

GLY 120-002 Spring, 2010

Tentative Lecture Syllabus

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Office Hours: MWF 8:30 – 9:50 AM, TR 8:30 – 11:30 AM or, by appointment.

Text: Keller, E.A., 2000, *Environmental Geology* 8th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0130224669

General Policies

ATTENDANCE. Attend class to ensure maximum learning and credit. Each student is permitted three “free” absences after the drop-add period ends. Every subsequent absence results in the deduction of one (1) point from your final class average.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM. The University of North Carolina is dedicated to the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding. Academic freedom is essential to the achievement of these purposes. Essentially, every instructor has the right to present the class material without any interference by anybody or any kind of distraction, and every student has the right to receive the presentation without any interference by anybody or any kind of distraction. These distractions include uninvited talking or concurrent communication by students either vocally or by any form of electronic communication (cell phones, text messaging, instant messaging, and similar forms). Distractions also include arriving late or leaving early, eating, drinking, and abusive interruptions or speech including threats and inappropriate language.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE The University of North Carolina Wilmington is a community of high academic standards where academic integrity is valued. UNCW students are committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. This commitment begins when new students matriculate at UNCW, continues as they create work of the highest quality while part of the university community, and endures as a core value throughout their lives. [For more information on the Honor Code as well as the Seahawk Respect Compact, I refer you to the Code of Student Life.]

The following syllabus is tentative in that the dates of the lectures may change as a result of university closings or something else that requires a shift. The sequence, though, is relatively fixed. I expect you to **prepare for each lecture** by reading assigned chapters or appropriate materials prior to the formal lecture in order to familiarize yourself with the general content and be attuned to specific questions

Clean up your space and leave it better than when you arrived!

Attend class to ensure maximum learning and credit. Each student is permitted two “free” absences after the drop-add period ends. Subsequent absences results in the deduction of one (1) point from your final class average for each absence.

Make every effort to actively **engage in each lecture period** by being prepared with readings, being attentive, and asking questions or voicing pertinent comments.

Be on time! And, don't leave early!

Turn off cell phones or face the consequences! Penalties for violators include confiscation of cell phone for the class period and recording an absence for that day. Repeat offenses could result in total banishment from the classroom for the remainder of the semester.

Use of a laptop computer during class lecture is fine as long as such use is only for note-taking. The only open program on the laptop computer must be a word-processing program such as Microsoft Word. Any other activities and open programs are prohibited and will result in, (a) confiscation of the computer until the lecture is completed, (b) banning of all laptops from the classroom for the remainder of the semester, and, (c) recording an absence for the responsible student for that class period.

Grading. Final Course Grade determined from a weighted average of regular lecture exams and/or quizzes (50%), comprehensive final exam (20%), lab (25%), and attitude/participation (5%) less excessive absences (refer to class policy #1). Attitude/participation is a subjective evaluation while the others are objective.

The following ranges determine the appropriate assigned letter grade: 90 – 99 (A), 80 – 89 (B), 70 – 79 (C), 60 – 69 (D), <60 (F).

Exam Schedule and Policy. All lecture and the final exam dates are firm for their published date in this syllabus. The coverage of each lecture exam may vary with our progress. The final exam is comprehensive for the entire semester. The only exceptions to re-scheduling of exams are those tied to closure of the university or some other official

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emergency. Unless otherwise directed, the exam scheduled for any day that the university is closed will be given on the next regularly scheduled lecture day for this class. Scheduled lecture exams are highlighted in bold print on the syllabus. The Final Exam is May 4, 3-6 PM. **Make-up policy for exams.** The stock answer is, “No make-ups!” Of course, if you have a legitimate reason for missing an exam, you may always discuss that with me. However, only I can decide how to deal with your missing an exam, and I am not required to give anyone a make-up exam.

Duties and responsibilities. Enrolling in the class does not guarantee anything except that you will receive a grade for the course that reflects your effectiveness in mastering the subject. We all have the moral duty and responsibility to be civil and professional while we are engaged in the mechanics of this course. Both unethical behavior and rudeness are not accepted in normal academic and professional environments. “Academic freedom” can be interpreted as your opportunity to be lazy and apathetic as well as any other ethical consideration, but this freedom also carries a mandated responsibility to not interfere with the rights of others who want to work hard and actually improve themselves in this course.

Expected Learning Outcomes. At the conclusion of this course, each student should demonstrate through both objective and subjective means:

- a basic understanding of geological processes related to natural hazards (including volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides and mass movements, floods, coastal storms and processes, hydrogeologic principles and characteristics of fluid motion and behavior in the ground, soil processes);
- a basic understanding of the effect of human activities on the basic geologic processes and the effect of basic geologic processes on human activities;
- an ability to discern between good assessments and predictions of environmental geological science from poor assessments and predictions.

An overview of environmental geology as offered by this geologist. “Environment” is a word that essentially everybody knows and recognizes, but “geology” denotes many conflicting images and concepts to most of the general public that confuse it with something either very abstract and dull, or very simple and synonymous with archeology or some other field that “digs”. Geology is the science of the earth and all the physical aspects of the planet. The essence of geology has always been the environment. The question, then, is why “environmental geology” and the answer is that this study focuses more on the interactions between humans and geology. This course follows a classical approach in learning first about geology and then pursues interesting aspects of particular interest to human activities and the geological environment including volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, coastal processes and problems, groundwater, soils, rivers and flooding, and engineering and planning concerns. Throughout the course, opportunities exist for tangential discussions on topical items including sustainability, conservation, and global change (“warming”). Hopefully, the course should prepare you to make informed decisions from the perspective of geology about many current issues concerning the environment.

Tentative Schedule of Lectures

Lecture #	Date	Topic
1	Jan 7	What is important to know for the exams (the introduction and overview of the course) [Chapter 1]
2	Jan 12	Fundamental concepts, earth materials, and processes [Chapters 1 and 2]
3	Jan 14	
4	Jan 19	Soils, environment, and natural hazards [Chapters 3 and 4]
5	Jan 21	Rivers and floods [Chapter 5]
6	Jan 26	
7	Jan 28	Exam One
8	Feb 2	Landslides [Chapter 6]
9	Feb 4	Earthquakes [Chapter 7]
10	Feb 9	

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11	Feb 11	Volcanic hazards [Chapter 8]
12	Feb 16	
13	Feb 18	Coastal hazards [Chapter 9]
14	Feb 23	
15	Feb 25	Exam Two
16	Mar 2	Water: process, supply, use, pollution, treatment [Chapters 10 and 11]
17	Mar 4	
18	Mar 16	Waste management and environmental health [Chapters 12 and 13]
19	Mar 18	
20	Mar 23	Mineral resources [Chapter 14]
21	Mar 25	
22	Mar 30	Energy resources [Chapter 15]
Apr 1		No Class – Easter Holiday
23	Apr 6	Exam Three
24	Apr 8	Global change, pollution, planning and mitigations, and other current concerns [Chapters 16, 17, and 18]
25	Apr 13	
26	Apr 15	
27	Apr 20	
28	Apr 22	
May 4 (Tuesday)		Comprehensive Final Exam 3:00PM – 6:00PM

Study Hints and Suggestions

The following thoughts may appear trite, but past survivors of this class and others attest to the sensibility and practicality of these suggestions and hints. All of these are offered, too, from the standpoint of helping you manage your time wisely to succeed in the course as well as your other classes while maintaining your sanity, sleep, health, well-being, and social life.

- Each morning remind yourself that your primary job is to be a student. All else must become secondary to this primary job and can be maintained without unnecessary burdens.
- Do your primary job with diligence and pride for such will lead to bigger and better things in your future.
- Read (or skim, at least) the text before each lecture and think about the material. If possible, you may want to create an outline of how you think the lecture will present and follow the text. I further suggest that you first read the text well ahead of the lecture period in order to give yourself additional time to re-read it and take notes on what you read.
- Attend every class. If your reading and thinking of the previous step is successful, you should find (with time) that you won't be taking prolific notes during lecture (which gives you more time to appreciate the lecture materials and attempts at humor).
- Find a quiet place to sit and reflect on the lecture as soon as practical after its conclusion. Here is a good opportunity to transcribe or re-write with additional comments and thoughts those notes that you recorded in lecture. Compare these to the outline and thoughts you recorded during your pre-lecture preparation. If you made sketches during lecture, this would be a good time to re-do them neatly in order to make them recognizable and useful for future study. Completing this step will do wonders for your total comprehension and understanding and is always worth the effort and additional time. In fact, I encourage you to treat this time as another required time period for the class.
- Get together with others in the class on a weekly basis to discuss and review your notes and thoughts together. Talking through the thoughts and annotations that you have made with others in the class is a great form of review and clarification of many ideas or concepts that you originally found confusing.
- Finally, if all of these efforts still result in confusion, arrange a meeting with me for consultation. But, do not wait until the day before a scheduled exam to do this because it won't work very well.