

**Lecture:** MWF 11:15-12:05 pm in 113 Brackett Hall

**Required text:**

Nance, R & Murphy, J. (2015). Physical Geology Today, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Publisher: Oxford University Press

**Instructor:** Dr. Mary Kate Fidler

**Email:** mfidler@clemson.edu

**Office:** 340C Brackett Hall

**Office hours:** Wednesday 12:15-1:30 or by appointment (email me!)

**Course Description and learning objectives:**

The intent of this course is to introduce you to the evolution of our planet, to the materials that form the Earth, and to processes that are at work in the Earth's interior and on the surface. The course is designed for any student who is interested in the processes which shape Earth's interior and surface and would like to gain knowledge and appreciation of the physical and chemical world they live in.

Although you may not be science majors, this course will introduce you to scientific reasoning and principles of the earth sciences, physics, chemistry and biology. We will emphasize the study of plate tectonics to gain an understanding of the occurrence of volcanoes and earthquakes, as well as many of the Earth's topographic features. Exams will cover PowerPoint materials given in class, handouts, and assigned readings.

\*\*This course fulfills a general education competency in Natural Sciences. This course has no prerequisites.

**Grading:**

Midterm 1: 15%

Midterm 2: 15%

Midterm 3: 15%

Final Exam: 20%

Assignments and in-class work: 20%

Quizzes: 15%

Attendance, participation, and professionalism: 5%

This class uses the traditional 10-pt scale

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = 59-0

The instructor reserves the right to curve grades to the students advantage.

**Course organization:**

**Quizzes:** There will be an **online quiz after each lecture**. They will be 4-5 questions and worth 5 points each. They may cover both lecture and reading material. **Quizzes are due at the start of the next lecture**. If at least 80% of the class completes course evaluation at the end of the semester, then everyone's **three lowest** quiz grades will be dropped.

**Exams:** There will be **three midterm exams and one final exam**. The final exam is cumulative and required of all students.

**Assignments:** The nature of assignments will vary. Expect one or more assignments before each exam.

**In-class work:** There may be some in class work that is graded. Many of these will be announced in advance – indicated as “active days” on the course google calendar, but some may be unannounced.

**Attendance, participation and professionalism:** A balance of these three items inform 5% of your final grade.

- a) Attendance: I will pass a role sheet around at the start of each lecture. If you come in late, make sure to sign it before you leave. If a student's attendance record is >90% (out of the days I take attendance)
- b) Participation: Volunteering to answer questions posed in class, asking questions in class or via canvas, and/or coming to office hours all contribute to my assessment of your class participation.
- c) Professionalism: Following the "rules of the road" for our course (discussed on day 1) and conduct yourself in a professional way during class, at office hours, and in all course related communications with myself and your classmates.

**To Succeed in this course, you should do 4 main things...**

- 1) **Attend all lectures and take notes in your own words.** All lecture slides will be posted on Canvas following each lecture, so rather than racing copying text from slides word for word, use your lecture notes to re-frame new ideas in the way that you understand them. This will help you process the information and identify what topics you have questions on as we go, rather than discovering you don't understand something later when you are cramming for an exam. Also, even though slides will be posted for you to use as study materials, listening to what topics I stress in lectures will give you invaluable insight into how you should focus your exam studying.
- 2) **Review lecture slides and notes before each online quiz.** The 5 question quizzes will only be open for 20 minutes. To ensure you do well on quizzes, study first, then start the quiz. Quizzes in this course serve three purposes: 1) they force you to study the material after each lecture, making you better prepared for exams, 2) they give you a sense for my question asking style, making you better prepared for exams, and 3) they give me information of what topics many students are struggling with on a lecture-by-lecture basis, so I can adjust my instruction accordingly.
- 3) **Create handwritten, illustrated study guides before exams for use studying.** Most students in the first year rely on their favorite high school study method – flashcards. I encourage you to light all your index cards on fire and try out this new study tactic for this course, which lends itself much better to the sorts of complex ideas and image heavy information you will confront in this course.
- 4) **ASK QUESTIONS.** I encourage all of you to interrupt during class, to send me as many email as you like, and to come to office hours or set up appointments with me to review study materials before exams.

### **Course Policies:**

*Missed Exams:* **There are no make-up exams offered.** You can make up a missed exam ONLY if you inform me before the exam AND have a qualifying excuse. I may require written proof that explains why your absence was necessary. If there are extreme circumstances, please discuss them with me. In extreme circumstances where a make-up exam is granted but the exam has already been returned to the class, the make-up exam will consist of essay questions only or an oral examination.

*Late Assignments:* Accepted with a penalty of 10% (of your final score) per day that it is late (**including weekend days** – scan/photograph and email if the assignment submission is not electronic) for four days. **After four days, they will not be accepted.** Exceptions to this rule must be discussed with me and will be granted only in extreme circumstances.

*Grade disputes:* **No grade disputes will be considered after the final exam.** If there is an issue with any graded assignment, it must be discussed with me before the final exam.

*What to do if instructor doesn't show up:* If I am late, you are expected to wait 15 minutes for myself or a substitute to arrive.

## **University Policies:**

*Academic Integrity:* The Undergraduate Catalogue states, "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form [including plagiarism]." **Any instances of academic misconduct will be referred to academic affairs with the recommendation that the student receive an F for the entire course.**

*Inclement weather:* Any exam that was scheduled at the time of a class cancellation due to inclement weather will be given at the next class meeting unless contacted by the instructor. Any assignments due at the time of a class cancellation due to inclement weather will be due at the next class meeting unless contacted by the instructor. Any extension or postponement of assignments or exams must be granted by the instructor via email or Canvas within 24 hours of the weather related cancellation.

*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:* Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the professor know, and make an appointment to meet with a staff member in Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. You can make an appointment by calling 864-656-6848, by emailing [studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu](mailto:studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu), or by visiting Suite 239 in the Academic Success Center building. Appointments are strongly encouraged – drop-ins will be seen if at all possible, but there could be a significant wait due to scheduled appointments. Students who receive Academic Access Letters are strongly encouraged to request, obtain and present these to their professors as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to follow this process each semester. You can access further information here: <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/sds/>.

*Sexual Harassment and misconduct:* Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Ms. Alesia Smith is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator, and the Executive Director of Equity Compliance. Her office is located at 110 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.656.0899 (TDD). **Any instances of harassment or disruptive behavior towards**

**others involved in this course (faculty, other students, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in the student being dropped from the course.**

### **Course Schedule:**

The course schedule is available to you via a google calendar (link below). Here lecture topics are posted (with associated textbook readings listed in event details – click the lecture event to see assigned reading which should be completed prior to the start of lecture)

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/b/1?cid=Zy5jbGVtc29uLmVkdV9paHJpbzI2dXFoNW1jbJqcXVzZG9ob2xiMEBncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>

The lecture schedule, reading assignments, and assignment ASSIGN and DUE dates are subject to change, **but the dates of exams are NOT subject to change.** Exams will be held on the following dates:

Exam 1: 9/16 in class

Exam 2: 10/11 in class

Exam 3: 11/6 in class

Final Exam: Tues 12/10 from 8:00 am – 10:30 pm in our normal classroom