

**21:380:576 Environmental Geology
Spring 2018**

Professor: Dr. Dimitrios Ntarlagiannis
Office: Smith Hall, Room 135
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Office hours: By appointment or through BB

Reference Textbook: Keller, E.A. 2011, *Environmental Geology*, 9th Ed., Prentice Hall ([Pearson](#), [Amazon](#), [Barnes&Nobles](#)) – Some copies are available through Rutgers Library System

On line exercises: Hazard City (through Pearson website; \$15 access for the course).

Additional Sources: Electronic sources, peer reviewed papers, notes and chapters will be provided throughout the course.

Course Description

This course is an upper level introduction to environmental geology. The focus is on the technical aspects of human interaction with the near-surface environment of Earth. During the course the concept of Environmental Geology will be introduced and discussed followed by relevant topics (near surface related hazards (soil erosion, flooding, mass wasting, landslide, debris flow, coastal erosion), tectonic hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, ground disturbance, volcanic eruptions), water resource issues (source, supply and quality), engineering geology, mining impacts, and waste management. We will give emphasis on sustainability, and what it really means.

This course aims at providing students with improved understanding of environmental geology. Specific objectives of this course include:

1. Improve the understanding of fundamental concepts of environmental geology,
 2. Improve the understanding of interactions between the Earth systems and human activities,
 3. Learn to interpret environmental data for process studies, and
 4. Improve the ability in critical thinking, writing and speaking of selected environmental science issues.
- Basic understanding of major geological processes occurring in the near surface of the Earth
 - Comprehension of how environmental geological processes impact humans and society
 - Appreciation of how anthropogenic activities are modify natural environmental processes

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the Blackboard course management system. You will use your Blackboard account to login to the course from the Rutgers web portal.

This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcements.

In Blackboard, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the course, you will be required to participate in a blend of self-paced and group-paced

activities. Activities will consist of chats, discussion forums, emails, and web postings.

Topics covered

We will focus on the following aspects of Environmental Geology

- Environmental Geology and its need
- Near surface processes / Hazards
 - Landslides / Subsidence
 - Earthquakes / Volcanoes
 - Rivers / Coastal Processes
- Resources / Pollution
 - Water related
 - Mineral
 - Energy
- Societal and Global Implications

Graded Course Activities

Details about homework, papers, etc. will be provided in the Assignments section of Blackboard. Exams will be made available in the Assessments section of Blackboard

Grade %	Description
30	Written Assignments
25	Mid-term Exam
20	Discussion Participating
25	Final Paper

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments and late work will not be accepted without a serious and compelling reason and my prior approval.

Grades

Graded activities will be posted on Blackboard.

I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically within 48 hours following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Blackboard home page under the link to this course.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	65-69%
F	<64%

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar. Each student is expected to provide a few sentence (at least 3) response on the discussion board to each of the discussion topics; each students is expected to provide at least 3 comprehensive comments to the postings of their classmates. These responses should not include summaries or unsupported opinions (e.g., “I really liked your comment.”). They need to be sufficiently unique so as to demonstrate independent thought and analysis. Simple agreement, disagreement, or paraphrasing of other student responses or postings is not acceptable.

Note

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let me know as early as possible. Be proactive in informing me when difficulties arise during the course so that we can work towards a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All assignments must be completed by the due date and time. Late or missing assignments will affect your grade.

Course Requirements

Access to internet (broadband proffered) and to personal computers; Access to Blackboard; Working knowledge of personal computers; Computers at DEES can be made available if needed (when they are free or at certain times/days upon arrangement)

SERIOUS STUFF:

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: If you need accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Disabled Student Services Office on x5300

Academic Honesty Policy:

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. The first occurrence of any of this behavior will result in a grade of "F".

Email Policy:

When emailing your professor (for this or any other class) be sure to format your emails respectfully. If emails are formatted respectfully, I will do my best to respond quickly, but allow for at least one day to pass before receiving a response. Emails will only be answered Monday through Friday. I will not respond to emails that are not respectful. Some useful tips for formatting your emails respectfully can be found in this blog post:

<https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087#.h9lyzyhqr>