

Florida International University
Department of Earth and Environment
GLY 3039-U02: **Environmental Geology**
Spring Term, 2015, MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM, ECS 143
Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Dean Whitman

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Office Hours: Tu 11-12, W: 2-5 PM, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the science of geology and its relationship to human activities. Subjects covered include: 1) natural hazards associated with earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, erosion, landslides, and sinkholes; 2) natural resources such as water, soil, mineral and energy; and 3) human impacts on the natural environment such as population growth, pollution, waste disposal, and greenhouse gasses. This course with its Lab (GLY3039L) fulfills the Physical Science Core Curriculum requirement.

Learning Outcomes

Students should leave this course with a solid appreciation of the relationships of the geological sciences to societal issues such as natural hazards, waste disposal, and natural resources. After completing this course, students should be able to apply their knowledge of Environmental 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

Required Reading: (Required means **you must purchase this book**)

1. Travis Hudson, *Living With Earth, An Introduction to Environmental Geology*, (ISBN 978-0-13-142447-0) available in the bookstore (\$123, new, \$92 used, \$55 rental). The unused printed version contains full access to all the premium materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com. Specific reading assignments will be given on the schedule below and/or at the beginning of lecture. You are responsible for reading the assigned chapters **before** lecture. I strongly recommend that you bring the textbook to class, as I will be referring to it often in lecture.

E-text options:

- a. MyGeosciencePlace. A fully hyperlinked e-text subscription (through Pearson/PrenticeHall) along with the required premium website content may be purchased at www.mygeoscienceplace.com (~\$76). Select the **Buy Access** button and follow the on-screen instructions.
 - b. FIU bookstore. 180 day subscription on one device (~ \$49). Note, this option may not include any of the premium materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com
2. The *New York Times*: Throughout the term, we will be discussing current articles relating to Environmental Geology in the *New York Times* relating to Environmental Geology. Articles in the *Times* will also form the basis of an extra credit assignment: *Environmental 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.

Clickers

This course will utilize the IClicker, for attendance, in-class learning exercises, and for credit quizzes. The IClicker2 is available for purchase through the bookstore (Buy: \$56 new, \$42 used, Rent: \$42new, \$35 used). This is the standard clicker used in all classes at FIU and you will only have to purchase one clicker for all your classes at FIU. You will be responsible for bringing your clicker to each and every class. If you have an older I-clicker, that will work with the class as well.

FIU I-Clicker info may be found at <http://it.fiu.edu/instructional/iclicker.shtml>. Once you receive your clicker, you should register it at <http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/>. Your clicker's Remote ID is an 8 digit number located on the back of your clicker. Your StudentID will be your FIU Student email.

You must purchase a clicker before the Friday January 23rd class. Up to that time, I will allow attendance to be recorded on a paper signup sheet and the 1st quiz to be answered on paper. I will be awarding 1 extra credit point for each day that you bring a registered clicker to class before that date. After January 23rd, if you forget your clicker you will be allowed record attendance or to answer a quiz on a paper answer sheet **one time** during the term without penalty.

Internet Resources

This is a web assisted course. A course webpage will be maintained with **Blackboard Learn**. This page will contain this syllabus, copies of exercises, links, 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 *1151 - GLY3039 - Environmental Geology - Section U02 - Spring 2015*. For help with Blackboard, click the *Student* menu on the ecampus website call the UTS Help Center at (305) 348-2284.

The textbook also maintains an excellent companion website. This site contains a fully hyperlinked e-text, on-line quizzes, exercises, animations, and *Hazard City* application which will be demonstrated later in class.

Access to this web premium content is **strongly recommended** for this course. Your subscription to this premium content is pre-paid with the purchase of a new copy of Hudson, *Living with Earth*, 1st Edition. To access, go to: <http://www.mygeoscienceplace.com> and follow the registration instructions on the inside cover of your text, using the access code under the silver foil under the front cover of the text.

Note: If you purchase the e-text through the FIU or *Coursesmart*, or if you have purchased the textbook used, and there is no silver foil covering the access code, it may already have been redeemed, and therefore may not be valid. You may purchase access (\$30) using a credit card. Go to <http://www.mygeoscienceplace.com> and follow the on-screen instructions under premium content.

Grading:

The grade in this course will be based on a weighted average of the following: Attendance and Class participation (15%), homework assignments (25%), in-class quizzes (35%), and a comprehensive Final Exam (25%).

Grades will be computed as follows (subject to change):

A: 100% - 90%; **B:** 89% - 80%; **C:** 79% - 65%; **D:** 64% - 50%; **F:** 49% - 0%.

Plus and minus grades will be assigned for the upper and lower thirds of each interval. Quiz and exam grades **will not** be curved.

Lecture attendance and Class Participation (15%):

Attendance at lectures is required. This is not a distance learning course. It is extremely important that you do not miss lectures and arrive on time. You are expected to arrive in class prepared with pencils, pens, and paper for sketches. I recommend that you bring a calculator and your textbook to class in order to do sample problems.

- Please be courteous to others and me in class: arrive on time to lectures, and **silence all cellular phones while in class.**

A portion of your course grade will be based on attendance and your participation with the clicker exercises. Attendance during the first week of the course will not count towards your grade (to allow for late adds). After the first week, you will only be allowed to miss 3 lectures without penalty, regardless of your excuse.

Homework Assignments (25%):

Homework assignments will be assigned approximately every 1-2 weeks. Normally you will have 1 week to complete the assignment. All assignments must be typed and **submitted through blackboard**, unless otherwise indicated. Assignments will normally be due at the beginning of class. Homework assignments received after that time will be considered late and will be marked off 50%. Homework assignments received more than 1 week late will not be accepted.

Quizzes (35%):

Between 10-12 quizzes will be given during the term. Quizzes will cover the material from the previous class reading and lecture material, will be given during the first 15 minutes of class, and will generally consist of clicker multiple choice questions. In some cases, you will be asked to answer a short question or draw a sketch. Quizzes will be announced at the end of the previous lecture. The total quiz score will be computed from an average of quiz scores. Your lowest **two** quiz scores will be dropped.

Quiz attendance is mandatory. All quizzes will start promptly at the beginning of the class period. Please arrive on time- students arriving late for quizzes will not be given extra time. We will immediately go over the quiz after it is completed so, **Make-up quizzes will not be offered in any circumstance even if the absence is “legitimate”**. If you miss a quiz, you will be able to drop it as one of your two low scores.

Final Exam (25%):

The Final Exam will be closed book. The Final Exam will cover material for the whole course and will be 120 minutes in duration. The questions will generally consist of multiple-choice or matching, short answer, or short essay or diagram questions. We will conduct a comprehensive review of the course during the last week of class as preparation for the Final Exam.

How to do well in this class

As with other college level courses, you should put in at least 2 hours of study time for each hour of lecture. That is, for this course, you should be spending at least 6 hours per week outside of class doing reading, organizing notes, working in study groups, exploring the course web sites. In addition, the following is recommended:

- Read the assigned reading **before** the lecture in which it is covered
- Answer the review questions at the end of each chapter and review the *key terms*
- Utilize the materials on the textbook web site including the self-tests
- Turn in all of the homework exercises on time
- Come to class on time. Even if you are tired or distracted, you will still retain more than if you skip the lecture. If you must miss lecture, get the notes from someone who came to class
- Ask questions in class and office hours.

Important University Policies That Apply to This Class

Academic Dishonesty and 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.

Academic misconduct also includes bring another student’s clicker to class to record attendance or to answer a quiz.

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*.

Incompletes

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence. An incomplete should be given only to a student who has successfully completed half of the work in the course. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an “F” or the grade that the student earned in the course.

Change of Grades

Once submitted, end-of-semester grades (apart from incompletes) are final and can be changed only to correct an error or cases in which some part of the student's work was unintentionally overlooked.