required. Class will usually consist of a brief lecture which overviews the main points of the topic followed by in-class exercises. It is extremely important that you do not miss lectures. I recommend that you bring your textbook (hardcopy or electronic) to class as I will be referring to it in lecture and in the in-class activities. Please be courteous to others and me in class: arrive on time to lectures, and **turn off all cellular phones while in class.**

Grading:

The grade in this course will be based on an average score of attendance and in-class activities (15%), three incremental midterms (45% total), and a cumulative final (40%).

Exams will cover all material in the assigned readings, lectures, and handouts, and will generally consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in, and short answer questions. The midterm exams will be of 45 minute duration. The final exam will cover material for the whole course and will be 120 minutes in duration.

Grades on exams will be computed as follows

A: 100% - 91%; **A-:** 90% - 88%; **B+:** 87% - 85%; **B:** 84% - 81%; **B-:** 80% - 78%;

C+: 77% - 73%; **C:** 72% - 68%; **C-:** 67% - 62%; **D:** 61% - 46%; **F:** 45% - 0%.

Exam grades normally will not be curved.

In-Class Activities:

Students will participate in several in-class activities, which are based on concepts discussed in class. Assignments will be submitted at the end of day's activities and will be graded based on correct and/or incorrect responses. There are no makeups for these activities.

Exam attendance:

Exam attendance is mandatory. A make-up midterm exam will **not** be offered except for *documented* cases of serious illness, emergency, or death in the family, and *only* at my discretion. If you must miss an exam for one of these reasons, you must contact me by telephone or e-mail before the exam. Exams missed in other circumstances will count as zero towards your final grade. Please arrive on time for exams. All tests will start promptly at the beginning of class.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of Florida International University. Any act that violates the student/instructor trust will not be tolerated. Acts of cheating, plagiarism, or lying will result in an "F" grade for the class and the possibility of expulsion from FIU. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.