

Earth Sciences 1081a: Resources, Environment and Sustainability in a Material Society

Course Syllabus: Fall, 2013

Additional course information can be found at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Prerequisites: None **Antirequisites:** Earth Sciences 1022A/B, 1081b, 1070a/b.

Objectives of this course: This course is designed to introduce students to the relationships between humans and their geological environment. It examines geological principles and process and relates them to human activities. Emphasis is placed on geological hazards and on evidence for human perturbation of Earth's natural systems that may impact the future of humankind and our planet. As the course is an Earth Sciences course, topics covered with focus on geologic aspects of environmental issues.

Note: this course may be used as an entry course for any Earth Sciences program.

Background Required: This course is intended for (but not limited to) students registered in faculties other than Science.

Instructor: Dr. Cam Tsujita; Phone: (519) 661-2111 ext 86740; Biological and Geological Sci. Bldg, Rm 1064

Lectures: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:30 am; UCC-56

Power Point slides for note-taking in lectures are available online at <http://owl.uwo.ca/> at least one day prior to each lecture. *Please note that the first week of lectures, complete slides powerpoint lectures will be posted on OWL. Thereafter, slides will be posted in incomplete form (i.e. with some parts of the text missing) to encourage you to come to class. It is completely up to you to get the missing "blanks" if you miss any lectures from a classmate.*

Department of Earth Sciences: Phone (519) 661-3187. Fax (519) 661-3198

Email: For all correspondence requiring prompt reply, please use ctsujita@uwo.ca (Please include 'ES 1081a' in the subject line of all emails about this course. Emails without ES 1081a in the subject line might be deleted as spam). Please also note that Cam is less likely to respond promptly to email messages sent through OWL (so just avoid using the OWL email messaging system if at all possible).

Instructor's Office Hours: 1:30 – 3:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays (but feel free to make an appointment via email to Cam (at ctsujita@uwo.ca) if these times do not suit your timetable).

Teaching Assistants: To Be Announced (refer to OWL course page for email addresses)

Laboratory Sections: Tues. 11:30-1:30 (Sec. 002), Tues. 3:30-5:30 (Sec. 003), Wed. 1:30-3:30 (Sec. 004 (open only if the other lab sections become full). All labs held in the Biological and Geological Sciences Building (B&GS) Rm. 1015. Note: if you need to change the lab section you are currently registered in due to a timetable conflict, you **must** ask your instructor for approval. If approved, you must then confirm both your instructor and TAs of both sections of your intent to attend a different section.

Recommended Textbook: Introduction to Environmental Geology (Edward A. Keller). Available for purchase at UWO Bookstore.

Laboratory Assignments: Traditionally for this course, students have been required to purchase a laboratory manual containing the necessary background information and worksheets for hand-in assignments. This year, the laboratory assignments will be provided as downloadable pdf files on OWL. **You will be required you to print out the worksheets (which will be handed in to your TA for marking by the beginning of your next regularly scheduled lab period).** However, whether or not to print out the background information is your choice. **Note:** Labs for this course will start on the week of the third week of classes (week of Sept. 23-27, 2013), so there will be no need for you to attend labs up until that week.

Grade Components

Weekly Labs: 20 %*

Lecture-Based Midterm 20%

Lab Final Exam: 25 %

Lecture-Based Final Exam 35 %

*Note: **There are 7 weekly labs.** Marks for all 7 lab assignments will count toward your final "weekly labs" mark. The writing of all exams in the course will be mandatory in order to pass the course (the midterm, final, and lab final), so if you miss one or more due to illness, you **MUST** arrange the writing of a makeup exam with your instructor (and receive recommendation from academic counselling with valid documentation of illness or other circumstance warranting Special Accommodation in accordance with university guidelines).

Course Schedule (2013)

Note: We will adhere to the schedule (below) as closely as possible. However, there may be times in which a particular lecture is longer than anticipated and may therefore “overflow” into another (e.g. if a lecture is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a “snow day,” if a longer time is needed to help everybody understand an important concept, or if an interesting discussion arises). Please be patient; we will do our very best to catch up if we do fall behind. **And just as a reminder: Do not treat the slide handouts as a substitute for attending lectures! Doing so will be almost guaranteed to result in a significantly lower mark than desired.**

Material covered on the midterm lecture exam and final exam will focus be on the lecture material (and you cannot rely on a textbook to make up for significant absences). Please regularly visit OWL for important announcements and updated information on the course (in the event that the following schedule is modified).

Lectures and Labs (Listed by Week)

Week 1 (Sept. 9-13)

Sept. 10 – Lecture 1: Course introduction

Sept. 12 – Lecture 2: Human links with geology

No lab this week

Week 2 (Sept. 16-20)

Sept. 17 – Lecture 3: The basic matters of matter: from atoms to minerals

Sept. 19 – Lecture 4: The chemistry, structure and properties of minerals

No lab this week

Week 3 (Sept. 23-27) **Note: Labs start this week (all labs in B&GS Rm. 1015)!**

Sept. 24 – Lecture 5: Rocks: the stuff they don’t teach you about in high school

Sept. 26 – No Lecture! (Cam away on field trip)

Lab. 1: Identifying minerals

Week 4 (Sept. 30-Oct. 4)

Oct. 1 – Lecture 6: Plate tectonics: why the stuff in lecture 5 is important

Oct. 3 – Lecture 7: The context of geologic time

Lab. 2: Identifying rocks and interpreting geologic events (Lab 1 due)

Week 5 (Oct. 7-11)

Oct. 8 – Lecture 8: Introduction to natural hazards

Oct. 10 – Lecture 9: Surface water and flooding

Lab 3: River features and flood hazards (Lab 2 due)

Week 6 (Oct. 14-18)

Oct. 15 - Lecture 10: Landslides and subsidence

Oct.17 – Lecture 11: Earthquakes

Lab 4: Volcanoes, earthquakes, and associated hazards (Lab 3 due)

Week 7: (Oct. 21-25)

Oct. 22 – Midterm Exam (9:30-10:30 am, in regular classroom (UCC-56)); will cover material up to, and including Lecture 9 (i.e. “Surface water and flooding”)

Oct. 24 – Lecture 12: Volcanic activity and associated hazards

Lab 5: Metallic mineral resources and mining (Lab 4 due)

Week 8 (Oct. 28-Nov.1)

Oct. 29 – Lecture 13: Mineral resources

Oct. 31 – No Lecture (due to Fall Study Break (Oct.31-Nov.1))

Lab 6: Energy resources and air pollution (Lab 5 due)

Week 9 (Nov. 4-8)

Nov. 5 – Lecture 14: Fossil fuels

Nov. 7 - Lecture 15: Air pollution and acid rain

Lab 7: Groundwater and groundwater pollution (Lab 6 due)

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Week 10 (Nov. 11-15)

Nov. 12 – Lecture 16: Alternative energy sources

Nov. 14 – Lecture 17: Water resources

Lab 7 due (but no formal lab this week).

Week 11 (Nov. 18-22)

Nov. 19 – Lecture 18: Water pollution and treatment

Nov. 21 – Lecture 19: Waste management

Optional Lab Review, question and answer period (pick up graded lab 8, but no formal lab this week).

Week 12 (Nov. 25-29)

Nov. 26 – Lecture 20: Soils and the environment

Nov. 28 – Lecture 21: Introduction to climate change

Lab Exam (conducted during your scheduled lab period)

Week 13 (Dec. 1-6)

Dec. 3– Lecture 22: Climate change and global warming

Dec. 5 - Lecture 23: Geology and health

No labs this week

Final Exam: Tentative TBA (see <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Exams/>)

Comments on Exams

Midterm Exam: Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013 (regular lecture room and time (9:30-10:20 am, UCC-56).

Lab exam: Held during your regularly scheduled lab near end of term (Week of Nov. 25-29).

Final Exam: The official date for the final exam will be set by the Office of the Registrar. The final exam **will** be cumulative, but will focus more on post-midterm material.

Format for Midterm and Final Exams: Both exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in words, & short answer questions. The **Midterm (Lecture) Exam will be 50 minutes long** and the **Final (Lecture) Exam will be 2 hours long**.

Note: Your final grade for the course will be calculated as the sum of your marks for each of the components. This mark will then be rounded to the nearest integer. No marks will be awarded for arbitrary reasons, and there will be no after-the-fact changes (e.g. 89 to 90 %). In addition, please note that you will be judged according to your performance in this course. **Marks are not awarded with reference to external requirements, like medical school entry criteria, or your personal need for a particular average.**

Attendance and Course Material Tested

Lectures and posting of lecture slides: As with any university course, attendance is very important! You are responsible for understanding **all** material presented in the lectures, regardless of your attendance. However, the **downloadable Powerpoint lecture slides only partially cover what will be discussed in class** (and you can be guaranteed that there will be some of this material on the exams). In other words, **do not treat the slide handouts posted on OWL as a substitute for attending lectures!**

Text: Note that **several of the lectures cover topics that are treated only superficially in the text**. The exams will draw from material covered in the lectures, but the readings will provide additional background that will aid in the understanding of the concepts. If you miss a lecture, it is up to you to obtain any missing information you require from one or more of your classmates.

Labs: All hand-in sheets for any given lab must be submitted directly to your assigned TA at the very beginning of your next officially scheduled lab period in order to be counted as being “on time” and, ultimately, to be marked by your TA (unless due to illness or other exceptional circumstances considered as a valid excuse by the Dean’s Office of your Faculty or Affiliated College, as discussed below). If you are anticipating that you will be absent from a particular lab period it is up to you to make special arrangements with your assigned TA to submit the assignment to him or her beforehand. Labs not handed by the designated time will not be marked, and you will not receive grades for them. **No make-up labs will be arranged for missed labs or lab assignments handed in late without recommendation of accommodation by an academic counsellor in your home faculty or affiliate college (see “in case of illness...” section below).** . In other words, late lab assignments will not be accepted for grading, so it is important for you to show up on time at the beginning of your regularly scheduled lab. Also note that it is **very important** that you **follow the instructions provided for all lab assignments and exams. Any marks lost from not properly following the instructions provided herein and in the assignment outlines themselves are non-negotiable.**

In Case of Illness or Other Serious Circumstance (i.e., What to do if you Miss an Exam or Miss an Assignment Deadline)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you **must** provide **valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling team in Dean's office of your home Faculty (or Affiliate College) as soon as possible. Also, contact your instructor immediately to notify him/her of your absence and that you have arranged a meeting with Academic Counselling to present your documentation for academic accomodation.**

In the event of a missed exam, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately. For further information please see:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness, should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Records Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found here:

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf

It is YOUR responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed.

Procedures for Reporting a Missed Exam or Missed Labs

For missed exams: If you miss an exam (midterm, lab exam or final exam) due to legitimate circumstances, please take appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in the Dean's office of your home Faculty or Affiliate College. University regulations on the handling of confidential student information are such that instructors cannot view such documentation; all such documentation must be handled by Academic Counselling. For a legitimate claim, your counselor will contact Dr. Tsujita directly to recommend accomodation to write a make-up exam at an alternate date. **Being 'very busy' or 'I planned my vacation during that time' are not considered valid excuses.** The deadlines in this course are set well in advance and it is up to you to manage your time in a way that allows you to meet them; you are at university and your studies are assumed to be your first priority.

For missed labs: Please note the number of students in each lab section is limited by health and safety regulations (as a consequence, make-up lab sessions cannot be run). All eight labs will count toward your lab assignment mark. If you miss a lab due to a serious health or other exceptional circumstance (with approval from your Dean's Office), please bring this to the attention to your instructor so that appropriate alternate arrangements can be made.

Statements Required by the Faculty Senate

Prerequisites: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Conduct: "Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

And lastly...

If you have ANY problems **following the course material, please make sure you come talk to Cam (or the TAs), or email us (Again, please include 'ES 1081a' in the subject line of all emails about this course), to go over the material with you and help you understand the concepts better. Cam's door is always open (yes, even outside office hours), so if you are needing extra help or have questions, PLEASE SAY SO before it becomes a bigger problem (as long as Cam is in, he will be happy to talk to you). Please do not feel inimidated about asking questions about concepts you are struggling with-** that's what we're here for!