

SYLLABUS

GEOL/MSCI-583 (3 cred hrs), GEOI 801 (2 cred hrs)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Art Cohen (7-4502/cohen@geol.sc.edu)

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The topic for this year's course will be "*Anthropogenic Impacts on The Coastal Environments of South Florida*". The class will meet once per week in seminar format and will include a one-week field trip to the Everglades and Florida Keys.

TEXT:

None- Readings may be obtained from the Internet, the library, or from reference collection of the instructor

COURSE GOALS:

The purpose of this course will be to expose students to a variety of topics related to the coastal environments of South Florida, with emphasis on human impacts. Topics might fall within a wide range of fields (including, but not limited to, environmental pollution of mainland or Florida Bay, introduction of invasive plants or animals, land use changes, effects of climate change, effects of sea level changes, hydrologic and geologic characteristics of the surface or subsurface, etc.)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course the student should have obtained a broader understanding of: (1) the types of natural and anthropogenic impacts that can affect changes in the coastal environments of South Florida; (2) the ecological and geological characteristics of carbonate and peat-forming environments that occur in the Everglades and Florida Keys, and (3) the paleoecological history of the Everglades and Florida Keys.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

Each student will research, prepare and deliver a Powerpoint or overhead presentation on some subject related to the course topic (no less than 40 minutes for the presentation plus 15-20 minutes of discussion). The topic of each student's presentation will be determined by prior consultation with the instructor. Each presentation will include handouts to the other students (i.e., objectives, methods, results, key figures, conclusions, and a list of references cited).

GRADES:

Your final grade will be determined from the following four accomplishments:

- 1. Content & Clarity of Presentation:** Demonstration during the student's presentation that he/she has put a significant effort into researching his/her selected topic
- 2. Class Participation:** Attendance and participation in class discussion during the presentations by your classmates
- 3. Field Participation:** Enthusiasm and level of participation shown by the student during field activities in the Everglades and Florida Keys
- 4. Field Notes:** Accuracy and content of field notes that you will be required to turn in at the conclusion of field trip