

GEOL 1500 - Environmental Geology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 41248,

Credit hours: 4

Instructor

Cynthia Erbacher

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Faculty

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Master's, Environmental Studies, Point Park University, 2014

29 Completed Master's Credit Hours, Environmental Geology, University of Akron, 1999'

Bachelor's, Geology, University of Toledo, 1996

Instructor Office Location:: *Room 2023 Ward Beecher Science Hall (Department of Physics, Astronomy, GIS, Geology, and Environmental Science main office)*

Instructor Office Phone: *330-941-3616 (Department of Physics, Astronomy, GIS, Geology, and Environmental Science main office)*

Course Description

1500. Environmental Geology. An introductory course that examines interactions between human society and our changing planet, the affects of natural/geologic hazards on humans, and anthropogenic (human-caused) impacts on nature, geology, and society. Three hours of lecture and two hours lab per week. 4 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Living With Earth: An Introduction to Environmental Geology	Travis Hudson	9781315506593
Required	Mastering Geology with Pearson eText Access Code for Hazard City	Mastering Geology with Pearson eText Access Code for Hazard City	9780133987997

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1: Sections 1.1 through 1.6 Posted Blackboard Readings	Introduction to Class and Environmental Geology Hazard City Lab Registration	Due 8/30 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 1.1 Assignment 1.2 Assignment 1.3 Introduce Yourself Discussion Hazard City Lab Registration
8/31	Chapter 2: Sections 2.1 through 2.5 Posted Blackboard Readings, Weblinks, and Videos	Geosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere, Geologic Time	Due 9/6 at 11:59PM ET Assignment.2.1 Assignment 2.2 Assignment 2.3 Lab Activity 2a - Kola Superdeep Borehole Lab Activity 2b - Time Traveling Introduction to Mastering Geology (Extra Credit)



9/7	Chapter 3: Sections 3.1 through 3.3 Posted Blackboard Readings, Weblinks, and Videos	Plate Tectonics	Due 9/13 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 3.1 Assignment 3.2 Assignment 3.3 Plate Tectonic Lab Activity Plate Tectonic Question (Extra Credit)
9/14	Chapter 4: Sections 4.1 through 4.3 Posted Blackboard Readings and Weblinks	Rocks and Rock Types Minerals	Due 9/20 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 4.1 Assignment 4.2 Assignment 4.3 Hazard City Lab: Map Reading
9/21	Chapter 5: Sections 5.1 through 5.5 Posted Blackboard Readings and Weblinks	Earthquakes	Due September 27 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 5.1 Assignment 5.2 Assignment 5.3 Assignment 5.4 Hazard City Lab: Earthquakes
9/28	Chapter 6: Sections 6.1 through 6.4 Posted Blackboard Readings	Volcanoes	Due 10/4 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 6.1 Assignment 6.2 Assignment 6.3 Hazard City Lab: Volcanoes
10/5	Chapter 7: Sections 7.1 through 7.4 Posted Blackboard Readings	Rivers and Flooding	Due 10/11 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 7.1 Assignment 7.2 Hazard City Lab: Flood Rate Insurance
10/12	Chapter 8: Sections 8.1 through 8.4 Posted Blackboard Readings	Unstable Lands	Due 10/18 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 8.1 Assignment 8.2 Hazard City Lab: Landslides Hazard City Lab : Snow Pack Monitoring - (EXTRA CREDIT)
10/19	Chapter 9: Sections 9.1 through 9.3 Posted Blackboard Readings	Coastal Basics, Features, Erosion, and Sedimentation	Due 10/25 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 9.1 Assignment 9.2 Assignment 9.3 Hazard City Lab: Coastal Assessment
10/26	Chapter 9: Sections 9.4 and 9.5 Posted Blackboard Readings	Coasts and Storms	Due 11/1 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 10.1 Assignment 10.2 Hazard City Lab: Tsunami and Storm Surge
11/2	Chapter 10: Sections 10.1 through 10.5 Posted Blackboard Readings and Weblinks	Water Resources	Due 11/8 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 11.1 Assignment 11.2 Assignment 11.3 Hazard City Lab: Groundwater Water Discussion Question (EXTRA CREDIT)
11/9	Chapter 11: Sections 11.1 through 11.5 Posted Blackboard Readings and Weblinks	Mineral Resources	Due 11/15 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 12.1 Assignment 12.2 Assignment 12.3 Mineral Lab
11/16	Chapter 12: Sections 12.1 through 12.4 Posted Blackboard Readings, Weblinks, and Videos	Soil Resources	Due 11/22 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 13.1 Assignment 13.1b Hazard City Lab: Landfill

11/23	Chapter 13: Sections 13.1 through 13.6 Posted Blackboard Readings	Energy Resources	Due 11/29 at 11:59PM ET Assignment 14.1 Assignment 14.2 Assignment 14.3 Assignment 14.4 Hazard City Lab: Energy Resources
11/30	Chapter 14: Sections 14.1 through 14.5 Chapter 15: Sections 15.1 and 15.2 Posted Blackboard Readings, Weblinks, and Videos	Climate Change Environmental Policies and Regulations	Due 12/6 at 11:59PM ET Climate Question Assignment 15.1 Assignment 15.2 Class Wrap - Up Discussion

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.