Environment of the Earth GEOL 103  
Spring 2013  
Lectures: T Th: 9:30-10:45am Callcott Social Science Center 011

This course describes the earth as a system, the various processes that affect human kind. It explains the makeup of the earth, its resources and the various uses and misuses of the same. This course will provide you with an excellent background on: (a) basic concepts of geology, rocks, minerals and earth processes; (b) information on natural hazards; (c) relation between natural resources and pollution and (d) environmental management of human activities and earth resources

Instructor(s): Dr. Venkat Lakshmi, Professor, Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of South Carolina Columbia SC 29208  
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Lab Coordinator: Ryan Antle (rantle@geol.sc.edu)

Teaching Assistants: Erin Derrick (ederrick@geol.sc.edu): Sections 2, 6, 9  
Alex Frank (afrank@geol.sc.edu): Sections 4, 5, 8  
Brett Sexton (sextonb07@gmail.com): Sections 1, 3, 7


Topics:  
[1] Foundations of Environmental Geology  
[2] Hazardous Earth Processes  
[3] Human Interactions with the Environment  
[5] Global change, land use and decision-making

Grading:  
Three in class 1-hour [0930-1030am] tests 02/07; 03/07; 04/09 (15% *3) 45%  
Final 05/07, 9:00am 15%  
Lab Exercises 40%  
Early exams can be arranged ONLY if you notify Dr. Lakshmi BY EMAIL, at least one week prior to the exam date. Medical problems related issues such as make-up exams and late assignments will only be permitted with a note from the doctor or proper authority.  

Lab: Lab attendance is mandatory. Lab work must be turned in at the end of lab. No late homework or laboratory exercises will be accepted. Final grades will be based on STRAIGHT PERCENTAGES, 90 - 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D and < 60% = F. If you are curious about how you are doing in class add up the number of points you earned, divide by the total, multiply by 100% and check with above. Make-up labs will only be permitted with a note from the doctor or proper authority. A basic function calculator is strongly recommended for lab work.  

Readings:
It is a good idea to read the book before coming to class. Below is a list of all the topics covered in the lectures. In case we are covering a chapter in two lectures, please read half the chapter before the first lecture and the second half before the second lecture on that chapter.

January
15 Introduction 17 Chapter 1 22 Chapter 2 24 Chapter 2
29 Chapter 3 31 Chapter 3

February
5 Review 7 Test 1 12 Chapter 4 14 Chapter 5
19 Chapter 6 21 Chapter 7 26 Chapter 8 28 Chapter 9

March
5 Review 7 Test 2 19 Chapter 10 21 Chapter 11
26 Chapter 12 28 Chapter 13

April
2 Chapter 14 4 Review 9 Test 3 11 Chapter 15
16 Chapter 16 18 Chapter 17 23 Chapter 18 25 Final Review

May
7 Final Exam 9:30am

Exams:
Exams are closed book and closed notes. The final will take 1 hour and it is not cumulative. The exams will be mostly multiple-choice with some fill-in the blank and essay questions. All questions will come from topics covered in lectures, the reading assignments, and the laboratory.

Laboratory Exercises (Week of):

January
14-18 No Laboratory 21-25 No Laboratory 28-01 Minerals
February
04-08 Rocks 11-15 Geological Time 18-22 Earthquakes
25-01 Topographical Maps
March
04-08 Weathering 11-15 Spring Break (No Laboratory) 18-22 Properties of Soils
25-29 Soil Infiltration
April
01-05 Groundwater 08-12 River Discharge Rates 15-19 Congaree River
22-26 Make-up lab if permitted

LABORATORY ENROLLMENT OVERRIDES WILL NOT BE GRANTED. YOU MUST RESOLVE COURSE CONFLICTS WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND THE REGISTRAR.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC HONESTY
It is the responsibility of every student to maintain academic integrity and adopt honest methods in this class. Cheating in lab exercises or exams will be grounds for review and penalty.