Environmental Geology (G110) - Syllabus  
Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri 9:00 – 9:50 am; Lab: Tue 9:00 – 10:50  
Spring 2006

Instructor: Carla Whittington  
Office: Building 29-346  
Office hours: Mon/Thu 11:00 – 11:50 am  
Tue/Wed 12:00 – 12:50 pm  
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Textbooks: Environmental Geology (Seventh edition), Carla W. Montgomery

Materials: Basic scientific calculator

Overview
Environmental Geology (110) is an introductory course in geology about the interactions between people and the planet they live on; how geology affects our lives in terms of the resources we use and how use of those resources in turn affects the environment we live in.

This course is intended to provide a working knowledge of current local and global environment issues, so that you will be able to evaluate for yourselves the information you see in the news and constructively participate in discussions, not just in this class, but in your community. You are not required to have any prior knowledge of geology, but a willingness to learn is essential. Although there are no prerequisite courses, basic math skills are expected.
**Potential Topics Covered**

1) Population Growth and Earth’s Environmental Systems  
2) Earth’s Materials and Plate Tectonics  
3) Water Resources/Water Pollution & Treatment  
4) Mineral Resources/Impact of Mineral Development  
5) Waste Management  
6) Energy and Alternative Energy Resources  
7) Air Pollution  
8) Climate Change

**Course Grading Policies**

Approximate total points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Activities</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>580</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To protect your privacy, I will never discuss your grades in class or in front of other students, either before or after class. Come to my office hours or make an appointment to talk with me about your grades outside of class. If you do poorly on a quiz or assignment, I may write “see me” on your paper. I strongly recommend that you do come talk to me. I want to help you understand questions you missed and find strategies from improvement.

There is no curve in this class. Grades will be assigned in accordance with the policies in the Highline College Catalog, according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>% Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>% Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>66</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>87-88</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>85-86</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>Failing/No credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0-56</td>
<td>0.0-0.6</td>
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</table>
Exams
- There will be four (4) exams of 50 points each.
- Exams occur roughly every two weeks.
- Exams cover assigned reading, lectures, homework assignments, activities and labs.
- Make-up exams given only under special circumstance.

Labs
- There will be nine (9) labs worth 20 points each.
- Labs are due at the end of the lab period unless otherwise specified.
- **There is no make-up for missed labs.**
- Lab attendance is required. (Science Division Policy: >2 missed labs = grade of 0.0).
- Responses to all lab questions should be neatly written, complete, and if calculations are involved they need to be neatly shown.
- I would suggest/prefer that labs be completed in pencil.
- Group work is recommended, but equal participation within each group is required.

Homework
- Due dates for homework assignments will be announced when assignment is given.
- Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class hour on the due date.
- There will be a penalty for late submittals.
- Homework more than 2 days late will receive a grade of 0.

Activities
- In class activities will be due at the end of the class hour.
- Credit for in-class activities will be given only to those in class on the day of the activity.

Presentation Project
- Projects will include a paper and a PowerPoint presentation to the class.
- Projects can be done on an individual basis or in a group of 2.
Student Responsibilities
You are all students as well as adults. You must prioritize your schedule accordingly. Your responsibilities include:

- **Show up and motivate yourself!** Don’t miss class. Come prepared to participate in your learning and ask questions. Be aware of the class schedule and test dates at all times.
- **Have a positive attitude toward learning!** You’re paying money to attend college, so make the most of the opportunity.
- **Have respect for your classmates and avoid disruptive behavior!** Your classmates are paying for this class too. Anything that rings, buzzes, or plays music should be switched off at all times.
- **Get missed materials in my office!** If you have an unavoidable absence, materials handed out in class can be picked up in my office.

Math
This is a college level lab science class. There is no math prerequisite, however basic middle/high school mathematics such as calculating percentages, doing unit conversions, and adding, multiplying, subtracting, and dividing is expected. We will be doing calculations in class and in lab. **You will need a basic scientific calculator.** I will go over calculations and math work with the class and help you along, but I will not listen to complaints. **You must be willing to learn how to perform basic mathematic functions.**

Attendance Policy. Attendance is crucial for this course. If you miss a class, you will miss the learning opportunities provided there, as well as lecture notes, handouts, announcements, assignments, tests, and the chance to turn in assignments. Please see me in my office if you need class handouts. If you miss more than two weeks of class, it will be very difficult to pass this course. In accordance with Highline policies, you may be dropped from this class for excessive absences. Please be on time to class. The beginning of the class period is the time when announcement, handouts, exams, and assignments will be distributed or collected and possibly discussed. **Being late for class is a disruption for classroom activities and can interfere with your classmates’ learning.**

Academic Dishonesty
Do our own work. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any episode of academic dishonesty will be dealt with as harshly as possible in accordance with Highline Community College policies. It may result in failure of the assignment, a failing grade in the course, permanent dismissal from the class or even from the college.

Special Needs
Both Highline Community College and I are committed to providing access to education for students with disabilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, please provide me with the Letter of Accommodation you have received from the Office of Access Services within the first week of class. The Office of Access Services is located in Building 6 in the Student Development Center. **All accommodation requests will be held in complete confidentiality.**