Environmental Geology

**CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy**
**2020 / Fall Semester**
**GEOL 3350.001**
**Environmental Geology**

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**Office Hours:** MW 1:00 – 4:00; or by appointment

**Class meeting time and place:** Online via Brightspace by D2L

Please feel free to stop by any time to ask questions, discuss any problems you may be having with the material or to help facilitate further understanding. If these hours conflict with your schedule, please call or email to make an appointment.

**COVID-19 Mask Policy**

Although we do not have any face-to-face class meetings scheduled, you are welcome to visit with me in my office. University policy dictates that masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in university buildings and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

More information on the SFA Policy for Face Coverings: [http://www.sfasu.edu/fall2020](http://www.sfasu.edu/fall2020)

Information regarding face coverings and social distancing from the Centers for Disease Control:

**Course Description**

Environmental Geology (GEOL 3350) – Three semester hours lecture per week. Study of geologic phenomena that are important in man’s utilization of his physical environment, including soils, land use, and geologic hazards.

This course is designed to provide an overview of natural earth-system processes in relation to environmental process, both natural and anthropogenic. Global geo-environmental cycles, environmental contamination, and energy resources are emphasized. Course grade will be based on group assignments, class participation, and examinations. Student learning will be evaluated through four examinations and group projects/presentations/debates.
Environmental Geology

There is no assigned text for this class but I will be posting resources during the semester for you to read. New materials will be posted on Mondays and due the following Sunday.

Prerequisite: GEOL 1301 or GEOL 1303.

Program Learning Outcomes
There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum course and/or a service course.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes
The objective of Environmental Geology is to gain an understanding of the earth in relation to natural and anthropogenic processes, including global cycles, land use, and energy resources.

Student Learning Outcomes
The student is expected to understand and apply the following concepts of environmental geology:

1. Identify and characterize global geologic cycles.
2. Identify and characterize environmental hazards and geo-environmental contamination.
3. Describe the behavior of environmental contaminants and potential remediation.
4. Identify the origin and variability of energy resources.
5. Identify the unique environmental and ecological issues associated with anthropogenic activities.

Text and Materials
Journal articles and relevant readings will be provided online.

Course Requirements
Environmental Geology (GEOL 3350) is designed to provide an overview of natural earth-system processes in relation to environmental process, both natural and anthropogenic. Global geo-environmental cycles, environmental contamination, and energy resources are emphasized. Course grade will be based on assignments, participation, and examinations. Student learning will be evaluated through three examinations, weekly activities and discussions, and projects.

Course Calendar

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Credit Hour and Time
GEOL 3350 Environmental Geology content should require a minimum of 37.5 lecture contact hours during the semester, whether the class is offered face-to-face or online. Students are required to complete assignments based on readings from the primary literature, participate in online discussions regarding current research topics, and complete periodic assessments over the course content, including a final project or term paper. Students must also complete written assignments that assess their ability to evaluate current research in geoscience, including experimental procedures, and data analyses and interpretation. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

The Federal Definition of the Credit Hour - a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester of credit.

Grading Policy
Three major exams of 100 points each will be given during the semester. Weekly discussion posts will be assigned to allow you the chance to communicate with your classmates and me regarding pertinent topics. Each discussion post is worth 5 points, with a total of 70 points available for the semester. Every module will have a quiz over the major themes of the week, with each quiz worth 10 points. Finally each unit will have a written essay or short answer assignment, worth 30 points each.

There is a possible 600 points (exams = 300; discussions = 70; quizzes = 140; unit essays = 90) available for this class. Your grade will be based on the ratio of the number of points you earn, divided by 600.

Grade Scale: 90 – 100 = A, 80 – 89 = B, 70 – 79 = C, 60 – 69 = D, < 60 = F

All written work submitted will be processed through TurnItIn, a verification tool administered through the d2l platform, to check for plagiarism and similarity of content. Your answers must be in your own words and if you are using research material as the basis for your answer, you
must cite your sources. All works with evidence of plagiarism will receive a zero for the first offense; the second offense will be referred to the SFA Judicial Office. If your written material is too similar to another student in the class, it will be assumed you are sharing answers – otherwise known as cheating. All students involved will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance and participation is mandatory for understanding the material.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).