

## GEL 111 Online Course Syllabus

**Credits:** 4 (lecture & lab)

**Prerequisite:** Eng 095

**Section:** I01

**Semester:** Fall 2016

**Time & Location:** Online

**Phone:** 910-362-7365

**Instructor:** Alvin Coleman

**Mailbox Location:** N-203C

**Email:** [acoleman@cfcc.edu](mailto:acoleman@cfcc.edu) or [alcoleman177@mail.cfcc.edu](mailto: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.

**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!

ISBN #	Author(s)	Title
9780321944511	Busch	Physical Geology Lab Manual, 10 <sup>th</sup> edition
9781323423950	Tarbuck & Lutgens	Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology 12 <sup>th</sup> edition, standalone access card for MasteringGeology Plus
9781323441480	Tarbuck & Lutgens	Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology 12 <sup>th</sup> edition, loose leaf with MasteringGeologyPlus
9781323440988	Tarbuck & Lutgens	Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology 12 <sup>th</sup> edition, MasteringPlus package for CFCC

**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 a midterm and final for the course. All assignments (labs, homework questions, 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). You can expect any graded assignments to be returned with one or two weeks.

**This course emphasizes the following general education competency:**

**Scientific Reasoning:** Students engage in scientific reasoning when they use fundamental scientific concepts and theories to analyze problems, observations, and/or experiments in the life and physical sciences. Students demonstrate scientific reasoning when they:

- Apply appropriate scientific concepts, theories, and language to problems, observations, or experiments
- Utilize scientific data to analyze problems, observations, or experiments
- Apply scientific observations, calculations, and/or measurements to problems or experiments
- Articulate conclusions about problems, observations, or experiments using appropriate scientific concepts and data

**This course emphasizes the following general education competency:**

**Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking is the deliberate process of questioning, evaluating, and responding to problems, scenarios, and arguments in order to reach sound solutions, decisions, and positions. Students demonstrate critical thinking when they:

- Ask pertinent questions that clarify and focus a problem, scenario, or argument
- Evaluate the quantity, quality, and usefulness of information
- Articulate a sound solution, decision, or position based on appropriate standards of reasoning
- Monitor and reflect upon the quality and fairness of their reasoning

**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.

**MyLabsPlus:** Students are required to use MyLabsPlus 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.**

**Blackboard:** The only time you will use Blackboard is for Enrollment Verification. Enrollment Verification is CFCC's process for checking student enrollment in courses at the start of the semester and is used to calculate a course's FTE. Students who do not complete the activity are marked as No-Shows and withdrawn from the course. Check your email and Blackboard for the Enrollment Verification activity.

**Disability Support Services:** 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.

**Tobacco Use:** Tobacco use is prohibited on all CFCC property.

**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](mailto: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 log out 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.

**Blackboard Help**: Answers to common Blackboard questions.

**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).

**Learning Lab**: The Learning Lab at CFCC can provide Writing Assistance, Computer Competency Skills, and tutoring. The Learning Lab is located in the LRC.

**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.

**Online Participation and Attendance**: Since this is an online class your participation online 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. Special circumstances may be considered with prior notification of the instructor.

For hybrid course students, since 50% of the course is online, neglecting or falling behind in online requirements and missing on class session could result in a failing grade. Attendance and online participation are calculated as preparation and participation (See Course Grade Calculation).

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:** Technology challenges can occur at inconvenient times. Students should prepare a plan to deal with these potential challenges. Turning in assigned activities after the due date/time because you could not log into Blackboard or MyLabsPlus because you could not access an assignment is not acceptable and will be subject to the Late Assignment Policy. If an activity is due Sunday by 11:59 pm, do not wait until Sunday evening to start it.

If technology does get in the way follow the Contingency Plan below:

Lab work can be submitted by email if applicable. For homework and quizzes I will extend deadlines in the event MyLabsPlus is down. If your computer breaks down or your internet goes out, you will need to find computer access before the deadline. Use the LRC computer lab or use the public library.

**Academic Misconduct 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.

**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.

**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	

Your final grade will consist of the combination of lab work, homework questions, and quizzes/exams scores with the following percentages:

Lab Work:	20%
Homework Questions:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Midterm:	20%
Final:	20%
	100%

### 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, Midterm, and Final Exams**

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.

The midterm is designed to cover the first half of class and the final will cover the second half of class material with some material from the first eight weeks. As with the quizzes, the midterm and final exams are also open book.

If you disconnect from the internet while taking the quiz or exams 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, Midterm, and Final (also posted 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.**

**To succeed in this course:**

- Read the assigned chapters and ask questions
- Take notes from chapter readings
- Complete all online discussions for the week
- Reply to other classmates in discussion board
- Finish end of the chapter questions
- Submit all lab work
- Take any quizzes or exams
- Give yourself enough time to complete assignments

**Additional Student Support & Academic Services:**

**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.**