Syllabus

Earth and Space Science
Geology 110
3.0 Credits

Instructor: Mr. Steven Williams, PG, CEG. Since I am not a full time professor at IVC, I do not have an office in which to meet students. I will try to meet with students at a convenient time for the both of us. I can best be reached by email at the following address: swilliams@landmark-ca.com or steven.williams@imperial.edu.

Class Schedule: Class times are Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:55 pm. Class will be held in Building 2700, Room 2733.

Textbook: The Good Earth – Introduction to Earth Science, by McConnell, Steer, Knight, and Owens (2nd Edition).

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding and appreciation of their physical environment and the knowledge of how the earth's systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere) work and interact. Students will also gain an understanding of the planets and the universe.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Gain critical thinking skills while working on and completing weekly homework assignments which include applying methods such as Venn diagrams, rubrics, and concept maps. (ILO2)

2. Gain awareness of geological events, weather and climate patterns and oceanic circulation on a global scale and understand/evaluate why events/features occur where they do. Assessment done through various homework assignments. (ILO5)

3. Gain knowledge of geological, meteorological, astromomical and oceanic features and processes through lectures, research papers, exams and presentations. Ties to all objectives. (ILO4)

Class Description: This class in an introduction to earth and space science and will cover basic principles from the fields of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Topics to be covered during this course will include: minerals and rocks, natural earth processes, plate tectonics, geologic time, composition of the earth, water movements, oceans, weather and climate, the solar system, origin and life cycles of stars, galaxies, and other related topics.

Attendance: Regular attendance of class is important for students to accomplish the work necessary to successfully complete this course. You are responsible for **all** material presented in class even if you miss for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.). Please arrange to get class notes from another student if you miss class. Class assignments and scheduled tests cannot be made up if missed.

Dropping Class: ***It is your responsibility to drop the class.*** If you do not attend class and do not drop it, you will fail the class and receive a grade of F. If you want to drop the class, you must follow the current IVC guidelines to drop a class.

Please Note: Not all chapters in the text book are assigned and not all chapters (that are assigned) will be covered in their entirety; furthermore, as the class progresses, reading assignments may be altered. There may be reading assignments to replace or supplement the text material (so it is important to show up to class; you are responsible for knowing any changes made that will be announced during class hours). Also assignment due dates may change, another reason to attend class regularly.

Grading: Your grade for this course will be comprised of chapter questions, exams, written papers, and other class assignments.

- Chapter Questions. Chapter questions will be assigned for each chapter and will due at the quiz for those chapters covered by the quiz. Chapter questions will generally be worth between 10 and 20 points per set. You may work in groups on chapter questions. **Chapter questions must be turned in on time for full credit (no exceptions). Chapter questions will be due on the day of the exam. Chapter questions will not be accepted after the due date and will be given a score of zero.**
- Exams: Exams will be given after we have covered several similar chapters. Exams will be worth 100 points each. Exams will cover material presented in the class, textbook, and class discussion. Exams must be taken on the scheduled day. **There will be three (3) mid-term exams, with a final exam on the last day of class. Three exam scores will be included in your final grade, so if you miss one of the exams, you need to take the final exam to replace the missed exam. If you do not like a score you earned on one of the three exams, you can take the final exam to replace the bad score.**
- Research Paper: A research paper will be assigned about midway through the semester and will be due the final day of class. The research paper will be worth 100 points.

All work will be weighted equally, that is, I will add up all your scores and determine the percentage from the total points possible. Exams will be curved based on the overall performance of the class. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 88 – 100%
B = 75 – 87.9%
C = 60 – 74.9%
D = 50 – 59.9%
F = <49.9%

I want to emphasize, it is important to show up to class and turn your work in complete (demonstrating knowledge of the topic) and on time. You will do well in this class if you do this.

Research Paper: A research paper on a topic covered in this class (earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic processes, climate, or other related topic) is required for this class. The research paper is due the last day of class. You must submit one research paper. These reports must be at least 3 pages, double space, typewritten, with properly referenced and appropriate visual attachments (such as maps and diagrams) if needed. ***This work must be done on your own.*** We will go over proper scientific referencing procedures and presentation in class.

There may be unannounced short assignments presented (in class) that will generally cover the practical application of course studies to our life (and hopefully answer the question: why do we need to know this?); or on recent events related to earth and space science. These short papers may be optional (extra credit), or required. Another reason to show up for class!

Exam Policy: All exams must be taken at the time scheduled. You will be given at least one week notice prior to exams. No exams will be given early for any reason. If you miss an exam, a make-up exam will be given on the last day of class to replace the missing exam. You may only miss one exam.

Behavior
You are all adults and I expect you to have behavior appropriate to a college level class - this is not High School. The classroom environment should be professional and friendly. Anyone showing disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to:

a) using profanities,
b) intentionally damaging classroom or laboratory materials,
c) using cellular phones (Cell phones are to be turned off during class and exams),
d) playing video games, surfing the internet or using a computer for anything other than class related activities while the instructor is addressing the class,
e) placing feet on the table tops while class is in session,
f) excessive talking while the instructor is addressing the class, and

g) creating an environment that is not conducive to learning for others.

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Copying another's work, plagiarism and cheating on tests may be punishable by a failing grade on that assignment or exam. The student will be referred to .

Disabled Student Program. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in room 2117 of the Health Sciences Building, phone (760) 355-6312.