

Geology 214
Environmental Geology
Winter 2011

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Office Hours: MTW 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by arrangement

Text: NO TEXTBOOK

Date		Topic	
January	5	Introduction	
	7	Population/Sustainability	
	10	Hazard and Risk	
	12	Hydrologic Cycle & Watersheds	
	14	Stream Flow and Hydrographs	
	17	<i>Martin Luther King Day—No Class</i>	
	19	Precipitation	
	21	Precipitation	
	24	Soils & Infiltration	
	26	Soils & Infiltration	
	28	Evaporation	
	February	31	Evapotranspiration
		2	Evapotranspiration
		4	Exam 1
7		Snow Hydrology	
9		Runoff Processes	
11		Floods	
14		Floods	
16		Slope Stability	
18		Slope Stability	
21		Presidents Day—No Class	
23	Slope Stability		
25	Subsidence		
March	28	Groundwater	
	2	Groundwater	
	4	Exam 2	
	7	Groundwater Contamination	
	9	Groundwater Contamination	
11	Groundwater Contamination & Review		
Wednesday	16	Final Exam 10:30 - 12:30 pm	

I reserve the right to change the syllabus as required throughout the term to better meet the instructional needs of the class.

About the Course: Environmental geology deals with relationships between man and her/his geologic environment; it is concerned with the problems that people have in using the Earth and the reaction of the Earth to that use. Environmental geology encompasses geologic hazards (*e.g.* earthquakes, landslides, volcanic hazards, floods), waste management, groundwater supply and pollution, and energy resources to name a few. The objective of this course is to educate you about some of these concepts so you can be better land-use resource advocates.

Because Geology 101 or 211 is required for Geol 214, you may experience some overlap as I introduce a topic. Also, since this class contains a cross section of students (*i.e.* art majors to science majors) there may be times during the quarter where some of you may get overwhelmed while others of you are bored. Please be patient while I try to address the various levels.

Exams: There will be three 100 point exams offered in this course; two, one-hour midterm exams and a comprehensive final. The exams will cover the material discussed in the reading and lectures. You will be required to take all the exams.

Make-up exams will be given only in the case of official prearranged absences or emergencies. An excused absence form from the office of Student Affairs is required. Make-up exams may be of a different format (*e.g.*, essay type). Departmental policy prohibits any early exams.

Term Project. You will be required to do a term project that involves investigating the environmental geology hazards of a city of your choice. I will provide details of the project in a forthcoming handout a few weeks into the term.

If you have a documented disability you must report to me some time during the first week of class to discuss your needs.

Grading: Your grade will be based on the average of the three exams, which will constitute 90% of your grade. The term project will be worth 10%.

The grading scale will be as follows (a grading curve is possible, but not certain):

93.0 or above	=	A	73.0-77.5	=	C
90.0-92.9	=	A-	70.0-72.9	=	C-
87.6-89.9	=	B+	67.6-69.9	=	D+
83.0-87.5	=	B	63.0-67.5	=	D
80.0-82.9	=	B-	59.0-62.9	=	D-
77.6-79.9	=	C+	below 59	=	F

Academic honesty is an important part of every course at WWU. Please review the Academic Honesty Policy and Procedure in Appendix D (p. 398-399) of the 2009-2010 Course Catalog for details (http://www.wvu.edu/wvu_catalog/2009-20010catalog.pdf).