

Florida International University
Department of Earth and Environment
GLY 3039-U02: Environmental Geology
Spring Term, 2012, MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM, PCA 165
Syllabus (Preliminary, 1/5/2012)

Instructor

Dr. Dean Whitman

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Office Hours: MW: 2-4 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 the 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 Textbooks:

1. Travis Hudson, *Living With Earth, An Introduction to Environmental Geology*, (ISBN 978-0-13-142447-0) available in the bookstore (\$100, new, \$75 used, \$49 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 (~\$64). Select the **Buy Access** button and follow the on-screen instructions.
 - b. FIU bookstore. 180 day subscription on one device (~ \$43). Note, this option does not include any of the premium materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com
 - c. CourseSmart (www.coursesmart.com) 180 day subscription (~ \$55). Note, this option does not include any of the premium materials on www.mygeoscienceplace.com
2. Additional materials will be handed out in class and will be available through Moodle.

Internet Resources

This is a web assisted course. A course webpage will be maintained with Moodle. 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 **Moodle Login**. Then enter your FIU MyAccounts User Name and Password. **GLY3039 - Environmental Geology**. For help with Moodle, click the *Support* button.

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 assigned in class.

Access to this web premium content is required 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 (10%), homework assignments (20%), 2 incremental midterm exams (20% each), and a comprehensive Final Exam (30%).

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

A: 100% - 87%; **B:** 86% - 76%; **C:** 75% - 61%; **D:** 60% - 45%; **F:** 44% - 0%.

Plus and minus grades will be assigned for the upper and lower thirds of each interval. Exam grades normally will not be curved.

Lecture attendance:

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. I will be taking roll regularly. It is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and assignments from class if lectures are missed. 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 **turn off all beepers and cellular phones while in class**.

Homework Assignments:

Homework assignments will be assigned approximately every 1-2 weeks. Normally you will have 1 week to complete the assignment. 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.

Exams

Exams will be closed book. Exams will cover all material in the assigned readings, lectures, and handouts, and will generally consist of multiple choice or matching, short answer, or short essay or diagram questions. The midterm exam will cover material from the immediately previous portion of the course and will be of 50 minute duration. The final exam will cover material for the whole course and will be 120 minutes in duration.

Exam attendance is mandatory. All tests will start promptly at the beginning of the class period. Please arrive on time. If you know that you cannot be present at the time of a scheduled exam, you may make arrangements with me ahead of time to take the exam early. However, this accommodation will be granted only at my discretion.

Make-up exams will **not** be offered except in extraordinary cases, and *only* at my discretion. These include *documented* cases of serious illness, emergency, or death in the family. If you must miss an exam for one of these reasons, I strongly recommend that you contact me by telephone or e-mail well in advance of the exam. Exams missed in other circumstances will count as zero towards your final grade.

Important University Policies That Apply to This Class

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. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. 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 Florida International University.

Pledge

As a student of this university:

- **I will be honest in my academic endeavors.**
- **I will not represent someone else's work as my own (e.g. Plagiarism).**
- **I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating.**

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.