Florida International University  
Department of Earth and Environment  
GLY 1010-U04B: Introduction to the Earth Sciences  
Summer B Term, 2010, M/W 930-1215, PC426

Instructor  
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Office Hours: M/Tu: 2-4 PM, 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, external and internal processes, earthquakes, volcanoes, surface and ground water, and geologic aspects of South Florida.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes  
Students should leave this course with a solid overview of the geological sciences and their impact on such societal issues such as natural hazards and mineral and energy resources. This course with its Lab (GLY1010L) fulfills the Physical Science Core Curriculum requirement.

Prerequisites:  
This is an introductory level science course and there are no college level prerequisites for this course. A basic high school level knowledge of chemistry and algebra is assumed and students deficient in those areas are advised to review those subjects. A concurrent lab course, GLY 1010L, is not required, but is strongly recommended in order to give "hands on" practice and experience.

Reading  

This is a unique textbook designed to help you learn geologic concepts and processes on your own and to complement what we do in class. Nearly all the information in the book is built around illustrations and photographs, rather than being in long blocks of text. The entire book consists of a series of two-page spreads organized into chapters. Each two-page spread is a self-contained block of information about a specific topic, and has a short list indicating what you should be able to do before you leave these pages. The items from these lists for which you will be held responsible for knowing are compiled into a What-To-Know List that is downloadable from this course’s Blackboard website. The What-To-Know List is your guide to what is important, and all in-class quizzes, group and individual exercises, and the final exam are derived from this list. If, when studying from the book, you construct your own answer to each item on the What-To-Know List, then I predict you will receive an A in the class. Required reading is listed in the right column of the Lecture Schedule later on in this document. If you revisit the chapter corresponding to the most recently finished lecture after we cover that topic, the material will be best retained.
Web and email Resources
This is a web assisted course. A course webpage will be maintained with Blackboard, CE6. This page will contain this syllabus, reading assignments, “What To Know” lists, exercises, links, and announcements for the course.

To access this resource, go to http://online.fiu.edu/login.html and enter your Username and Password in the Blackboard CE6 login box. Use your Panther ID and your default password which is your date of birth, input as MMDDYYYY. You will be prompted to change your password.

I will also communicate with you regularly through your blackboard email address. The message sent are important and may contain information on how to gain some bonus points, so check your email at least one a week !!!

The textbook has an excellent webpage at: http://www.mhhe.com/reynoldsgeology2e which contains additional material such as a glossary, on-line quizzes, and examples of concept sketches. Additional web resources on Blackboard will be available during the term. Stay tuned for more information.

Grading:
The grade in this course will be based on 3 components: in-class exercises and activities (20%), quizzes (35%), and a cumulative final exam (45%).

Grades will be computed as follows (subject to change):
A: 100% - 86%; B: 85% - 76%; C: 75% - 61%; D: 60% - 45%; F: 44% - 0%.
Plus and minus grades will be assigned for the upper and lower bounds of each interval. Exam and quizzes normally will not be curved.

Lecture attendance:
Attendance at lectures is required. This is an accelerated course. It is extremely important that you do not miss lectures. Each class is the equivalent of over 1 week of a regular Fall/Spring term. 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 and to participate in class activities. Attendance will be determined by participation in quizzes and in-class activities. Excessive absences may be grounds for failure of this course.

Lectures will start immediately at the start of the class period. We will normally take a 10-15 minute break in the middle of the class period.

In-class Activities:
This course will concentrate on active, inquiry-based learning where you will learn how to observe, think about, and understand our place in the natural environment. During the term, we will do a number of in-class activities centered on the material covered during the lecture. In many cases, you will complete the activities as a member of a team, but in other cases you might be asked to work out the exercise on your own. You will only get credit for activities if you are present at the time of the activities.

Exam and quizzes:
Between 7-10 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 multiple choice, short answer questions, and/or a concept 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 quiz score will be dropped. The final exam will cover all material in the assigned readings, lectures, and handouts, and will generally consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in, and concept sketch questions.

Exam and 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. Make-up quizzes will not be offered in any circumstance. If you miss a quiz, you will be able to drop it as your low score. The final exam will take up the whole class period on August 4th.

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 and after the lecture in which it is covered
- For each two-page spread assigned for this course answer the questions in the “Before You Leave This Page Be Able To” box (also as indicated in the “What To Know” list.
- Utilize the materials on the web site including the self-tests.
- Come to class. 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 if you need more help.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom:
Please turn off all cellular telephones and pagers during class time – this includes text messaging. If your work situation requires that you be on call, please notify the instructor prior to class. Text messaging is not permitted in this class.

You are only permitted to use a laptop during class to take notes, or to access resources related to the course such as web links, Google Earth, or the etext. Many of the notes in this class, however, will involve sketches, so a laptop may not be the best way to take notes in this class. Laptops may not be used during class time to answer email, browse the web, listen to music, or any other activity not related to class. If you are using your laptop for one of these unauthorized activities, you will lose all in-class points for that day. The instructor or teaching assistant may simply note who you are and contact you after class rather than interrupting the class to notify you. If you are disrupting other students you will be asked to leave the lecture hall.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct
Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. Therefore, 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 the University. 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.