

**ES473 ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Spring 2012 Term - Western Oregon University
4 CR TR 3:00 – 4:50 PM Natural Sciences Bldg, Rm 218

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. S. Taylor
OFFICE HOURS: T,R 1-3 PM
By Appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an upper division introduction to environmental geology. The emphasis is placed on the technical aspects of human interaction with near-surface environments of the Earth. The range of topics include an overview of environmental and land-use regulations, geomorphic hazards (soil erosion, flooding, mass wasting, landslide, debris flow, coastal erosion), tectonic hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, ground disturbance, volcanic eruptions), water resource issues (source, supply and quality), engineering geology, mining impacts, and waste management.

THE PROFESSOR'S PHILOSOPHY ON UPPER DIVISION EARTH SCIENCE / GEOLOGY COURSES:

The upper division Earth Science / Geology course sequence is designed for students who are willing to work hard, play hard, have fun, and learn in-depth skills / concepts in a professional academic setting. By default, our student population is very diverse with a wide array of skills, interests, and career goals. The student population ranges from serious Earth Science majors with focused career objectives, to Earth Science minors to Science Education majors. As such, the professor is charged with serving a diverse array of student interests and career goals in the most professional manner possible. The problem-solving and technical skills acquired via training in the Earth Sciences are highly valuable (and marketable), regardless of career track. Students are expected to actively participate in the learning process and make a significant contribution to the academic integrity of the Earth Science program at Western Oregon University. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide graduates with the academic skills that will enable them to be highly competitive in graduate school or the career marketplace. *GO TEAM!*

TEXT:

Keller, E.A., 2011, Environmental Geology, 9th Ed., Prentice Hall, 624 p., ISBN-10: 0321643755

ADDITIONAL READING:

Journal and assorted text readings to be provided by the instructor on an as-needed basis.

CLASS NOTES:

A comprehensive set of instructor class notes are available for download via the internet. The class web site is at URL <http://www.wou.edu/taylor> ... and follow the links to the "ES473 Environmental Geology" home page. The class notes, lab exercises, answer keys, and study guides are available as Adobe Acrobat Reader files (*.pdf file). Acrobat Reader is free and is installed on many campus PC's. Based on prior student suggestions, I have assembled my class notes and made them available. These notes may be freely printed at any campus internet station (e.g. ITC Bldg - Student Lab, Library, local department computer labs). The notes are in outline form and are very comprehensive. "Exam Study Guides" will also be posted on the web site as the term progresses. **Class notes for the days lecture are to be printed in hard-copy form, compiled in a three-ring binder, and brought to lecture each day. There are short-problems, diagrams, and notes that will be used on a regular basis. Moral of story: print out your notes a head of time!**

FIELD TRIPS AND GUEST LECTURES:

Local field trips and special guest lectures will be scheduled during the term, as time permits. Please be aware that additional scheduling and personal time will be required as the course develops. Field trip and guest lecture attendance is mandatory, however alternative assignments can be arranged on an as needed basis for students with irreconcilable time conflicts. **Storal of Morey: Field trips and guest lectures will require additional time outside of the scheduled class period.**

EVALUATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of lab exercises, writing assignments, and two (2) exams. The following is a breakdown of evaluation points and letter grades:

| | | |
|---|---------|------|
| Class/Lab Exercises (Midterm + Final Lab Portfolio) | 125 pts | 36% |
| Midterm Exam | 100 pts | 28% |
| Final Exam | 125 pts | 36% |
| <hr/> | | |
| | 350 pts | 100% |

Final Grading Scale

| Percent Range of Total Points | Letter Grade | Percent Range of Total Points | Letter Grade |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 94-100% | A | 77-79% | C+ |
| 90-94% | A- | 73-76% | C |
| 87-89% | B+ | 70-72% | C- |
| 83-86% | B | 67-69% | D+ |
| 80-82% | B- | 63-66% | D |
| | | 60-62% | D- |
| | | <60% | F |

Exams: Exams will be administered at evenly spaced increments throughout the term; the final will be 20% comprehensive with test material drawn from throughout the term. Exams will largely consist of essay questions and homework-type problems. *Warning: the exams are very comprehensive and will likely require a full 2+ hours to complete, please plan accordingly.*

SPECIAL NOTE ON EXAM ANSWERS: **Never** use “etc.” in an essay or short answer on an exam. This means nothing in terms of demonstrating your content knowledge. Sketches and drawings help support your written word.

Make-Up Exams: Under **NO** circumstances will make-up exams be administered without prior arrangement (at least five days) and good reason. Please show up on exam day!

Class and Lab Assignments: Class and lab assignments will be worked **BOTH** during class time and outside of class time each week. You will have lab, reading, and homework assignments that **may** take up to 3 or 4 hours to complete outside of class time, maybe more in some cases, depending on your skill levels and ability. Please plan your schedule accordingly. Due dates for class exercises will be prescribed by the instructor. Late work will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date, but will be automatically assessed a penalty of -20% off the point total.

Due to the volume of students assigned to the instructor each term, he will not be able to grade the lab exercise work in detail. The homework and lab assignments will be checked for completeness, with questions randomly chosen for content and accuracy. Grade points will be assigned on the basis of these two criteria. Exercise answer keys will be posted on the class web site by the instructor. **It is your responsibility to: (1) check your work against the lab / homework keys, (2) make sure you understand how to complete the exercises, (3) find help if you have trouble with lab exercises, and (4) study / learn the exercise skills and material for the exams.**

A Note About Incompletes: No incomplete grades will be given during the last week of class. If you have a problem that warrants an incomplete, make arrangements prior to the last week (no exceptions!!).

Writing Assignments: Students are required to write a 500-800 word (~1-2 typed pages) summary for a series of field trips, speaker topics and journal articles that will be assigned. This exercise is designed to enhance the writing skills of students. The general format should include: (1) Introduction to the Problem / Issue, (2) Summary of Main Points, (3) Final Discussion of the Relevance of the Presentation / Field Trip to Environmental Issues in the State of Oregon, (4) References Cited, and (5) pertinent figures and tables (items 4 and 5 are in addition to the 1-2 type-written pages).

A variety of student writing guides are available on the class web site. The summaries should be neatly word-processed, double spaced, with 1 inch margins, and checked for spelling errors with a "spell checker" tool. *Miss-spelled* words will not be tolerated. Save your word-processing files as you may be required to modify and edit the summaries.

LAB EXERCISE PORTFOLIO: The lab exercises represent a significant component of the class. Exercises are based on scientific observation, data analysis, and problem solving. Students will compile a Lab Portfolio consisting of a well-organized 3-ring binder with completed lab exercises. Students will complete approximately one (1) long-format lab exercise per week of the term, and multiple short-format "in-class" exercises. At the beginning of the term obtain a 2.5-inch thick three-ring binder with "see-through" plastic slip cover. Also include tab-separation sheets (three-hole punched), with stick-out tabs that can be clearly labeled. Create a professional-looking binder cover and insert it into the plastic slip cover.

Lab entries will be checked for completeness at the prescribed due date. A check-list will be maintained to reward those students who are responsibly completing the assignment on time. It is important to complete assignments on schedule, as the assignments are designed to help students understand lecture concepts and aid in successfully passing the exams. Lab Portfolio Part 1 will be submitted for comprehensive review and grading at the mid-term (this will include all labs and assignments completed prior to the mid-term exam). Lab Portfolio Part 2 will be submitted for comprehensive review during finals week (this will include all labs and assignments completed during the term).

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students will also need access to a scientific calculator, ruler, protractor, and desktop computer. You will be required to use these materials during lecture, lab, and exams. The Natural Sciences Computer Lab will be available for student use during class time and at other times during the day. Weekend use of the computer lab is possible, with prior arrangement.

STUDENT HONOR POLICY:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes copying others work and using cheat sheets on exams. However, students are encouraged to interact in small groups during class assignments, i.e. you can freely discuss concepts in all portions of the class, except exams.

A NOTE ABOUT LAB EXERCISES:

Lab exercises will be quantitative in nature with an expectation that students have or will develop skills in the areas of applied algebra and trigonometry. Students will learn computer applications with emphasis on data analysis and problem solving in the Earth sciences. As such, lab exercises will require an additional time commitment outside of the scheduled weekly meeting (i.e. you will have "homework" and "projects" to work on outside of the scheduled class time).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Any student who has a disability that requires accommodation, please make an appointment to see me.

A NOTE ABOUT THE LAST WEEK OF CLASS:

Given that the Oregon University System employs the "quarter method" of academic scheduling, upper division courses are by nature "compressed" with much detailed information to cover in a relatively short period of time. Please note that most upper division text books are geared for courses at universities with a 16 week semester system (i.e. we are truly trying to pack 10 pounds of contaminated dirt in a 5 pound bag). As such, the 10th week of class is as critical to content coverage as the 1st week. Students should anticipate a full slate of "normal" activities during the last week of class, including lectures, lab exercises, written reports, etc. The class is not over until after the final exam! **Plan your schedule accordingly!**

CHANGE OF SYLLABUS - POP QUIZZES - UNANNOUNCED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and class schedule at any time during the term. Students will be notified of such changes in a timely manner. The instructor also reserves the right to administer pop-quizzes and assign unscheduled homework / class assignments at any time. All students will be responsible for completing this work and it will comprise part of the final class grade.

INSTRUCTOR TIMELINE FOR GRADING EXAMS AND LAB MATERIALS:

The instructor's class grades are due the Tuesday after final's week. All exams, lab materials, and assignments submitted by students throughout the term will be graded by that time, however the professor will make an effort to return graded materials within two weeks of the assigned due date.

A NOTE ABOUT LOST OR MISSING WORK:

The instructor will only grade work that is received and physically visible. Any missing work (lab assignments, homework, quiz/test answer sheets) will receive a "0" on the grade sheet. This policy applies to work lost by the student or instructor. If the student demonstrates that the work was turned in, but is missing due to instructor's error, then the student will be afforded an opportunity to make up the work and resubmit it for graded credit. Otherwise, the student will not receive credit for lost or missing work. In general, the instructor's assignment philosophy is: "turning something in, late or otherwise, is better than nothing at all", "better late than never", "something is worth more than nothing", "it's never too late to get your work done... right Bill?".

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: This outline should be considered tentative at best. The following schedule may be modified as class ideas evolve throughout the term. ***NOTE: The class assignment list is tentative and a work in progress, others TBD.***

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Class Content</u> | <u>Text Reading</u> | <u>Lab / Class Assignments</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Apr 3 Apr 5 | Class Policies, Introduction Introduction (Cont.); Overview | Keller, Ch. 1, 5 | Intro. to Quant. Apps. Intro. Video <i>OR Hazards Summary 1</i> |
| 2 | Apr 10 Apr 12 | Surface Processes, Mass Wasting Landslide Hazards, Intro to LIDAR Mapping | Keller Ch. 6, 7 | Landslide Video, Landslide Hazards Lab |
| 3 | Apr 17 | Guest Speaker: Jennifer Bauer, President Assoc. Engineering Geologists: “Landslide Mapping and Hazards Assessment” | Journal Article(s) | <i>Bauer Lecture Summary 2</i> |
| | Apr 19 | Rivers-Flood Hazards | Keller Ch. 10 | Flood Video/Hazards Lab |
| 4 | Apr 24 Apr 26 | Rivers-Flood Hazards (Cont.) Tectonic/Seismic Hazards | Keller, Ch. 8 | Earthquake Video Seismic Hazards Lab |
| 5 | May 1 May 3 | Tectonic / Seismic Hazards (Cont.) Volcanic Hazards | Keller Ch. 9 Journal Article(s) | Volcano Video Volcano Hazards Lab |
| Monday | May 7 | Guest Lecture: Dr. Scott Burns, Portland State University, “Engineering Geology Challenges on the Cascadia Margin, Pacific Northwest, USA”, 2012 Distinguished Jahns Lecture in Engineering Geology, Geological Society of America 4 PM, Location TBD. | | |
| 6 | May 8 | Midterm Exam; Midterm Lab Portfolios Due | | |
| | May 10 | Field Trip to Coffin Butte Landfill (Lv WOU 2:30 PM) | Instructor Field Guide | <i>Burns Lecture Summary 3</i> <i>Landfill Summary 4</i> |
| 7 | May 15 | Field Trip AEG-PSU Student Night: OR Assoc. of Env. and Engineering Geologists; Social, Dinner, and Scientific Presentations; Starts at 5:30 PM; LV WOU at 4:00 PM | SEG Abstracts Journal Article(s) | <i>SEG Poster Summary 5</i> Landfill Planning Lab |
| | May 17 | Waste Management Issues (Cont.) | Keller Ch 13,17 | Landfill Lab (Cont.) |
| Saturday | May 19 | 1-day field trip to Upper Nehalem Watershed, Content Focus on Watershed Assessment and River Restoration; Departs WOU ~7:30 AM, returns ~7:00 PM. Student van driver(s) needed. | | |
| 8 | May 22 | Watershed Restoration (Cont.) | Keller Ch 12 Journal Article(s) | <i>Nehalem Trip Summary 6</i> |
| | May 24 | Intro to Groundwater | Keller Ch 13 Journal Article(s) | Groundwater Video, Groundwater Problems |
| 9 | May 29 | Field Trip to Monmouth-Independence-Dallas Area (Lv WOU 2:30 PM) | Instructor Field Guide | <i>Monmouth Summary 7</i> Groundwater Prob. (cont.) |
| | May 31 | Field Trip to WOU Academic Showcase | | |
| 10 | June 5 June 7 | Regional Hydrogeology of Willamette Valley Groundwater Contamination and Remediation | Journal Article(s) | Groundwater Assessment/ Contamination Lab |
| 11 | Week of June 11 | Final Exam, final lab portfolios due, check schedule, | | |