

**Florida International University**  
Department of Earth and Environment

ISC 1056: First Year Seminar in Earth and Environment  
Spring 2017, Monday, 4:00-4:50 PM, GC 287A

**Instructor**

Professor Dean Whitman

Office: ACH5-396, Tel: (305) 348-3089; Email: [whitmand@fiu.edu](mailto:whitmand@fiu.edu)

Office Hours: MW: 1:30-3:30; Tu 10 AM –Noon, or by arrangement. Appointments are recommended.

**Description:**

A weekly seminar course meant for freshmen or 1<sup>st</sup> year transfer students in the Geoscience, Environmental Studies, and Earth Science programs. In this course, you will receive advisement about major requirements and preparatory coursework, special presentations by faculty, tours of department facilities and labs and information on FIU library and information resources.

**Prerequisites:**

Enrollment in the Geoscience B.S., Earth Science B.A., Environmental Studies B.S. majors or interest in switching to one of those majors.

**Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes.** In this course:

- You will learn skills for success at FIU and particular in the majors in the Department.
- You will learn the requirements for your major and plot out your 2/4 year course plan.
- You will learn how to best utilize the resources available to Department students to maximize your strategy for success.
- You will gain a better understanding of what the faculty in the department do.
- You will learn more about the natural environment in southern Florida
- You will start planning your future, learn about careers in your discipline and learn to prepare your resume.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

P/F based on attendance, completion of assignments and participation in activities.

You are expected to attend every week and to complete all assignments. You will be required to attend **one** Earth and Environment Graduate Seminar, **Fridays 3-4:15 in PC 310**. during the semester. The speakers and topics are posted on the Earth & Environment webpage: <http://earthenvironment.fiu.edu>.

Missing more than 3 class meetings or 2 assignments are grounds for failure in this course.

## Blackboard Page

A course webpage will be through **Blackboard (Under Construction)**. 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 login menu. Select:

[1171 - ISC1056 - First Year Seminar in Earth and Environment - Section U01 - Spring 2017](#)

### Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 9	Introduction. Survey: why did you pick your major? Review of FIU policies and procedures Tips for success, pitfalls to avoid. Distribution of advising sheets.
2	Jan 16	<b>MLK Holliday, University Closed</b>
3	Jan 23	Skills assessment survey. Presentation from the academic advisor Assignment: plotting out your 2/4 year academic program and entering it into the Panthersoft academic planner.
4	Jan 30	Presentations on career options
5	Feb 6	Introduction to library resources at FIU. How to research for that term paper.
6	Feb 13	Student clubs in the Department
7	Feb 20	<b>No Class</b>
8	Feb 27	Faculty Meet and Greet and Lab tour 1: Geology labs in PC
9	Mar 6	Faculty Meet and Greet and Lab tour 2: Hydrology and Environmental labs in ECS
10	Mar 13	<b>Spring Break, No Class</b>
11	Mar 20	Faculty Talks and Lab tour 3: Agro Ecology and the Organic Garden
12	Mar 27	Faculty Talks and Lab tour 4: Meteorology labs in ACH5
13	Apr 3	Learning Assistant Program, Internships, etc.
14	Apr 10	What comes after your Bachelor's degree? Writing a resume. Applying for graduate school. Applying for a job. Setting up a LinkedIn Account
15	Apr 17	Summing up: revisions of your academic plan