

Florida International University
Department of Earth Sciences
GLY 3039-U02: Environmental Geology
Spring Term, 2010, MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM, PCA 171
Syllabus

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, and landslides; 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.

Course Objectives/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. This course with its Lab (GLY3039L) 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 3039L, is not required, but is strongly recommended in order to give "hands on" practice and experience.

Reading

Required Textbooks:

1. Carla W. Montgomery, *Environmental Geology, 8th Edition*, (ISBN 978-0-07-282691-3) available in the bookstore. 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. Additional materials will be handed out in class and will be available through Blackboard/CE6.
2. John McPhee, *The Control of Nature*, available in the bookstore. I will be assigning specific chapters of this book during the term. Some class discussions and homework assignments will be based on these readings.

Internet Resources

This is a web assisted course. A course webpage will be maintained with Blackboard, CE6. This page will contain this syllabus, copies of 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. If you don't already have an account, 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.

The textbook also maintains an online learning center at:

<http://www.mhhe.com/montgomery8e>

This site contains concept reviews, practice quizzes, and supplemental materials.

Lecture attendance:

Attendance at lectures is required. This is not a distance learning course. It is extremely important that you do not miss lectures. 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.**

Grading:

The grade in this course will be based on a weighted average of the following: Attendance (10%), homework assignments (20%), 2 midterm exams (20% each), and a comprehensive Final Exam (30%).

Homework assignments will be assigned approximately every 2-3 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 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 exam will cover material from the immediately previous portion of the course and 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 (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 grades normally will not be curved.

Exam attendance:

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.

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. 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 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.