

Geology GEL 111

Course Syllabus

Credits: 4 (3 hours lecture & 2 hours lab)

Prerequisite: Eng 095

Section: D1, D3

Semester: Fall 2015

Phone: 910-362-7365

Mailbox Location: N-203C

Instructor: Alvin Coleman

Email: acoleman@cfcc.edu or alcoleman177@mail.cfcc.edu (Blackboard). If you send an email during the week (M-Th) I typically respond that day or the following day. If you send an email over the weekend (F-Su) I may not get to your email until Monday.

Office and office hours: My office is located in N-203G. I have office hours M-F, from 10:00-11:00 am. The best way to get in touch with me is by one of the emails stated above. If you have a true emergency you may contact the department secretary at 910-362-7720 and she will take your message. Once I receive your message I will then call you back.

Time & Location: All classes and labs meet in S-408.

Section D1: Lecture: MWF 9:00-9:50
 Lab: Th 8:00-9:50

Section D3: Lecture: MWF 12:00-12:50
 Lab: T 12:00-1:50

Course Outline: A course outline is available upon request.

Textbooks (required): Check the bookstore or order online. Please do not purchase a used lab book, if you are missing pages from a used book it is not my problem. **You are still responsible for any work assigned in the lab book!**

Lecture: *“Earth, an Introduction to Physical Geology, 11th Edition”*

By: Tarbuck, Lutgens, & Tasa

ISBN: 978-0-321-93258-7

Lab: *“Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, 10th Edition”*

By: Richard M. Busch

ISBN: 978-0-321-94451-1

CFCC General Education Competencies will incorporate all or some of the following:

✓	Computer Skills	✓	Quantitative Skills
✓	Critical Thinking	✓	Written Communication
✓	Global Awareness	✓	Understanding Scientific Concepts &
✓	Oral Communication		

Course Description: This course introduces basic landforms and geological processes. Topics include rocks, minerals, volcanoes, fluvial processes, geological history, plate tectonics, glaciers, and coastal dynamics. Upon completion, students should be able to describe basic geological processes that shape the earth. This is a Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC) course.

Course Structure: This course is designed to cover one chapter each week (sometimes you may have more than one). During each week you can expect chapter readings, homework questions, quiz, and lab work. You will also have four exams and a comprehensive final. All assignments (labs, homework, and quizzes) will be made available every Tuesday at 8:00 am and will be due the following Tuesday at 11:59 pm. **If you have questions about any assignment and want me to answer them before the due date, please ask your question(s) before Thursday at 5:00 pm.** If you wait until last minute to complete your assignments I can't guarantee I'll be available over the weekend to answer your inquiry. **I will not extend or reopen assignments for any reason!** All dates and times are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Course Objectives: GEL 111 is designed to cover the majority of topics in the textbook. Upon completion students should be able to:

- List, classify, and describe the major terrestrial surface processes and materials (rocks, minerals, soils)
- Compare and contrast Earth's major surface features and discuss how they evolved and changed through time
- Evaluate the different geologic processes and how they shape landforms and landscapes
- Demonstrate how geologists study present day systems to reconstruct ancient Earth environments

Expected Work Load: Students can expect to spend 9-12 hours per week to complete assignments in this course broken down approximately as follows: chapter readings (1-3 hours), online activities (1-4 hours), lab work (1-4 hours).

Expectations for Interaction: Students will be held to the highest standards of language and content in all interaction, whether online or in person. Abusive and derogatory language, actions, or content will not be tolerated. This non-discrimination policy includes face-to-face interactions, email, online discussions, and all course related content and materials. To learn more about online interaction, please see "The Core Rules or Netiquette", from the book Netiquette by Virginia Shea at: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.htm/>.

MyLabsPlus: Students are required to use MyLabsPlus (<http://cfcc.mylabsplus.com>) on a regular basis to receive course instruction, submit course assignments, and communicate with the instructor. Students cannot participate in this course without using the MyLabsPlus site. If you have taken a math class or any other class at Cape Fear or even another school, you may already have a Pearson account. All assignments and grades will be posted on MyLabsPlus. Additionally, if you are submitting work to please make the file format a Microsoft Word document or Google Document. **If I can't open your file, I'll let you know by email and you may have to resubmit.**

Accommodation of Special Needs Based on Disability: Any student who requests classroom accommodations because of a disability must present documentation to verify his/her disability. This documentation must be furnished to the Disabilities Service Coordinator, and this should be provided prior to requesting accommodation by the instructor. On a confidential basis, the student, disabilities services and the instructor will determine the appropriate accommodations following documentation. Accommodations will be provided in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, outcomes, and academic standards of the course. Absences must not exceed class attendance policy.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes (based on Critical Thinking Goals):

- Discuss and explain the scientific method as it applies to geology.
- Convert and calculate values within the metric system.
- Describe and explain the Big Bang Theory and formation of the solar system, Earth, and Moon.
- Discuss the development of Plate Tectonic Theory from the Continental Drift Hypothesis and explain the evidence supporting the changes.
- Discuss the classification system of minerals, molecular bonding, and mineral properties.
- Explore the three types of rocks and how each type forms.
- Explain the formation of volcanoes, faults, mountains, and other geologic structures by tectonic forces.
- Diagram, reconstruct, and evaluate stratigraphic sequences and summarize their formation.
- Recall absolute and relative age dating techniques.
- Describe and review river, glacial, and arid environmental processes and how they shape our planet.
- Describe the principle of uniformitarianism.
- Demonstrate how each mineral has a definite chemical composition and atomic structure.
- Illustrate the basic processes of rock formation and the relationships between the three rock types.
- Compare and evaluate different approaches to estimating Earth's age.
- Categorize and analyze the types of plate boundaries and their respective motions.
- Judge and critique the evidence for global climate change.
- Identify the factors that contribute to geologic classification systems.

MyCFCC Student Accounts: Your myCFCC account is a single username and password for all of you CFCC network accounts: email, WebAdvisor, Blackboard, campus computer access, and more. The email account provided to you (yourusername@mail.cfcc.edu) is used for all official communication with CFCC instructors and staff. Some information will ONLY be sent by email and not by postal mail, so it is very important that you check this account. This account may also be used for personal mail, but is subject to the CFCC Acceptable Use Policy. Be sure to logout of your account in each service you may have opened (email, Blackboard, etc.) when you leave a shared computer, otherwise it is possible for the next user of the computer to access your information.

IT Student HelpDesk: The IT Services Student HelpDesk provides first-level technical support to all students of Cape Fear Community College. They are available to assist students with basic computer and technical needs, including logging into Blackboard, myCFCC, and WebAdvisor. More information including hours, location, and contact information is available at <http://www2.cfcc.edu/studenthelpdesk/>

Blackboard Help: Answers to common Blackboard questions can be found at <http://www2.cfcc.edu/online/bb-faq> or Ask Ray.

Learning Resource Center (Library): The CFCC Learning Resource Center (LRC) provides students with the following resources: books/materials, course reserves, computer/interval access, online databases/journals, group study space, and quiet study space. The LRC is located on the second floor of the L-building (Downtown Campus) or on the first floor of the McKeithan Center (North Campus) and can be found online at <http://cfcc.edu/lrc>.

Learning Lab: The Learning Lab at CFCC can provide Writing Assistance, Computer Competency Skills, and tutoring. The Learning Lab is located in the LRC and can be found online at <http://cfcc.edu/learninglab/>.

Science Learning Lab: The Science Learning Lab is located in N-407. Tutors are available for Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Physics courses. You must have your instructor sign a form to verify that you are enrolled in a science course. You can pick up the form in N-407.

Additional Student Support & Academic Services: For a list of CFCC Student Support and Academic Services, please visit <http://www2.cfcc.edu/online/student-support/>.

Participation and Attendance: Your participation is expected and required to pass the course. If you fail to complete a quiz, exam, homework, or lab assignment, this may result in a grade of zero for the assignment and grade of F for your course grade. You should read the assigned chapters each week, complete your labs, and finish the quizzes and exams in a timely manner.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings as scheduled. Students who miss more than 20% of the scheduled class time (assignments) automatically received a failing grade (F) for the course. Participation is mandatory prior to the course Census Date (10%) for a student to remain in class. Lecture is one hour of class time and lab counts for two hours. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class and three tardies will be considered an absence. If you are more than ten minutes late for class, that is considered being tardy. If you need to leave early, please see me before class or send an email prior to leaving class; failure to do so may result in being counted late or absent for class. If you have extenuating circumstances (death in family, being sick, or injury), you will need to provide a doctor's excuse or appropriate documentation upon the next class in which you are present. You are responsible for keeping up with missed class/lab time. Special circumstances may be considered with prior notification of the instructor.

If your computer crashes, you have software issues, or other equipment/hardware failures these are not valid reasons for late assignments or late discussion board entries. It is your responsibility to ensure all assignments are completed by the posted deadlines. You should have access to another computer (friend, relative, school library, public library) in the event your computer is not available. **Deadlines will not be extended due to the reasons listed above.**

Contingency Plans: If there is an emergency and the instructor or an appropriate substitute does not meet with the class, wait fifteen minutes. Then, everyone in the class should sign a roll sheet and designate someone to take it to the Department Chair Secretary in U436.

Academic Misconduct Policy: Please see Student Catalog for CFCC policy. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, academic manner appropriate to the college's mission as an institution of higher education. Examples of academic misconduct are plagiarism and cheating, discrimination, and lying.

Collaboration is a natural part of college and students will benefit greatly from working with other students on assigned activities. Collaboration becomes Academic Misconduct when two or more students jointly draft answers to assigned work. For example, students discussing how best to approach a problem or assignment is acceptable and even encouraged; however, students writing the same answer or choosing to copy someone else's work is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is defined as taking the words, ideas, or thoughts of another and representing them as one's own. If you use the ideas of someone else, provide a complete citation of the source work; if you use the words of another, present the words in the correct quotation notation (indentation or enclosed in quotation marks, as appropriate) and include a complete citation to the source. **Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism is not acceptable and will result in the student being assigned a grade of zero for the assignment and/or the course, at the instructor's discretion.**

Late Work Policy: Late work will not be accepted unless you have emailed me prior to the due date for the assigned material. All required course work is due on the date and time announced unless specified by the instructor. You may drop one of your five exams.

Exam Format and Make-Ups: Exams may consist of the following types of questions: multiple choice, matching, short answer, labeling diagrams, problem solving, and essay style questions. Exams will be given during regular class time. If you miss an exam **that exam will count as your drop grade, NO EXCEPTIONS! Missing a second exam will earn you a zero.** In the event you are making up an exam, make-ups will be given the last week of school.

Labs: Missed labs may or may not be made-up, depending on the lab for that week. **You will lose one point per day for missed work and missing labs must be completed by the following lab** or you will earn a zero. Labs have an expiration date and after one week cannot be made up.

Assessment and Grading: Your final grade will consist of the combination of lecture, lab, and project scores with the following distribution:

Lecture:	5 exams each worth 100 pts., your lowest exam score is dropped.	400 pts. (40%)
Lab:	All lab work is worth:	200 pts. (20%)
HW:	Online homework	120 pts. (12%)
Quizzes:	Online quizzes	120 pts. (12%)

Participation: Student professionalism, attendance, etc.	60 pts (6%)
Project:	+ <u>100 pts. (10%)</u>
	1000 pts.

Since your grade is based on points, it's fairly easy to keep track of your grade:

A = 915-1000 pts. D = 675-754 pts.

B = 835-914 pts. F = 0-674 pts.

C = 755-834 pts.

GRADING SCALE: CFCC has adopted the following grading scale.

(92-100)	A = 4.00	W = given on or before the 60% reporting date of the class
(84-91)	B = 3.00	
(76-83)	C = 2.00	I = Incomplete, used under special circumstances only!
(68-75)	D = 1.00	
(0-67)	F = 0.00	

You can expect any graded assignments to be returned with one or two weeks.

Lab Work & Homework Questions

Labs and homework are designed to supplement class readings and help you with a more “hands-on” approach to learning the material. You need a lab book to complete the labs. Some weeks there may be more than one lab, since some weeks there are more than one chapter covered (no more than two labs in a week). There may even be times we don't have an assignment for that week (it has happened in the past). **Assignments will not be accepted or graded after the closing date.**

Grading Policy for Homework Questions (also posted within MyLabsPlus):

Number of answer attempts per question is: 3

You gain credit for:

- Correctly answering a question in a Part
- Correctly answering a question in a Hint
- Not opening a Hint (2% bonus)

You lose credit for:

- Exhausting all attempts or giving up on a question in a Part or Hint
- Incorrectly answering a question in a Part or Hint

Late submissions: receive no credit.

Hints are helpful clues or simpler questions that guide you to the answer. Hints are not available for all questions.

There is **no penalty** for leaving questions in Hints unanswered.

Grading of *Incorrect Answers* before the last attempt:

You lose $100\% / (\# \text{ of options} - 1)$ credit per incorrect answer on multiple-choice and true/false questions.

You lose 3% credit per incorrect answer on questions that are not multiple-choice or true/false.

Grading Policy for Labs: I will grade labs once all assignments are submitted by the class. Lab questions will be graded as correct or incorrect, or partial credit may be given for some answers.

Quizzes, Exams, and Final Exam

Quizzes are designed to assess your knowledge from the assigned readings. Before you take the quiz make sure you have completed all readings, homework, and labs. You may use any text/lab book for the quizzes.

Class exams will be conducted during lecture and covered the assigned chapters.

If you disconnect from the internet while taking the quiz you will need to log back into MyLabsPlus immediately and finish within the time limit. If for some reason there is a glitch with a quiz or something odd happens, just send an email and I can reset the quiz. Late quizzes will not be graded so make sure to complete them before the closing date.

Grading Policy for Quizzes, (in MyLabsPlus):

Number of answer attempts per question is: 1

You gain credit for:

Correctly answering a question in a Part

You lose credit for:

Exhausting all attempts or giving up on a question in a Part

Incorrectly answering a question in a Part

Late submissions: receive no credit.

Grading of *Incorrect Answers* before the last attempt:

You lose $100\% / (\# \text{ of options} - 1)$ credit per incorrect answer on multiple-choice and true/false questions.

You lose 3% credit per incorrect answer on questions that are not multiple-choice or true/false.

Correct answers will only be shown after the due date.

Course Policies: Please be mindful of the following course policies. **If you are disrupting class you will be asked to leave the classroom. You will not be allowed to return to class until you have spoken with the department chair about your behavior.**

1. Please do not chat with your friends all through class. It is highly disrupt and annoying. Treat your fellow classmates with respect and courtesy. This includes passing notes, text messaging each other, etc.
2. Please silence your cell phones during class and lab. In fact, don't even have them out during class. They are highly disruptive to the class and distracting while trying to teach.
3. MP3 or music players will not be tolerated in class. As soon as you walk into class, please turn off the device.
4. Do not read newspapers or other books during class. These are also loud and distracting to everyone in class.
5. Cheating will not be tolerated, please see the statement about cheating above.
6. No alcohol or other illegal substances are allowed in class.
7. Absolutely no fighting in class.
8. Please come to exams on time. If you are late the exam is still due at the end of the class period. All backpacks, folders, and books should be placed in the floor. Hats should be removed during exams. Cell phones and other PDA's should not be on the table.
9. Food is not allowed in any science classrooms or labs!
10. No video or audio taping or recording during class or lab.

To Succeed in Class: My goal for class is for everyone to have fun and learn something interesting about the Earth. I realize almost everyone is taking the class as an elective and probably not a science major, but that isn't an excuse to not perform well in class. Here is a helpful list that may help you throughout the semester (this is for any class).

1. Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions! If you are lost during a discussion, chances are others in class are too. Don't be afraid to speak up and ask for help or clarification. Class will be more interesting with more discussion.
2. Actually use the textbook. You spent all that money on it, get your money's worth! Read over the assigned chapters and use the book to fill in the gaps in your notes. The book is loaded with great pictures and diagrams.
3. Don't wait until last minute to review your notes. Study daily and avoid "cramming" the day before the exam.
4. Try to take notes during class. Most of the PowerPoints will be posted online but I encourage you to take your own notes. I'm a big fan of using different colors to help me see my notes more clearly.
5. Check MyLabsPlus for announcements.

6. Please check your email often.
7. Pay attention and participate during class and labs.
8. Class attendance is very important. The more you attend class the more opportunities you will have to ask questions and hear the lectures.
9. I would invest in a good folder to keep assignments and notes. Other useful items are pencils, pens, and a calculator. I will supply colored pencils but feel free to bring your own.
10. Don't wait until last minute to do the online assignments!
11. Tobacco use is prohibited on all CFCC property.
12. **You must have a lab book for labs! Do not buy a used lab book; chances are pages have been ripped out.**

Disclaimer: Information contained in this syllabus was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. **The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of Cape Fear Community College, to make changes, adjustments, additions, and deletions in course content, first-day handout, or instructional technique, without notice or obligations.**