



GEOL E103 SYLLABUS FALL 2010

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Communication: Communication with students will be done through USC's Blackboard. **You should check your USC email daily if possible.** It is recommended that you keep your phone number current in the Online Directory, which can be updated in VIP.

Field Trip Status (After 3:30 PM if weather is questionable): 777-9446

Snow/Storm Closings: Any class cancellation will be posted on <http://www.sc.edu/>.

Meeting Times: M 5:30-6:45 PM, W 5:30-8:45 PM. We may go a few minutes longer on the night of the Congaree field trip.

Meeting Place: Class & Lab - 209 EWSC. Off-campus field trips will depart from the front of Green Quad A. Free parking is available on the top level of the Sumter Street Garage (across Wheat from Green Quad) after 5 PM. Instructions for on-campus field trips will be given in class. Since we usually end after dark, please study the USC Campus and Call Box Map and use caution when you depart from the building or bus.

Office Hours: I will be available after every class.

Text: Introduction to Environmental Geology, 4th Edition, Edward A. Keller, Pearson, 2009, ISBN: 978-0321691989 (looseleaf version)

Classes: Classes will consist of lectures and discussion, including current environmental concerns. Students should feel free to make additions or ask questions.

Cell Phones: Cell phone usage is permitted on the field trip bus rides, but phones should be kept off at other times unless you have received my permission to keep yours on because of an emergency. It is a good idea to have the numbers of a few classmates so that you can contact them if you are delayed getting to a field trip bus.

Materials:

- Flashlight (at least 2 C cells, **not lantern type**) with fresh batteries
 - 2 rubberbands
 - insect repellent (if weather is warm for Congaree trip)
 - #2 pencils for tests
 - Business envelope and postage stamp (if you choose to write a letter)
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CLASS REQUIREMENTS**Participation:**

- **IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTEND ALL FIELD TRIPS AND LABS.**
- A beginning grade of 50 will be assigned to each student.
- Three points will be deducted each time one of the first three Discussion Board entry (described in Assignments) is not posted by the deadline. Five points will be deducted if the final entry is late. (See the Course Calendar for the due dates.)
- If you miss more than one activity (lab, visiting lecturer, or field trip) without an excuse, you will lose 10 participation points for each additional activity missed, as well as the points for the activity.
- If you miss more than four lectures days without an excuse, you will lose 5 points for each additional missed class.
- Absences will be excused for medical problems, family deaths or critical illnesses, jury duty, participation in official USC activities such as athletic teams or musical organizations, induction into honorary organizations, or other special circumstances. A note will be required for illnesses.
- Up to 20 points may also be deducted for habitual tardiness or leaving early, rude behavior, or failure to participate in discussions.
- Up to 20 points may be deducted for failure to do your share in your group.
- Discussion will include notable current events. Students should familiarize themselves with these through their preferred news source.

Assignments:

- **Class Assignments:**
 - Read the corresponding material listed under Assignments in Blackboard **before class.**
 - Introductory Assignment -details on extra page
 - Group Internet Research Project -details on extra page
 - Group Project Peer Evaluation -Details in Blackboard
 - Action letter -details on extra page OR Service Project -details on extra page
 - Respond to four Discussion Board topics in Blackboard, including the topic required for the Introductory Assignment and the special topics to be answered close to the end of the course. **Deadlines for the responses are listed in the Course Calendar**
- There will be a report for each lab, visiting speaker, and each trip except Congaree National Park. The content of each report is detailed in the assignment description in Blackboard. These must be submitted as a Word or Rich Text document.
- **Reports are due one week after the lab or trip on Wednesday night.**
- **Instructions for make-ups for excused absences from labs, speakers, and trips are listed under Labs and Trips.**
- Except in the case of an excused absence, **no work submitted through Blackboard will be accepted after the due date specified in the calendar!**
- I will not accept any assignments until the Introductory Assignment has been completed and turned in.
- IF you have an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** (e.g. illness, death in the family) I will accept assignments late, including assignments that should be turned in via Blackboard. The time limit will depend on the nature and extent of your absence. Unless I state otherwise, the time limit will be one week beyond the due date.
- All assignments except the letter must be typed **double-spaced in 10 point Times New Roman or Arial** and submitted through Blackboard as a **MS Word or Rich Text Format document. Your name should be the first part of the filename.** For example, JohnDoeIntroAssign.doc or JaneDoeActionLab.docx. The letter should be in standard business format.
- If you want comments on you letter, you should submit a copy through Blackboard.
- Any document submitted in MS Word may be returned by Blackboard with comments in it. Instructions for viewing comments are in Technical Notes. Students who use MS Works or Word Perfect on a Windows system may download a MS Word viewer at:
<http://office.microsoft.com/downloads/2000/wd97vwr32.aspx> Free MS Word Viewer. Students who do not have a word processing program can download OpenOffice free at OpenOffice <http://www.openoffice.org>. Versions are available for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Groups: You will do some work with a group of 3-6 students. Each group will have their own area on Blackboard. You will be expected to complete a group project. You will be asked to evaluate the contribution of other members of the group. Your comments will remain confidential. Poor evaluation by your peers will affect your participation grade. Students will be able to choose group members.

Extra Credit: You may earn up to 25 points of Extra Credit. Details are in another page. Extra credit work should be sent through Blackboard. The only exceptions are a note proving you have participated in a clean-up or an action letter.

Labs and Trips:

- All lab assignments are posted in the Labs section of Blackboard.
- The schedule of labs is posted in the calendar, but it may be changed.
- **It is your responsibility to check the lab description before lab and print any documents listed.**
- Some labs and all trips will involve walking.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- There are special instructions for the Congaree National Park trip in another page.
- Labs may be held during class time on Mondays.
- Lab reports must be submitted as a Word or Rich Text document using the Labs section of Blackboard.
- For the field trips (except the trips on campus), we will travel by bus.
- Because of security and/or parking restrictions at some sites, students will not be able to follow the bus in their own cars unless special arrangements have been made.
- When we visit the West Columbia Water Treatment Plant we will arrange a pick up location for students working or residing in the Lexington vicinity.
- **The bus will leave from the front of Green Quad A PROMPTLY AT 5:30 PM!**
- Traffic can be heavy at that time, so plan to arrive a little early.
- If the weather is questionable, please call 777-9446 after 3:30 PM. If a trip is postponed because of heavy rain, we will meet in the classroom.
- **Smoking will not be allowed on trips.**
- For trips on the USC campus, meeting-place instructions will be given in class.
- The **USC Biomass Facility** is located at the corner of Sumter and Whaley.
- **Lab or Trip Make-ups:** If you have an **excused** absence, you may make these up by researching a related topic on the web or in a magazine and writing a summary, including your opinions on the topic. The report should be a **double-spaced 10 point Times New Roman or Arial** word document. The length of the paper will be **two pages for every 5 points value of the lab or trip**. Put the **date** of the missed lab on the paper. (For an on-campus 15 point trip, this would be 6 pages.) Turn it in through the assignment in the Labs section of Blackboard **using your name as part of the filename**. Except in the case of prolonged absence, the make-up **must** be turned in within one week beyond the due date of the missed lab or trip.

Current Events: We will frequently discuss current issues in class and there will be discussions about them in the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Details are in another page.

EXAMS

Exams: Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice items to be answered on a computer scan sheet. **It is your responsibility to bring sufficient #2 pencils and erasers.** Test items will come from class notes, reading assignments, discussion of current events, visiting speakers, and from basic concepts from field trips. A review will be posted on Blackboard before each exam. It will include all numerical facts you are expected to learn. There is no penalty for guessing. It may be helpful to read <http://caps.unc.edu/TestTake.html> test-taking strategies. **The exams must be taken at the assigned time.**

Sample Test Questions:

1. Pollution is best defined as
 - a. a change in the resource that makes it toxic
 - b. a change in the availability of a resource
 - c. any undesirable change in a resource
 - d. a large amount of a substance released into the environment
 2. Which of the following categories is increasing in surface area each year?
 - a. desert
 - b. forest
 - c. grasslands
 - d. wetlands
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GRADING SCALE

Source	Maximum Points
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Field trips(7)	155
Labs and Speakers(10)	105
Introductory Exercise	20
Letter/Service Project	30
Group Project	50
Group Project Peer Evaluation	5
Participation	35
Total	600

551=A, 526=B+, 501=B, 476=C+, 451=C, 426=D+, 401=D

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To have the students learn and understand the basic components of the Earth's environment and how they are interrelated
- To have the students learn and understand basic environmental issues facing the Earth
- To have the students learn and understand the importance of sustaining the Earth
- To have the students learn and understand how science is used to study the environment
- To have the students learn and understand how their actions can affect the environment
- To have the students learn to act on issues that concern them
- To have the students appreciate the environment
- To have the students appreciate and respect different people's perspectives

COURSE TOPICS

- Introduction and Human Population
 - Plate Tectonics
 - Minerals and Rocks
 - Ecology and Geology
 - Natural Hazards
 - Earthquakes
 - Volcanoes
 - Rivers
 - Slope Processes
 - Coastal Processes
 - Water
 - Water Pollution
 - Mineral Resources
 - Energy
 - Soil
 - Waste
 - Air and Air Pollution
 - Global Climate Change
 - Health and Sustainability
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