

**GEOL110 – Cultural Geology
Spring Semester 2012**

CLASS TIME: MWF 1:25-2:15, PSC 002
INSTRUCTOR: Robert Trenkamp, 777-2419, trenkamp@geol.sc.edu, EWSC 205
Office Hours: MWF, 12:00-1:20
ASSISTANT: Bin Fang, 777-6823, bfang@geol.sc.edu, EWSC 411
Office Hours: TBA

TEXTBOOK: none, but an iClicker is **REQUIRED**, available at the bookstores

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Make informed decisions about geological and environmental issues that impact daily life.
- Understand the role of geology and geologist in the development of energy resources.
- Understand how scientific data is used to assess global climate change
- Be aware of the roll scientific data plays in personal and public policy decisions.

Course Grading:

Quizzes, dates TBD	75 points
iClicker participation/attendance	15 points
Geology in the News Scrapbook	15 points

That adds to 105 points. Anyone receiving 90 points or higher in the course will get an **A**. Anyone getting 80-89 points in the course will get no worse than a **B**, and so on. Exact grade boundaries are determined by distribution of scores in the class.

iClicker questions will be given in every lecture. You get 50% if you just try to answer and 50% for answering correctly. Your percentage score on the iClicker portion of the course will be multiplied by 10 to determine your course points for the iClicker.

There will also be occasional bonus point opportunities. These points will be added to your score before your grade is determined.

As per University Policy, there is no such thing as an “excused absence” from class. If you must miss class, you will need to get any material or announcements from a classmate. If you have a reasonable, documented, reason for an absence on a Quiz date, and you let us know in advance, we will arrange for you to take the quiz early. No-shows or those who notify us late will be able to take the Makeup Quiz during Final Exam period. The Makeup Quiz covers the whole course. The Makeup Quiz can only replace one regular quiz score, so missing more than one quiz will seriously impact your grade.

Topics That Will Be Covered:

Schedule (TBD)

Meteorite Impacts
Energy Use and Resources
Climate Change

Other potential short topics or possible extra credit opportunities (TBA)

Deadly Volcanoes (past and present)
Lore and Lure of Those Valuable Minerals... Diamonds

Approach:

Due to the size of the class, most material will be presented in a lecture format. Occasional videos will supplement the lecture material. However, **Questions and Discussions are highly encouraged!** So, speak up.

The nature of this topic is not covered in one individual textbook. We will distribute some handouts, make many suggestions for readings and Internet investigations, and go over a lot of topics in class. The quizzes will be based on the material presented in class, but you will get the most out of the class if you follow up on the suggested readings from time to time.

Office hours are listed above. Any changes will be posted on Blackboard. In a large class, a lot of people will not be able to visit during scheduled office hours. So, we have an “open door” policy ... if you come by, we’ll talk to you! Call or schedule in advance if you suspect that you might have lengthy questions.

Use of Blackboard

You should all have a blackboard account (<http://blackboard.sc.edu>). Get on to that ASAP. It will be a primary source of communication and information. Many lectures, or summary info, will be posted on Blackboard as well. I will communicate with the class through the email function of Blackboard, so be sure your address is up to date. Because of the class size, I will impose the “**email important, is not important**” policy for students

Use of iClickers

You should buy an iClicker at one of the bookstores **ASAP**. We will begin using them for credit on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. You **MUST** register your iClicker at

<http://www.iclicker.com/registration/>

Use your **BlackBoard username** in the Student ID entry.

The iClicker Remote ID is on the back of the clicker.

DAYS YOU SHOULD BE ELSEWHERE...

Monday January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day
March 4 – 11, 2012	Spring Break

Other Important Dates:

Friday January 13, 2012	Last day drop without W
Monday February 27, 2012	Last day drop without WF
Monday April 23, 2012	Last day of class and last quiz
Thursday April 26, 2012	Make-up Quiz @ 2:00PM