

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY, 51-150 (4 credits)**  
**Fall 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Maureen Muldoon  
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**Office Hours:**  
Mon: 10:20-12:30  
Wed: 10:20-12:30  
Fri: 10:20-12:30  
Or by appointment

**LECTURE:** 9:10-10:10 a.m MWF in Halsey 106

**LAB INSTRUCTORS:** Maureen Muldoon (Secs 03, 04)  
Christie Demosthenous (Secs 01, 02, 05, 06, 07, 08)  
All labs begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes (week of Sept 14<sup>th</sup>) in room 103 Harrington. See lab syllabus for more information.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

• *Introduction to Environmental Geology*, Edward Keller, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. The textbook website (see first page of text) includes on-line practice quizzes, a study guide that highlights the learning objectives of each chapter, and relevant web links.

• An *eInstruction Classroom Response Pad* (aka 'clicker') is required for this course and may be purchased from the bookstore. In order to enroll your clicker, you'll need internet access, a clicker, our class key (H54828M712), and an activation card/enrollment code. I will hand out individual activation cards in lecture – they allow you to enroll for free, so don't enroll without them. Detailed instructions on how to register your clicker are included in the Course Information section of the D2L site.

• *Environmental Geology Laboratory Manual (Fall 2009 edition)*, by C.W. Fetter. No used or shared manuals allowed.

**ABOUT THIS COURSE:**

***What is Environmental Geology?***

Geology is the science of the Earth including study of the processes related to its composition, structure, and history. It's *not* naming rocks. The study of the Earth is a pretty broad topic and geology draws on our knowledge of physics, chemistry, mathematics, and biology to help us understand Earth processes. Geologists perform a wide variety of tasks such as finding resources, helping clean up environmental messes, mapping geologic hazards, and researching basic Earth processes to gain a better understanding of how the planet works. Environmental Geology is basically applied geology and it focuses on the interaction of geology and humans.

Environmental Geology is a survey course that counts as a Laboratory Science general education course. The course can be divided into four main sections (as is your book) 1) foundations, 2) earth processes and natural hazards, 3) resources and pollution, and 4) environmental management.

***Course Objectives***

At the end of this course you should

- have an appreciation of the unique features of our planet and an understanding of Earth's place in space and time,
- understand how earth processes constantly reshape the face of our planet,
- know how geologic processes create natural hazards for humans and the means by which we can minimize those hazards,
- appreciate that life (including human life) relies on Earth resources for survival and understand how our resource use impacts the planet.

So how will all this knowledge of Earth processes help you later in life? Maybe I'm biased, but I think it's a good idea to know the basics about where you live. In your house (apartment) it is useful to know where the circuit breakers and water shut-off valve are located in case something happens and you need to deal with it. Similarly, it's good to know how earth processes work so that you, as an individual, and as a citizen make reasonable choices about resource use and land-use. Secondly, geology is fun (OK, I am biased) and as you travel around this planet and see different landscapes you'll have a greater appreciation of how they got here.

But equally important to any geologic information that you take away with you is the ability to ask questions, observe patterns, evaluate data, distinguish between observations and interpretations, catalog new information and put it together into a coherent whole – basically figure out how and why something works. This is the underlying basis of any science. Even if you have no intention of being a scientist, these skills are useful and transferable.

## **EXPECTATIONS:**

### ***Workload:***

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) suggests that there is a disconnect between faculty and student expectations in terms of time spent outside the classroom. Most faculty recommend that students spend one to two hours of studying and preparation for *each hour* spent in class. During the next 14 weeks we will cover 14 chapters (approximately 465 pages) in your text. This is a great deal of material and you will need to spend several hours studying per week in order to earn an average or better grade. Do not deceive yourself with the expectation that “100 level courses are supposed to be easier than upper-level courses”. The 100-level designation for this course merely indicates that the student is expected to have minimal prior experience in the subject area – not that there will be any less work involved.

### ***Attendance:***

Lab: Attendance of is required. If you miss your regular lab for any reason, arrange to attend another lab section that same week. See lab syllabus for a schedule of lab sections.

Lecture: Lectures are dedicated to the discussion of key concepts covered in the readings and clarification of these concepts and will include in-class exercises, clicker questions, and occasional quizzes. Your success in the course will be greatly enhanced if you attend every class session.

### ***Excused Absences*** (<http://www.uwosh.edu/stuaff/studenthandbook/ClassAttend.htm>)

Students are excused from class for university events (e.g. athletics, debate trips, and certain music trips) and circumstances beyond the student's control such as extended illness, medical emergency, and family emergency. Students may not be penalized for these excused absences *as long as appropriate documentation is provided to the instructor in a timely manner.*

### ***My expectations for you:***

- to be prepared for both lecture and lab (do the reading prior to class, print off the relevant materials)
- to actively participate in lecture and lab
- to take responsibility for your own learning (seek help if you are having a hard time)
- to be familiar with the course policies in both the lecture and lab syllabus
- to be respectful of all persons in this classroom (arriving late, leaving early, or talking during class is distracting and discourteous)

### ***What you can expect from me:***

- to be enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the course material
- to present course material in an organized way
- to start and end lectures on time
- to set high standards for the class and help you meet those standards
- to treat you with fairness and respect

**RESOURCES:**

**Desire2Learn (D2L) Site:** I have developed a D2L site for this course. You must login to the D2L system using the same username and password that you use to access your UW-Oshkosh email account. Within the Environmental Geology course, there is a navigation bar above the announcement area that contains the following tabs: Course Home, Content, Links, Grades, and Schedule.

For each chapter, I will post a lecture outline and PowerPoint in the CONTENT area. Students have found it useful to print out the notes (several slides per page) prior to class and make additional notes on them during lecture. I will post a study guide as we finish each chapter. The LINKS area contains many of the web references that I use in lecture.

**Tutoring:** The Geology Department offers tutoring to all students enrolled in our introductory courses. Geology majors are available to help you with any questions concerning the lecture or lab material for this course. A tutoring schedule is posted on the D2L site.

**GRADING BASIS:****Exams (400 pts):**

There will be four multiple choice exams, each worth 100 points. Lecture exams will be objective, computer-scored exams. No make-up exams will be given unless the student has contacted me *prior* to the exam and has an *excused absence* that caused them to miss the scheduled exam. You **must** bring your student ID and a number 2 pencil to each lecture exam. An optional review session will be held before most exams.

**Note:** These dates should **not** be considered final and are subject to change.

Exam 1	<b>Wednesday, September 30</b>	(Chapter 1, 3, Geologic Time)
Exam 2	<b>Friday, October 30</b>	(Chapters 2, 6, 7, and 8)
Exam 3	<b>Friday, November 20</b>	(Chapters 11, 12, and 16)
Exam 4	<b>Friday, December 18</b>	(Chapters 14, 15, and 19)

**In-Class Participation (50 pts):**

There is a good deal of research that suggests that students learn better when they are actively engaged with the material (through discussion, in-class exercises, etc). This is difficult in a large lecture class, but one method of increasing student engagement has been the “wireless classroom”. We will be using the eInstruction classroom performance system (CPS) this semester. The system keeps track of student responses and I will use this information as part of your overall course grade. I expect to use the classroom performance system in a variety of ways including in-class quizzes, concept questions, and in-class reviews.

**Lab (150 pts):**

Lab attendance is required. Each week’s laboratory exercise is due at the end of your lab session. Four, non-comprehensive lab exams will be given (each worth 30 points of overall course grade). They will be a mixture of objective and short essay questions. Your score for laboratory will be the total of your scores on exams (120 points) plus an additional 30 points based on completeness of lab exercises.

**GRADING SCALE:**

There are 600 possible points in this course. Overall 75% of the points (450 possible) are earned from the lecture portion of the course and 25% of the points (150 possible) are earned in the lab portion of the course. Your final letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale. The scale is setup so that an average score receives a grade of BC/C. Students who earn above average scores will receive a BC or better. Student who earn below average scores receive a grade of C or lower.

A	552 - 600	B-	474 - 491	D+	396 - 413
A-	534 - 551	C+	456 - 473	D	372 - 395
B+	516 - 533	C	432 - 455	D-	354 - 371
B	492 - 515	C-	414 - 431	F	<354

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There is no extra credit in this course. You should invest your energy in keeping up with the material and studying for the lecture and lab exams.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** Any students who needs special accommodations for learning or who have special needs are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty/cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated. All work must be your own. Violations will result in a score of zero on the assignment and will be reported to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. See the *University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Student Discipline Code* <http://www.tts.uwosh.edu/dean/studentdisciplinecode.html> for definitions of academic misconduct and details about procedures, sanctions, and other relevant information.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

This schedule may change slightly. The SCHEDULE tab in the D2L site contains detailed reading assignments for each day and will reflect any changes in the course schedule.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
September 6	7	9 Introduction	11 Ch1: Earth in Space & Time
NO LAB			
September 13	14 Ch1: Fund Concepts	16 Ch1: Fund Concepts	18 Ch3: Minerals
LAB: Minerals (A1)			
September 20	21 Ch3: Rocks	23 Ch3: Rocks/Rock Deformation	25 Geologic Time
LAB: Rocks (A2)			
September 27	28 Geologic Time	30 <b>Lecture Exam 1</b>	Oct 2 Ch2: Earth Structure
LAB: Exam 1 (Minerals & Rocks); Introduction to Water Quality & Fox River Sampling (E1)			
October 4	5 Ch2: Plate Tectonics	7 Ch2: Plate Tectonics	9 Ch6: Earthquakes
LAB: Water Chemistry (E2)			
October 11	12 Ch6: Earthquakes	14 Ch7: Volcanoes	16 Ch7: Volcanoes
LAB: Field Trip			
October 18	19 <b>No Class GSA</b>	21 <b>No Class GSA</b>	23 Ch8: Rivers & Flooding
LAB: Exam 2 (Water Quality & Field Trip); Construction of Contour Map (C1)			
October 25	26 Ch8: Rivers & Flooding	28 Ch11: Water Resources	30 <b>Lecture Exam 2</b>
LAB: Construction of Contour Map (C2)			
November 1	2 Ch11: Water Resources	4 Ch11: Water Resources	6 Ch12: Water Pollution
LAB: Environmental Geology Maps (C3)			
November 8	9 Ch12: Water Pollution	11 Weathering	13 Ch16: Soil Resources
LAB: Exam 3 (Maps C1, C2, C3); Sediment Identification and Properties (B1)			
November 15	16 Ch16: Soil Resources	18 Catch Up/Review	20 <b>Lecture Exam 3</b>
LAB: Agricultural Soils (B2)			
November 22	23 Ch14: Mineral Resources	25 <b>No Class</b>	27 <b>No Class</b>
No Lab – Thanksgiving Break			
November 29	30 Ch14: Mineral Resources	Dec 2 Ch15: Energy Resources	4 Ch15: Energy Resources
LAB: Stream Processes (D1) & Aquifer Properties and Groundwater (D2)			
December 6	7 Ch15: Energy Resources	9 Ch19: Climate	11 Ch19: Glaciers
LAB: Exam 4 (Soils (B1, B2), Streams (D1) & Groundwater (D2))			
December 13	14 Ch19: Climate Change	16 Catch Up/Review	18 <b>Lecture Exam 4</b>
NO LAB: Made up for by Field Trip			