GEOL 3603 Environmental Geology
Fall 2014, Callaway 120, T Th 11:00 – 12:20

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Christopher Berg
OFFICE: Callaway 101
OFFICE HOURS: MTWR 3:00 – 5:00; MW 10:00 – 12:00; by appointment
EMAIL: cberg at westga.edu
PHONE: 9-4059

TEXTBOOK: Introduction to Environmental Geology, 5e by Keller

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. To identify environmental problems and apply geologic principles to address them.
2. To explore relationships between human population growth, the Earth system, hazardous Earth processes, sustainability, and the optimization of resource management in order to maximize environmental benefits for society.
3. To develop the ability to extract knowledge from the literature and communicate it in a professional manner via formal written and oral reports.

GRADING:
There will be two lecture exams during the semester; these will cover material from readings, homework assignments, and class activities. The final week of class meetings will be devoted to hazard assessment presentations. A major portion of your grade will be based on assessment of an assembled portfolio documenting proficiency with specific learning objectives (see separate handout). All scored exercises and activities will count in your final grade. Exam dates will be announced in class at least a week in advance, and will also be posted to the CourseDen page for the course.

Your grade will be calculated on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 x 20% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Activities</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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GRADING SCALE: A = 90% or above; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = below 60%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Regular class attendance and active participation are good strategies for avoiding any rude surprises in the gradebook at the end of the term. If you do miss class, you are responsible for any material covered, announcements made, and any assignments given. While I will not be formally taking attendance, there may be in-class exercises that are completed for grades from time to time, and there will be no makeup for these activities. Unless there is a documented, extreme circumstance (as defined by the instructor), there will be no makeup exams. Please use common sense—if you have a time conflict or other problem, please see me and we can make alternate arrangements in advance. Don’t let a small problem snowball into a big one!
**Other Class Policies:**

- Please be courteous and professional. There will be opportunities for class discussions in which you may disagree with what you hear from other students. An environment of mutual respect is important and will be expected at all times.
- Be ready to work when class starts. If you absolutely must come in late or leave early, please sit close to the door. Coming to class persistently late is disruptive—repeat offenders may find themselves locked out!
- All written assignments should be neat and legible; portfolio submissions should be proofread. All submitted work to be graded is due at the start of class on the due date; unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor, late assignments will be subject to a 20% per 24 hours discount.
- Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. This includes sharing answers on an exam, or plagiarizing an assignment. If (when?) you are caught, you will receive at minimum a zero on that assignment or exam; additional penalties include failing the course and University-level sanctions. Refer to [http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies](http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies) for additional details on the UWG Honor Code and other relevant policy information.
- Recording devices should not be used without the prior consent of the instructor.

**Class Schedule:**
The following is a general outline of topics to be covered in this course; the precise ordering and emphasis of certain topics may be impacted by current events and/or general interest.

**Unit One – Foundations of Environmental Geology**
- Introduction & Fundamental Concepts (Chapter 1)
- Internal Structure of the Earth & Plate Tectonics (Chapter 2)
- Earth Materials (Chapter 3)
- Ecology & Geology (Chapter 4)

**Unit Two – Earth Processes & Natural Hazards**
- Introduction to Natural Hazards (Chapter 5)
- Earthquakes & Tsunami (Chapters 6, 7)
- Volcanoes (Chapter 8)
- Rivers & Flooding (Chapter 9)
- Mass Wasting (Chapter 10)
- Coastal Processes (Chapter 11)

**Unit Three – Resources & Pollution**
- Water (Chapters 13, 14)
- Mineral (Chapter 15)
- Energy (Chapter 16)
- Climate Change (Chapter 18)

The final instruction period for this course will be **Tuesday, December 9th** from 11:00 – 1:30.