Course Syllabus, Geology 101, Tu-Th lecture, Fall 2014

INTRODUCTION TO THE EARTH

Instructor: Dr. Scott White (a.k.a. “Prof”)
Office: Earth & Water Sciences Building, Rm 314
Office Hours: Mon/Tues 1:15-2:30p and other times by appointment
E-mail: swhite @ geol.sc.edu [include Geo 101 in subject line]

Lab Coordinator: Mr. Tyler Evans (Ph.D. Candidate in Geological Sciences)
Office: Earth & Water Sciences Building, 3rd Floor
Office Hours: By Appointment E-mail: tevans @ geol.sc.edu

Lectures: T, Th 11:40-12:55
Lecture Room: BTW 201 (Booker T. Washington Auditorium)

Grading
Midterm Exams 25% + SmartWork 20% + Lab assignments and tests 35% + Final Exam 20%
NB: Exams are scaled so that the highest score earned by a student for that exam is 100%.
i>clickers are the only extra-credit offered in this course, see below.

Labs: This is a lab science credit course, and attendance at labs is mandatory. You must attend the lab for which you registered. Failure to complete 3 or more labs during the semester for any reason (including excused absences) will result in an automatic F grade for the entire course. Please see your Lab Syllabus for additional information.

Exams: There will be 2 mid-term exams and a cumulative final exam. Exams will be given in multiple-choice format.
Midterm 1: in class, check course schedule in SmartWork or BlackBoard
Midterm 2: in class, check course schedule in SmartWork or BlackBoard
Final Exam: December 9 at 12:30pm as scheduled by Registrar. No exceptions.

Required Materials
Access to on-line learning environment, Smart Work.
Enrollment key: ESSGEO4E6625
S. Marshak, Essentials of Geology, 4e W. W. Norton Publ.
i>clicker student response system
Lab Manual in Physical Geology, AGI

Important Dates
Aug. 27 (Weds) Last day to drop/add without a grade of “W” being recorded
Sept. 1 (Mon) Labor Day - no classes
Oct. 9 Last day to without a grade of “WF” being recorded
Oct. 23-34 Fall break - no classes
Nov. 1 -29 Prof. Camelia Knapp substituting for Prof. White (out at sea)
Nov 4 (Tues) Election Day – no classes
Nov. 26-30 Thanksgiving - no classes
Dec. 5 Last day of classes
Dec. 9 12:30pm Final Exam
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Make-up Policy: There is a “no excused absences” policy. Students who are absent from any exam or lab will be given 0 points for that activity if they have not offered a written excuse acceptable to the instructor, and made special arrangements to make up the work. It is the student’s responsibility to provide the proper documentation in a timely manner as defined for approved and medical absences below.

with prior written confirmation only for students engaged in approved university sponsored activities (excuses not accepted after the event):
  • participation in an authorized University activity (such as musical performances, academic competitions, or varsity athletic events in which the student plays a formal role in a University sanctioned event)
  • required participation in military duties or jury duty
with subsequent written confirmation only with a signed and dated note by a physician on a prescription pad for an illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
The instructor reserves the right to decide whether any excuse is acceptable, including those listed above. An excused absence is not a guarantee that any missed assignment can be completed late for credit.

Extra Credit: Opportunity for extra credit will be offered only during lectures and only via the i>Clicker response system. Students using i>clickers to respond to multiple choice questions during class will receive 1 point of extra credit for class participation (answering all questions) per lecture with at least 50% correct answers. Total extra credit offered will add 6% to the overall course grade. You must bring your i>Clicker to class in order to earn extra points.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course introduces the science of the Earth, with emphasis on natural resources and hazards, geologic processes, earth structure and history through time, and global climate change. Students will develop an appreciation for the importance of natural resources to human societies. Upon completion of this course, students should:
  1. Describe the components and relationships of the Rock Cycle.
  2. Describe the components of the Hydrologic Cycle and the flow of water.
  3. Enumerate the principles of the Scientific Method.
  4. Describe the typical hazards to human life and property in different geologic settings.
  5. Identify ways that humans have an impact on the Earth, and the range of natural variability in global climate change.