GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Tatiana Gaona
Phone: (305) 348-3614
Office: AHC5, office 382 (MMC)
Office Hours: Wednesday 1pm-3pm, via zoom
E-mail: tgaona@fiu.edu
Website: https://earthenvironment.fiu.edu/

NOTE: This course requires you to check daily your student portal on Canvas (http://canvas.fiu.edu/login/) since all the class announcements and extra class materials will be posted there. The use of the McGraw-Hill Connect platform is optional.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Our goal is to make you become familiar, understand and appreciate the internal and external processes shaping Earth today and throughout geologic time. At the end of this course, you will also understand how geological processes and materials affect society and your everyday life. This knowledge may become extremely helpful in some of your future personal, financial, and professional decisions (e.g. where to live, build, or acquire property). As part of this course, we will analyze the basic principles of mineral and rock formation, as well as the effects of volcanoes, earthquakes, weather and climate change. This course must be taken with its lab companion course (GLY 1010 Lab) to fulfill the Natural Science Group 2 UCC requirements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to apply their knowledge of Physical Geology to:

- Apply scientific principles and theories to problem-solving.
- Test scientific hypothesis by applying the scientific method.
- Evaluate scientific statements and graphics.
- Interpret new information within the context of existing knowledge.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

Please review the FIU's Policies and Netiquette webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

As a member of the FIU community you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the FIU Student Code of Conduct.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students
enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- Canvas
- Microsoft
- Adobe
- Google
- ProctorU
- HonorLock
- OpenStax

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for additional information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT STATEMENT

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Learn more about the academic integrity policies and procedures as well as student resources that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

This course must be taken with its lab companion course (GLY 1010 Lab) to fulfill the Natural Science Group 2 UCC requirement.

PANTHERS CARE & COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)
If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate’s well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with FIU’s Panthers Care website.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

This course does not require proctored exams.

TEXTBOOK

Exploring Geology (Required)
Stephen J. Reynolds, Julia K. Johnson, P. Morin, C. Carter
ISBN-10: N/A
You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore or from the book publisher.

*LearnSmart IS NOT required for this course. To access the LearnSmart modules and Practice Quizzes, you need to purchase a Connect/LearnSmart key.

Registration instructions and a link to access your Connect course assignments are available in the Getting Started module of your Canvas course. Courtesy access is available until January 25th once you register to Connect.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the coursework will be conducted online. All class materials, homework instructions, quizzes, exams, announcements, and grades are available on our Canvas website. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the "How to Get Started" information located on the course content.
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas.
- Become familiar as soon as possible with the use of the Canvas platform. To log-in go to http://canvas.fiu.edu/login/
- Review and follow the course calendar.
- Log in to the course at least four (4) times per week.
- Complete the weekly assignments (reading, watching videos, review questions).
- Read the assigned chapters from the textbook/e-book, as well as watching the videos posted on Canvas before completing the corresponding sets of study questions.
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.
- Respond to messages within no more than two (2) days.
- The LearnSmart assignments and practice quizzes, available on the McGraw Hill Connect platform, are optional and count toward your extra-credit points.
- Contact your instructor via Canvas or Zoom (office hours) if aspects of the lecture are not fully understood.
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers.
- Show courtesy and respect for the instructor and fellow classmates.
The instructor will:

- Log in to the course at least five (5) times per week.
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs and postings within two (2) weeks.
- Respond to messages within 2 days (48 hours).
- Grade assignments within ten (10) days of the assignment deadline.

NOTE - Early Alert

In an effort to help you succeed in your academic courses, FIU utilizes an Early Alert system. Instructors are now able to notify students’ academic advisors if there are concerns about class performance. If an alert is submitted, your academic advisor will send you a message via your Student Dashboard (accessed via your MYFIU page) to discuss ways to improve your performance. Please respond to any communication you receive from your academic advisor about an early alert. Our goal with this program is to help you to be successful by identifying any issues as early on as possible and working to address them.

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within two (2) days. You are expected to conduct your communications with courtesy and respect.

Zoom Meetings:

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct office hours and questions about the course and assignments. Zoom meetings will be held on the following dates/time:

Meetings will be available on Wednesdays from 1 pm - 3 pm. Please, refer to your Canvas page for more information about Zoom.

PARTICIPATION/DISCUSSION FORUMS

Participation points are granted for actively contributing to two (2) discussion blogs on geological hazards. Discussions and participation are required, just as if you were in a face to face class. The grade will be dependent on thoughtful participation during the discussion forums. Responses such as "I agree" or "yeah... what he said" will result in zero points of credit. Read the rubric below for more information:

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of ideas</td>
<td>Well-developed ideas; introduce new ideas, and stimulates discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Clear evidence of critical thinking - application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Postings are characterized by clarity of arguments, depth of insight into theoretical issues, originality of treatment, and relevance. Sometimes include unusual insights. Arguments are well supported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of Postings</td>
<td>Interact at least twice with other students and/or instructors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeliness</td>
<td>Individual message and at least two responses posted before the deadline. First submission and prompt questions are due by Thursday of the assigned week. All responses (e.g. peer review) must be completed by the following Monday.</td>
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</table>
ASSESSMENTS

There will be four (4) online mandatory exams. Typically, each exam will focus on the chapters for that given period (see calendar for specific dates). The final exam covers the entire content of the course; students with enough points to obtain an A in the course can opt out of the final exam.

No make-ups are offered without a written excuse from a doctor, parent, or legal guardian. In the case you have a valid reason for missing the mid-term exam, you will be given a makeup. In such a case, you need to contact Dr. Gaona for more information.

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, whichever happens first. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services.

If you encounter a problem when conducting an assessment (e.g. exam, quiz, discussion, etc.) and/or have problems uploading documents to the assignment dropbox, then you must contact FIU online for assistance. They will contact me with additional instructions at which point a determination will be made regarding the next course of action. There is no exception to this policy.

There are 18 online practice quizzes (extra-credit), one at the end of each chapter. The practice quizzes will be available on the Connect website. You need to purchase a Connect/LearnSmart code from McGraw-Hill in order to have access to the practice quizzes. Remember that Connect/LearnSmart assignments and practice quizzes are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. There will be no make up for discussion blogs, practice/extra-credit quizzes, and LearnSmart assignments.

INDIVIDUAL HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENTS

There will be seventeen (17) long assignments consisting of concept-sketch style study questions, investigation questions, concept maps, and/or online exercises. Instructions for the assignments are posted on Canvas. All writing and sketching assignments must be scanned/photographed and uploaded on the corresponding Canvas Dropbox by the due date.

Course Late Assignment Policy:

All assignments submitted after the assignment due date are subject to the following deductions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Days Late</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 6</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 10</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;14</td>
<td>Cannot be submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXTRA-CREDIT: CONNECT AND LEARNSMART INFORMATION

Connect is a platform for you to access your McGraw-Hill materials from a computer, anytime and anywhere. Included in Connect are your personalized study guides, LearnSmart reading material, practice quizzes, and a supplementary video library. The goal of LearnSmart is to help you learn the topics presented in each assignment by asking you a series of questions that adapt to your strengths and weaknesses to guide you through the material you
need to learn. Connect is not required for this course but completion of the LearnSmart assignments and the Connect practice quizzes give you extra-credit points.

Your LearnSmart extra-credit points are based on the successful completion of each LearnSmart assignment. In addition, there are 18 online practice quizzes (extra-credit), one at the end of each chapter. The LearnSmart assignments and practice quizzes will be available on the Connect website. You need to purchase a Connect/LearnSmart code either from the FIU Bookstore or McGraw-Hill in order to have access. Remember that Connect/LearnSmart assignments and practice quizzes are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. There will be no makeups for practice/extra-credit quizzes, and LearnSmart assignments.

The total number of LearnSmart and practice quizzes points will be manually updated on your Canvas gradebook twice during the semester. Search on the Canvas introduction module for more information and instructions on how to register to Connect/LearnSmart.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Cumulative)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect/LearnSmart assignments (extra-credit)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect Practice Quizzes (extra-credit)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Description/Title goes here

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7 - 13</td>
<td>Tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Read textbook chapters 1 and 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapters 1 and 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14 - 20</td>
<td>Tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Read textbook chapters 3 and 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapters 3 and 4.

**Chapter 5 (Igneous Environment)**

**Week 3:**
Jan 21 - 27
- Read textbook chapter 5.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 3.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 5.

**Chapter 6 (Volcanism)**

**Week 4:**
Jan 28 - Feb 3
- Read textbook chapter 6.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 4.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 6.

**Chapter 7 (Sedimentary Environments and Rocks)**

**Week 5:**
Feb 4 - Feb 10
- Take online-exam #1 (covers chapters 1 - 6)
- Read textbook chapter 7.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 5.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 7.

**Chapter 8 (Deformation and Metamorphism)**

**Week 6:**
Feb 11 - Feb 17
- Read textbook chapter 8.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 6.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 8.

**Chapter 9 (Geologic Time), Chapter 10 (The Seafloor and Continental Margins)**

**Week 7:**
Feb 18 - Feb 24
- Read textbook chapters 9 and 10.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 7.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapters 9 and 10.

**Chapter 11 (Mountains, Basins, and Continents)**

**Week 8:**
Feb 25 - March 3
- Read textbook chapter 11.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 8.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 11.

**Chapter 12 (Earthquakes and The Earth's Interior)**

**Week 9:**
March 4 - March 10
Tasks:

- Take online-exam #2 (covers chapters 7 - 10)
- Read textbook chapter 12.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 9.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 12 (deadline by the end of Spring Break).

**SPRING BREAK**

Tasks:

Week 10:

- Submit the study questions corresponding to chapter 12 (deadline by the end of Spring Break).
- Discussion Blogs #1 and #2 are available.
- Contribute to the Discussion Blog #1.

**Chapter 13 (Climate, Weather, and Geology)**

Week 11:

- Read textbook chapter 13.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 11.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 13.

**Chapter 14 (Glaciers, Shorelines and Sea Level Change)**

Week 12:

- Read textbook chapter 14.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 12.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 14.

**Chapter 15 (Weathering and Soils)**

Week 13:

- Take online-exam #3 (covers chapters 11 - 14)
- Read textbook chapter 15.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 13.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 15.

**Chapter 16 (Streams and Flooding), Chapter 17 (Water Resources)**

Week 14:

- Read textbook chapters 16 and 17.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 14.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 16.
- Contribute to Discussion Blog #2.

Week 15:

**Chapter 18 (Energy and Mineral Resources)**

April 15 - April 21
Tasks:

- Take online-exam #4 (covers chapters 15 - 18)
- Read textbook chapter 18.
- Watch the video content corresponding to Week 15.
- Answer the study questions corresponding to chapter 17.

Week 16:

Final Exam, Chp. 1-18
April 22 - April 27