

**Syllabus for Physical Geology 51-102 (Quest I) Discussion: Fall 2022**  
Section: A02D (with A02L)

**Instructor:** Dr. Ben Hallett

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Office Hours: Thu 1:45–3:15pm, Fri 1–2:30pm, IN HARRINGTON 216  
or by appointment (email Dr. Hallett)

**Peer Mentor:** Ene (Priscilla) Idoko ([idokoe29@uwosh.edu](mailto:idokoe29@uwosh.edu))

**Required Textbooks:** The discussion section of Physical Geology Quest I requires only that you *regularly bring a bound notebook* to class for notes and in-class writing assignments.

**USP Quest I Course:** Geology 102 (with discussion, lecture, and lab) fulfills a Quest I Course requirement and an Explore “Nature” (NS)(XL) requirement for the University Studies Program (USP). The course is also a lab science course in the College of Letters and Science.

Geology 102 Quest I, including lecture, lab, and discussion sections, is the first in a series of University Studies Program (USP) classes meant to lay the foundation for a liberal education. This course, in particular the Quest I discussion section, is paired with a WBIS writing course or Communications 111 course, meaning you will share the experience of both courses with the same group of ~24 new college students. As one of the first college courses you take, a Quest I course is designed to stir intellectual curiosity, explore your learning style, and develop your network of campus resources that will carry you through your college career at UW Oshkosh. This course will help you integrate into UWO as an established and interconnected learning community. Your “quest” will be to examine the concept of sustainability (our “signature question”) through the lens the science of the physical earth.

The USP signature questions are:

1. Sustainability: *How do people understand and create a more sustainable world?*
2. Civic Learning: *How do people understand and engage in community life?*
3. Intercultural Knowledge: *How do people understand and bridge cultural differences?*

What does the “Sustainability” question mean?: One definition of sustainability is from a 1987 U.N. Conference: Meeting “present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.” You will explore the concept of sustainability, in this course particularly ecologic/economic sustainability, by learning about the earth system and how society interacts with it. You will be asked to write, consider, and prepare for group discussions of how specific topics relate to an individual and community responsibility for sustainability and its applications.

**Discussion Course Objectives:**

1. Provide you with an increased understanding and perspective of the concept of sustainability.
2. Introduce you to the UWO campus community and resources available to you.
3. Provide you with an overview of the University Studies Program and how it fits into a liberal education.

### **Discussion Course Components:**

Discussion is NOT a lecture class, and course material and questions from the textbook and lecture should be addressed in lecture meetings (or at office hours). The discussion section is your chance to learn about the campus community resources and to reflect on the application and relevance of course material in consideration of your personal perspective of sustainability.

Attendance and Participation: Discussion meets Thursdays 12:40pm in Harrington 217.

**Attendance is required and factors strongly into your discussion grade** (see below). This is because the discussion material is interactive and designed for in-person learning. However, with an understanding that “stuff” happens, one missed discussion will be excused for each student (no questions asked). You are responsible to make up any work and submit any assignments that were missed. Group discussions will include small group and whole-class activities for which participation is required.

Professor Meeting: A **course requirement** is that you must make time to meet individually, face to face (for as little as 5 minutes) with your professor, by appointment (email me) or by dropping in to posted office hours. You may discuss your thoughts/questions on the course, your interests, or anything you’d like. This is a course assignment required for the course, and it factors into your grade. This “assignment” is due by Oct. 7.

Peer Mentor: An important part of this course is that our discussion class will have a peer mentor. One of your best resources on this campus is your peers who can tell you what the university is like from their own experience. The peer mentor will attend community/campus events with the class, answer your questions about the campus, help you with first year experience questions, and refer you to various resources. You should not hesitate to get to know our mentor who will be an important part of the Quest I experience.

Co-curricular Activities: Several co-curricular activities/events are **required** for you to attend for this course. The schedule is potentially subject to change as we will include community as well as campus events. Each event/activity you attend includes 1–2 page summary/reflection assignment, which is to be submitted through Canvas for the course.

The EAB Survey: is sent to First Year and new Transfer students every Fall, beginning October 2 this year, in an email with a link. It is your opportunity to tell UWO about your experiences on campus. It takes under 7 minutes to complete, and can be completed on smart devices. Students who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of the first 10 time slots for dorm selection. The Survey measures 8 skills that promote student success.

Canvas: For discussion, you have a separate (from lecture) Canvas course set up and should regularly log in to check for announcements and material. You will use this to access discussion slides and material, as well as to turn in your written assignments. You should be aware that Canvas is enabled with “Turnitin” software which runs originality checks of submitted papers to identify copied or improperly cited material (potential plagiarism). If you are unfamiliar with Canvas you should work through this introduction: <https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/XNGF6C>

Email: Important course information and announcements will be shared by email. This is also the best way to get in touch with me. I will do my best to respond to email within one day. If you have an urgent situation please come to my office or send an email that describes your situation. When you email me please tell me your full name, and which class you are in. Also, email is not the same as a text/instant message, it is a business/academic document. Incoherent emails that are written with incomplete sentences, no punctuation, or text message abbreviations will not get responses.

**Statement of Equity and Inclusion:** Building relationships and community is one of the most important goals of the course. The only way to build a community in this course, given the focus, is to honor each person in terms of their identity. Each student in the course will conceive of their identity in different ways; aspects of identity important to students in the course may include ethnicity, ability, sex, sexuality, gender, gender expression, gender identity, religious beliefs, political affiliations, and/or class, to name just a few. Thus, each of us, myself included, must honor each students' identity in all its complexity. We need to work each class period on listening to others, taking up perspectives unlike our own, challenging our assumptions, and finding a route toward understanding the similarities and differences between ourselves and others.

I want you to know that this course is designed to be inclusive of all students. When striving for inclusion it is important to recognize that some communities have been historically marginalized from education. Thus, I want to affirm that I identify as an ally to LGBTQ+ students; Native, Latinx and Hispanic, Asian, Black, and African American students; first-generation college students; students with disabilities; women students; students of diverse religious backgrounds; and students facing financial challenges in affording college.

I am committed to creating an anti-discriminatory classroom climate in which all students feel safe, supported, and affirmed. I ask that everyone in the class join me in committing to the creation of a welcoming space free of discrimination, bullying, and harassment in which each student can find a sense of belonging.

I value all my students and want to assist you in finding the support and guidance that you need. So, if any of you face challenges this semester, whether academic or outside of academics, I can help connect you with resources on campus to assist you in addressing these challenges. My goal is to help you to be successful and to ensure that both our classroom and our campus are safe and equitable.

**Additional resources for first year students (and beyond):**

Project Success: This service is to help students with learning disabilities with course material and exam materials in ways that cater to different learning styles. If you have a learning disability or suspect you may, please consult Project Success as soon as possible to learn what this service offers: <http://projectsuccess.uwosh.edu/>

Dean of Students: If extraordinary events or circumstances affect your academic ability (such as a serious illness or serious family emergency) the Dean of Students should be contacted as soon as possible to clarify university policy for your situation: <http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents>

Early Alert: The University's Early Alert program reaches out to students after the first 5 weeks of classes (Emailed around October 12) to help identify academic performance or attendance issues. It is common for students to be unaware or to over-estimate their academic performance in classes so this program is designed to help. If you receive a notice by email, read it carefully, and if you receive an alert it is critical that you make arrangements to meet with me and/or a counselor to help develop an action plan.

Special Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please contact the Accessibility Center (424-3100 (voice) or 424-1319 (TTY)) or visit their web site at <http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center> for the University's accommodation request form and documentation requirements. Information related to an individual's accommodation request will be kept confidential.

Note: *Please ask for help* if you need it! If you have a course-related issue I will make every effort to help you resolve it or to direct you to the help you need.

**Discussion Course Grades:** Quest I students will have an additional 15 discussion points factored into their overall grade (15% of your 5-credit semester course grade); you do not receive a separate grade for discussion. Your discussion score will be determined by your (1) attendance and participation in class discussions and co-curricular activities (45%), (2) writing/summary/reflection assignments (1,2,3,4) and professor meeting (30%), and (3) discussion course reflection / final writing assignments (5,6) (25%). Grades are computed as a percentage of the total points available. The letter grading scale (percentage) is given in the lecture section syllabus. Missed/unexcused work will result in no credit, though in many circumstances I will work with you to find ways to complete the material if you reasonably communicate issues and concerns.

**Tentative Discussion Schedule (will likely be revised):**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic or Activity</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Sep. 8	Introductions, Why are you here? What is a “liberal education” and how can it help? What is USP?	reading on Canvas
Sep. 15	What do professors do? College majors and jobs.	writing assignment 1 due (see Canvas)
Sep. 22	Study skills and strategies for college exams	
Sep. 29	Sustainability: Definition and relationship to geoscience	meet Dr. Hallett by Oct. 7
Oct. 6	Advising resource center module, planning your degree	
Oct. 13	Polk Library Resources and primary literature	
<b>Oct. 19*</b>	<b>Required Co-curricular activity: UWO Earth Charter Event on 10/19 at 5pm CFWC (no regular discussion this week)</b>	summary/reflection 2 due Tue 10/25 by lab
Oct. 27	Sustainability at UW Oshkosh - Tour	
Nov. 3	What is your carbon footprint? group discussion	
Nov. 10	Internship and career office presentation	
Nov. 17	<u>Co-curricular activity</u> , campus/community online event(s) TBD (likely no discussion 11/17)	summary/reflection 3 due date TBA (Canvas)
Nov. 24	<b>Thanksgiving Break, no discussion class meeting</b>	
Dec. 1	Energy resource demand and sustainability group discussion	
Dec. 8	Geo-hazards and long-term sustainability group discussion	assignment 4: Long-term sustainability?
Dec. 13 (Tuesday)	Course reflection in lab period	course reflection assignment 5 in lab time

**Important dates:** 9/7/22 class begins; 9/13/22 last day to add without instructor’s signature; 10/4/22 last day to add with instructor’s signature; 10/4/22–10/10/22 Early Alert; 10/21/22 last day to drop without Late Drop Request Form or withdrawal; 11/23/22–11/27/22 Thanksgiving Break; 12/16/22 Classes end.

**NOTE:** See lecture and lab syllabus for more course information, including other course components and policies, a statement of academic integrity and available resources.

**Disclosure Statement:** Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>