

GLY2010C: Physical Geology
4 Credit Hours
Syllabus
16 weeks to complete

Instructor: Dr. Ann L. Heatherington, Ph.D, P.G.
Office Hours: Office visits can be arranged on request.

Course Communications

Please send your questions about the course material to Dr. Heatherington [via email](#) or through the [course management system](#).

Required Texts

The textbooks for this course are:

- [Earth: Portrait of a Planet, 5th edition, by Steven Marshak, WW Norton and Co., 2015](#)
- [Introductory Physical Geology Laboratory Kit and Manual for Distance Learning](#), Coast Learning Systems, Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company, 2012, ISBN 9781465270009

You may use either the printed version of the Marshak textbook (which can be purchased via Amazon or any other bookseller), or the [online e-textbook \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#). There is no online version of the lab manual. The best source for the lab manual is [the publisher \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), not Amazon. I have only seen used versions of the lab manual for sale on Amazon. DO NOT buy a used version of the laboratory manual and kit. Used laboratory manuals and kits are often missing pages and materials.

Video/Audio

You will need to be able to play video and audio files and access readings from the internet.

Course Description

This course is divided into eighteen lesson modules. Each module has an introductory PowerPoint lecture, a reading assignment, a self-assessment quiz, and a written assignment, and a laboratory assignment. Some have videos for you to watch.

There are three exams. The exams consist of multiple choice questions.

The first exam covers Modules 1 through 7, with the material covering basic principles of the evolution of Planet Earth, principles of plate tectonics theory, and Earth materials (rocks and minerals).

The second exam covers Modules 8 through 12. Material covered includes geologic processes occurring below Earth's surface (such as magmatism and earthquakes), a discussion of geologic time, and the first lesson on geologic surface processes (landslides and the hydrologic cycle). The third exam covers Modules 13 through 18. This covers additional surficial geologic processes (including ocean, stream, aeolian, and glacial processes). The final lesson is a discussion of global change, both human-induced and otherwise.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills

There are no prerequisites for this course apart from the ability to read well, write competently and use the course software.

Purpose of Course

This course is intended for college-level students who intend to study geology as a major subject, or as an adjunct to a related major such as environmental sciences, geography, soil science, civil engineering or others. The course will cover principles of the scientific method and introduce the fundamental topics within of the geological sciences in sufficient depth to prepare the student for more advanced courses in the Earth Sciences.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the types of rocks that make up the earth's surface and the major minerals that make up those rocks.
- Describe the theory of plate tectonics. Present a coherent explanation of the relationships among such features as volcanoes, earthquakes, mountain chains, and deep-sea trenches, and the processes that occur at plate boundaries.
- Describe the interior structure of the earth and the interior processes that cause plate movements.
- Describe the various surficial geologic processes that sculpt the landscape by eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments. These include the actions of glaciers, streams, ocean tides and currents, the wind, and mass wasting/mass movement processes.
- List different types of natural geologic hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, sinkholes, tsunamis, beach erosion, flooding, and landslides, and relate how damage from these hazards can be mitigated.
- Discuss the impact of human activities on earth systems, particularly the climate system.

Instructional Methods

This course is divided into eighteen lesson modules that, for the most part, follow the chapters in the textbook.

There are eighteen textbook reading assignments in this course, one for each lesson module. Some lessons have additional reading assignments and/or videos. Every lesson has a PowerPoint lecture presentation. The best procedure for handling the course material is to begin each lesson by reading the Learning Discussion. Next, listen to and view the lecture PowerPoint presentation.

Then, complete the reading assignments and view the videos (if any). The lecture will provide the main thrust and direction of the lesson but will not be detailed. The text and video material provide details, and they amplify, expand, support, and reinforce the lecture. After the reading, do the lab assignment. The labs are an important part of the course. It would be impossible to have a proper Physical Geology course without labs involving mineral and rock identification and map exercises. The lab manual and kit you have been assigned is specially designed for distance learning. Some students find the labs entertaining, some find them frustrating, and most have mixed reactions depending on the lab. If you have questions, ask me. Email is best.

Next, proceed to the self-assessment quiz. The self-assessment quizzes are designed to test your understanding of the written, video, and lecture material and to give you an opportunity to apply and evaluate critically the material you have read. Some of the questions are a little tricky. The purpose of this is to make you think carefully about your answer instead of blindly bouncing back information. You will have two chances to get each question right and there will be instant feedback to help you.

The written assignments are primarily multiple-choice, but there are some questions that ask you to discuss a point. You need to show that you actually understand the material. Therefore, use your own words. If you quote the text verbatim, you will be marked down. Your answers should be direct and to the point. Make sure you actually answer the question. Don't ramble on and on about irrelevant topics, hoping that the right answer will be found somewhere in the verbiage. This does not convince me that you know what you are talking about. (It does the opposite, and besides, it's annoying.)

Written assignments should be also free of serious grammatical and spelling errors. Use complete sentences when asked to "describe" or "discuss" a topic. They will be graded and feedback will be given. Be sure to go back over your graded assignments to see what you did wrong and what you did right. This will prepare you for the exams.

As you progress through the course go back occasionally and review what you have covered in prior lessons. This will give you a better grasp of how the concepts and principles fit together. Check to make sure you have met the learning objectives and that you completely understand the discussion section. This will reinforce concepts in your mind, thereby helping you to do well on the examinations.

Grading Policies

Assignments are worth the following numbers of points:

Written Assignments

18 assignments @ 20 pts each 360

Self-Assessment Quizzes

18 quizzes @ 15 pts each 270

Laboratory Exercises

11 @ 10 pts each 110

1 @ 12 pts 12

1 @ 13 pts 13

1 @ 6 pts 6

1 @ 9 pts 9

3 @ 15 pts each 45

Total Lab Points: 195

Exams

3 exams @ 100 pts each 300

Total Points: 1125

The letter grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A 93 - 100% 1041 - 1125

A- 90 - 92% 1007 - 1040

B+ 87 - 89% 973 - 1039

B 83 - 86% 928 - 972

B- 80 - 82% 894 - 927

C+ 77 - 79% 860 - 893

C 73 - 76% 815 - 859

C- 70 - 72% 782 - 814

D+ 67 - 69% 748 - 813

D 63 - 66% 703 - 747

D- 60 - 62% 669 - 702

F 59% and below 668 and less

Course Policies

Performance Policy

This Flexible Learning course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance as a Flexible Learning student are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom.

You are expected to log in to class multiple times a week and to monitor the course for new announcements. You need to submit the assignments and complete the quizzes by the deadline.

Late work is not accepted no matter the reason. Work ahead to avoid last-minute technical issues.

Participation Policy

Students are required to participate in all course activities and submit all assignments posted on the website.

Quiz Policy

The Self-Assessment quizzes are graded, but they also serve as a study tool for you to check your knowledge. You may take each self assessment quiz twice. If some of your answers are incorrect, read the feedback and/or go back to the textbook, find where you went wrong, and re-take the quiz.

The Written Assignment quizzes are to be taken once. They will be graded by your instructor and feedback will be given.

Exam Policy

The three exams are proctored online by ProctorU. Instructions for scheduling your proctored exam may be found on the home page of the online course. Any questions or issues concerning online proctoring should be directed to ProctorU and not to the instructor.

Assignment Policy

The course expires 16 weeks after your enrollment. Complete all modules in the order they are presented on the course website; do not skip modules. All assignments must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the course expiration date.

Course Technology

Students must use their Gatorlink email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email account daily for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

For help with e-Learning, visit the [Help Desk website](#) or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2.

Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations provided in the course modules (med-term and end-of-term evaluations).

Course Deadline and Extension Policy

Students are allowed 16 weeks from their date of enrollment to complete and submit their coursework. If the student has not submitted at least 50% of their coursework and have an extenuating circumstance preventing them from submitting the coursework, a failing grade of "E", "E0" or "E1" will be issued and recorded to the UF Registrar.

If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing and submitting at least 50% of the coursework and have an extenuating circumstance, the student may petition the instructor for a course extension before the course expires. Each course extension request will be administratively evaluated. Instructors are not required to allow extensions. If a student does receive an extension, an incomplete grade of an "I" will be assigned as an interim grade. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. After that, the "I" grade will be changed to the student's final course grade on their transcript.

Course Cancels, Drops and Withdrawals

A Course Cancel

A tuition refund may be granted after a student [submits a written request to the Flexible Learning office](#) within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be done by emailing the Flexible Learning Office or sent a fax (352-392-6950). Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used, the refund will be credited a back to the card. No refunds are granted after 30 days.

Course Drop

To drop a course, you need to [email the Flexible Learning office](#) with a request to drop within 14 weeks of the date of enrollment. In addition to their own request by email, UF students must have advisor approval to drop a flexible learning course. An advisor can [email the Flexible Learning office](#) with the student's name, the course that they want to drop, and confirmation of permission to do so. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all drop requests have been received by the Flexible Learning office within the allotted time. The course grade will appear as "W" on a UF transcript."

Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are permitted to petition for additional drops. Find more information by contacting the [Disability Resource Center](#)

Full-Term Withdrawals

All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/procedures. An approved withdrawal form must be submitted to the [Dean of Students' Office \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) for review and final approval. Students must also [notify the Flexible Learning office](#) of this request.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify Flexible Learning of their approved medical or retroactive withdrawal so the students' record is updated. Email to Flexible Learning office a copy of the approval.

Medical Withdrawals

For information on the medical withdrawal process, visit the [Dean of Students Office](#)

Retroactive Withdrawals

For information on the retroactive nonmedical withdrawal process, visit the [Office of the University Registrar](#)

How to Request a UF Transcript

Flexible Learning advises that you review your "unofficial transcript" first to ensure your grade(s) is/are posted, prior to ordering the "official transcript".

There are two ways to order a transcript:

1. [Order UF Official Transcripts online](#)
2. If you are unable to order your official transcript online, please contact the [UF Office of the University Registrar](#). In addition on more information on mailing in a transcript request form by remitting a check or money order. For more information, read the [Official Transcripts FAQs](#)

The Registrar's Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and their phone number is 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

UF Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

The Flexible Learning office should be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

UF students are bound by [The Honor Pledge](#) which states:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either

required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

From [Regulations of the University of Florida, 4.041 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: Scope and Violations](#):

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student."

From [Regulations of the University of Florida, 6C1-4.047 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: Sanctions](#):

For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

1. Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
2. Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an 'E'."

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#)

Security

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it
- Always logout when you are finished using the system

Getting Help

Technical Help

If you have issues with videos, go to the [Mediasite Helpdesk](#).

For other technical difficulties, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

- Location: HUB 132
- Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- Website: lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Questions about Flexible Learning

If you have any questions about the course, please contact the instructor. If you have administrative concerns (e.g., paying for the course, receiving the textbook, etc.), please contact the Flexible Learning Office.

UF Flexible Learning Office Contact Information

- Email: learn@dce.ufl.edu
- Phone: (352) 294-3896
- Fax: (352) 392-6950
- Website: flexible.dce.ufl.edu (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Other Resources

Other resources are available at the [UF Distance Learning website](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please [email the Distance Learning office](#) or visit the [UF Distance Learning website](#) to submit a complaint.

Disclaimer

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.