

concepts based on prior experience. These are two objectives of your liberal arts and sciences experience here at the College of Charleston.

This is a “big idea” course. You will learn information specifically relating to four main themes:

1. Basic concepts and principles of environmental geology, with focus on Earth processes, sustainability, and climate change
2. Introduction to the scientific method
3. Interrelationship between natural hazards and geological environment and how you will be well prepared to make decisions when encountering geological hazards in your personal or professional lives
4. Help develop an appreciation for environmental resources, pollution, and their management

4 Course Objectives

1) a basic understanding of geological processes, natural hazards, and human-Earth interactions; 2) an understanding of the limitations of Earth’s resources; 3) an understanding of the science of important environmental issues facing today’s global population; and 4) recognition of how the scientific process works.

5 Course Structure

The course structure is shown in Figure 1. While, we will strive to cover most of these topics, the structure is “fluid” and might change based on your interests. Much of the class time during “lectures” will be devoted to introduction of the concepts and to discussions. Consequently, you must come to class prepared by reading the pre-assigned book chapters and working the assigned exercises. This way, you will be a full partner in the learning enterprise - class attendance is an important part of the process. Since, several of you may not have opportunities to speak in class, there will be a discussion forum within the “OAKS” where you are required to participate in discussions. This is mandatory and I will

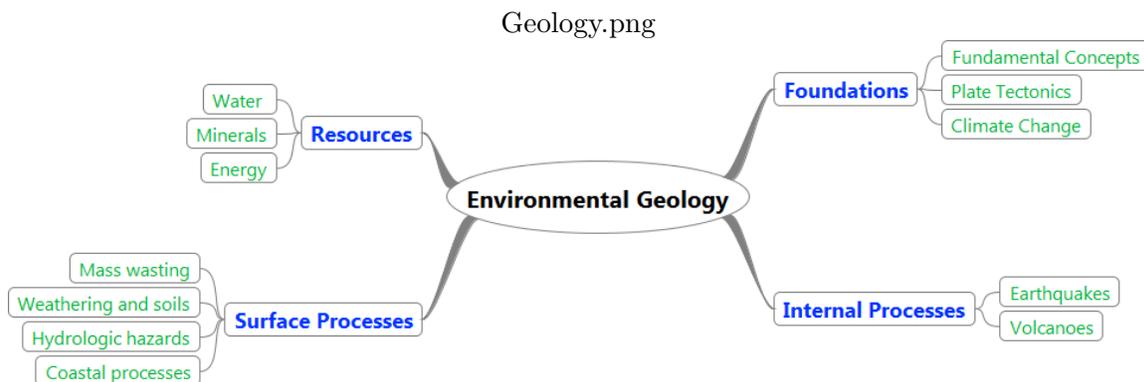


Figure 1: Course Structure

assess your participation grade based on how frequently you post and how substantiative your posts are.

6 Tentative Class Schedule

Wk.	Date	Lecture Topic	Chap.	Events and Deadlines
1	8/25-8/27	Introduction	1	
2	8/30-9/3	Introduction & Plate Tectonics	1, 2	
3	9/6-9/10	Plate Tectonics & Rocks	2, 3	
4	9/13-9/17	Rocks & Climate Change	3, 19	
5	9/20-9/24	Climate Change	19	Mid-term 1 on 9/24
6	9/27-10/1	Natural Hazards	5	
7	10/4-10/8	Natural Hazards & Earthquakes	5, 6	
8	10/13-10/15	Earthquakes & Volcanoes	6, 7	10/11-12 - Fall Break
9	10/18-10/22	Volcanoes & Rivers	7, 8	
10	10/25-10/29	Rivers & Coasts	8, 10	
11	11/1-11/5	Coasts	10	Mid-term 2 on 11/5
12	11/8-11/12	Water Resources	12	
13	11/15-11/19	Water Pollution	13	
14	11/22	Water Pollution	13	11/24-11/28 - Thanksgiving
15	11/29-12/3	Mineral & Energy Resources	14, 15	Research paper due on 12/3
16	12/6			Last day of classes
17	12/8	Final Exam, 8-11 h		

7 Assessment

You performance in this course will be assessed based on your understanding of various environmental and geological concepts and applications. This will involve a combination of:

Quizzes and homeworks	20%	Class and online discussions	10%
2 Mid-term exams	40%	Final Exam	30%
		Extra-credit (Research paper and blog article)	5%
Total Possible Points			105%

There will be a 2-5 question quiz in every class - if you miss class for any reason, there will not be a way to make up for the quizzes. You'll take these quizzes during the lecture using your i>clicker receiver. The quiz questions are designed to gage your understanding of concepts, assess your participation, and track your class attendance. All assignments and homeworks have to be in MS Word format (preferably in PC format). If you do not have MS Office on your computer, consider signing up for a free online MS Office account at <http://office.live.com/>. You can create and share common Office documents at this site and share them with me. When you signup, you should use your Edisto email account

so I know who the document's from. (See me if you need help setting up an account on this site or how to share this document with me.) Keep track of deadlines. For each day you're late submitting an assignment, I will deduct 20% of your score from that assignment. In other words, if your assignment is 5 days late, it will be worth 0 points!

If you like to earn extra credit of up to 5% over and above your overall grade, you can work on a research topic related to environmental geology and write a 1000-word report and a 200-word blog article (both emailed to me in MS Word format) to be posted on my blog (<http://blogs.cofc.edu/vulavav/>) for everyone to see and comment. Your research topics can be wide ranging - leaf through the entire textbook or current events around the world for ideas. You will also be given advance notice of approximately 1 week for your 5-minute class presentation about your research. See me before you start working on the topic.

The grade you earn by the end of the semester will be based on this scale.

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	< 60
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

8 How to do well in this course

Based on successful performance of students in past semesters, you should expect to spend four to seven hours per week working outside of class. Students who are not committed to spending that kind of time studying and preparing for class should expect to struggle. It is important to note that time alone does not automatically ensure success - the kind of time you devote to studying and how you approach the endeavor may be just as critical. Here are a few tips:

- Find a quiet spot to study. The upper floors of the CofC library and the public library on Calhoun Street are all good places for studying. Bad places for studying: in front of the TV, Kickin' Chicken, the Washout, etc. These places are great for other things; be sure to make time to enjoy them after putting in some quality study time.
- Time management both while studying and while answering quizzes and exams is important.
- Answering multiple choice questions: if you're not clear on the correct answer, the key to multiple choice exams is to eliminate the wrong answers, leaving the best possible answer.
- Short answer questions: ALWAYS write something. If you don't know the answer, write something that you do know (as long as it's relevant to the subject matter). I will award partial credit.

The emphasis in this class is the understanding of concepts and your critical thinking skills. Participation in class is also important for doing well. That means asking questions (however simple they may be), answering questions, completing all quizzes, and not falling behind on class material.

If you need additional help with regards to note taking and managing your time for the course work, CofC offers special services through the Center for Student Learning

(<http://csl.cofc.edu/>). These services include tutoring if you need additional help.

8.1 Hints for studying:

- Read assigned chapters BEFORE class, so you can ask questions about anything you do not understand.
- Take notes even if you have the textbook - some material covered in the class may not appear in the text.
- There is no substitute for reading the text. Not all topics from the text will be covered in the class, but expect all topics to show up in quizzes and exams.
- Start a study group with people who will actually study before you get together. Meet once a week and before exams.
- Outline or summarize the week's notes and readings each weekend.
- Use sketches and diagrams to help explain concepts.
- Ask questions! Ask in or before/after class, email me, come to my office, ask your lab instructor, ask your classmates, etc.
- Try to understand concepts and processes, don't just memorize definitions.
- Try to answer questions at back of each chapter - that is a good test of how well you understood the material.
- DON'T CRAM before exams! It rarely works!

9 Your Responsibilities

9.1 Class Participation

Participating in class discussions is expected and will be a factor in evaluating your comprehension of the subject; such participation involves listening carefully and assessing the information presented during class and in the text, and participating in discussions. The minimum level of class participation is class attendance. Missing class will adversely affect your ability to maintain high work standards in other areas of the course. If you do miss a class, you are still responsible for all material covered and assignments given.

An absence rate greater than three unexcused classes will lead to an automatic grade of "WA" (equal to "F".) If you have to miss a test for a legitimate reason, I will arrange a make-up test. You must produce documentation verifying your absence. Examples of legitimate reasons: illness, family funeral, or similar reason beyond your control for which you can provide documentation. The following are NOT legitimate reasons: pressure of other classes or job; vague illnesses (colds, hangovers, etc.); advisor meetings, appointments/duties for other classes, work arrangements; vacations of any type.

9.2 Special Circumstances

If you have special circumstances that I should know about, let me know within the first few weeks of the semester. For example, if you have a diagnosed (or undiagnosed) learning disability, if you have a physical impairment of any kind, or if you are an student athlete or club member who will travel, I need to know at the start of the semester to be certain your

needs can be met. You need not worry about matters of confidentiality in these discussions either - that is assumed on my part. In addition, if you are a student who has problems with writing, taking class notes, or some other classroom skill, there are many resources and programs you can take advantage of that can help improve your class performance. All you have to do is ask, and I will maintain a strict level of confidentiality.

9.3 SNAP and other Special Considerations

If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services (<http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/>), please feel free to come and discuss this with me during my office hours. If you are a student athlete who will miss class time due to travel, you must follow the procedures set out by the College in order to expect due consideration. In both cases, I will not guarantee granting your requests if I have not been given sufficient notice.

9.4 Communication

I will use e-mail through OAKS to contact you throughout the semester, for assignment and exam clarification, changes in class schedule, and other similar reasons. You have all been assigned official “edisto.cofc.edu” e-mail account and you are responsible for checking your e-mail on a daily basis (<http://webmail.cofc.edu/> is the easiest way to check e-mail remotely). Note: If you open a Gmail account, you can set Gmail to retrieve and send emails instead of using the Edisto account. E-mail is also the best way to contact me if you would like a quick response to a question. I will ONLY answer email from your official CofC account due to privacy concerns (aka FERPA). You can setup Gmail to respond as if you were emailing from Edisto account. Consult me if you need help with this.

10 Honor Code

Students are expected to strictly follow the Honor System and the Student Code of Conduct as established by the CofC. See Student Handbook at <http://bit.ly/beXIuo> for guidance. Specifically, I would like you to focus on policies regarding Classroom Disruption and Cheating. Below are some excerpts:

The Student Code of Conduct specifically forbids: “Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, other college activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or other authorized non-college activities when the act occurs on college premises.” See Student Handbook at <http://bit.ly/beXIuo>

The **Classroom Code of Conduct** covers specific principles of civil conduct expected in a college classroom:

- Do not cut classes, come in late or leave early.
- Never leave during class unless you absolutely must. Leaving for a short break and then returning is not acceptable.
- Turn off cell phones (including smartphones), and all other electronic devices including MP3 players, gaming devices, etc.

- No LAPTOP computers - ask me if you need special accommodations
- It is rude and unacceptable to talk with classmates while the professor (or another student who has the floor) is talking.
- Visible and noisy signs of restlessness are rude as well as disruptive to others.

See Student Handbook at <http://bit.ly/beXIuo>

11 CofC's Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are clearly related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed by both the instructor and the student will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment and/or test, no collaboration is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (such as an iPhone or other smartphones), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at <http://bit.ly/beXIuo>.