



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

SCI 350: Leadership Ethics in the Geosciences

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

SCI 320

Course Description

As professionals, students will be expected to use their knowledge and skills to enhance understanding of Earth for the well-being of society and the environment. As such, this course will focus on leadership and ethics as it relates to the practice of the geosciences. Topics will include project management techniques related to scheduling and budgeting projects, group dynamics, organizational behavior, and compliance.

Course Outcomes

- Analyze the interactions in human-environmental coupled systems for their impact on the decisions that leaders make in geoscience projects
- Apply geoscience information for developing projects that ethically balance human needs with environmental responsibility
- Communicate the results of geospatial and geoscience analyses clearly, accurately, and effectively for informing diverse stakeholders' decision making around geoscience
- Suggest geoscience project management techniques for ethically and effectively operating within scheduling and budgeting parameters while complying with legal and organizational policy requirements
- Propose consensus-building strategies based on geoscience data and situation-specific group dynamics and organizational behavior for gaining buy-in for environmentally responsible geoscience projects

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in the Earth Sciences

Max Wyss and Silvia Peppoloni (Eds)

Elsevier Science

2015

ISBN: 978-0-12-800076-2

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	4	25	100
Journals	2	35	70
Short Papers	4	40	160
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	100	100
Milestone Two	1	110	110
Milestone Three	1	110	110
Case Study Analysis	1	350	350
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2
C-	70–72	1.67
D+	67–69	1.33
D	60–66	1
F	0–59	0
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
IP	In Progress (past end of term)	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Geoethics: Foundations and Challenges Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 1–3 Optional: Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 4 and 5 1-1 Discussion: Getting Started 1-2 Final Project Review 1-3 Final Project Milestone One: Selection of Case Study for Analysis—Introduction

Module	Topics and Assignments
2	Who Are Geoscientists, and Where Are We Today? Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 7, 8, and 9 2-1 Discussion: Scholarly Ethics and Plagiarism 2-2 Journal: Integrity and Research, the Foundation of “Good Science”
3	Policy Impacts on Scientific Evidence Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 10, 12, and 16 3-1 Short Paper: Geoscience Evidence—Science or Politics? 3-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Balancing Human Needs and Environmental Factors
4	Interactions With Society Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 18, 19, and 22 4-1 Discussion: Communicating Geoscience Risk 4-2 Short Paper: Responsibility of Communicating Geoscience Risk
5	Hazard Classification Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 24, 26, and 28 5-1 Short Paper: Natural and Human Hazards—Managing Public Dialogue and Overcoming Biases 5-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Informing Decision Making and Addressing Constraints
6	Balancing Resources and Exposure to Risk Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences, Chapters 31, 32, and 33 6-1 Short Paper: Human-Environment Coupled Systems—Balancing Local Needs With Global Demand 6-2 Journal: Geoethics—Reducing Geohazard Exposure
7	Case Study Submissions 7-1 Final Submission: Case Study Analysis
8	Review and Future Geoethics Opportunities 8-1 Discussion: Review and Outcomes

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is **automatically dropped** from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).