

GEOLOGY 305 (701) – EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS – 3 HOURS

FALL SEMESTER 2018
Dr. Margaret E. Crowder

Purpose of the Course: Collaborative, problem-based learning (PBL) experience, using real-world examples to enhance student understanding of earth system science, with a focus on relevance in science teaching grades K-12. Includes PBL-based lesson plan development. Applicable towards a major in geology only for those students seeking teacher certification.

Course Location and Meeting Time: ONLINE, via Blackboard and through Mastering Geography
Office, Office Hours:

Office: EST, Room 312, e-mail: Margaret.Crowder@wku.edu

Phone: 745-5973

Office Hours (physical):

2-3pm MW *Other times, including virtual office hours, available by appointment*

Pre-requisite: Geol 111 **and** 113 **or** Geol 112 **and** 114

Required Text: No required text. Readings links and materials will be posted online and shared through email and/or Blackboard.

Outline

This course is a web-based course in Earth System Science and problem based learning. The course is primarily designed for undergraduate students who plan to become middle and high school teachers; however, any teacher or student with interests in Earth Science education and problem based learning is welcome to take the course. Students will learn about climate change, drought, pollution, and other topics from an Earth System Science perspective. Segments of the course are structured as collaborative, problem-based learning (PBL) experiences and are designed to enhance students understanding of PBL and Earth System Science. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours of undergraduate credit from Western Kentucky University. The discussion space for the course can be found on WKU's Blackboard system.

A detailed course outline will be available via Blackboard and/or the Mastering Geography website. You need to complete/post your assignments by specified deadlines, so you should always check the Course Outline/Course Calendars at the beginning of each new week. Then you can plan when you will do your work. ALL work will be posted to Blackboard or the Mastering Geography website for assessment.

Special Instructional Materials: A computer with Internet access is required for this course.

Video/image capabilities (and the ability to upload those files) may also be required for completion of some assignments. Nearly all course correspondence, notes, discussion, and assignments will be conducted through Blackboard and/or Mastering Geography (which will always be accessed through the Blackboard course page). Access Blackboard: <http://blackboard.wku.edu/>

Use of iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android, and related devices are generally not acceptable, as there is much content that will not be accessible through the web browsers available on these platforms. Because it is essential that you have access to a computer and the Internet, it is required that you identify at least one backup computer with Internet access in case you have problems with your personal equipment (**any equipment problems will not be considered a valid excuse for missing assignments**). For example, the WKU student computer labs and most public libraries have computers with Internet access.

Student Behavior and Communications:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining an online environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an equal opportunity of success in this course, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. All course communications are limited to the subject material of the course and all communications are monitored by the instructor. Inappropriate online behavior with the instructor or any student shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. All incidents of inappropriate behavior will be reported to the Department Head and the Dean of Ogden College. Students should also report inappropriate online behavior to the instructor.

Email:

Email: I view my email twice a day (once in the morning and once in the afternoon). I will make every attempt to reply to your email within 48 hrs (This does not include weekends.). If you send me an email, it should contain the following:

Subject line: descriptor of nature of email; include course number

Salutation: Dr. Crowder,

Body of email: brief statement/description of your question/request

Closing: Sincerely/Regards/etc., (your name)

Academic Honesty:

Students are required to follow the WKU student code of conduct for academic honesty.

<http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php>

No plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism may result in failure of the class and/or dismissal from the University. Each student is responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php>

Privacy Policy and Internet Security:

The course will be conducted online primarily through Blackboard. Your WKU NET ID and password will give you access to Blackboard and provide a measure of privacy protection of the course content and your grades. Do not share your ID or password with anyone. If using a public computer (for example, at a hotel or library), you must log out and completely close the browser software when finished. This will prevent another person from accessing the course using your identification, doing mischief in your name, and violating the privacy of other students. You are expected to represent your identity in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for disciplinary action of all parties involved.

Assessment:

| | Percent of Grade |
|--|------------------|
| Homework/individual weekly artifacts/assignments and discussions | 40% |
| Individual unit project work (Each regular end unit project) | 30% |
| Team/class discussions, project work and peer-to-peer feedback | 15% |
| Final project and artifact notebook completion | 15% |
| | |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Even though team work is involved in this class, your team does not control your grade.

Grades: Below is the scale used to calculate your final grade in the class:

A = 90% and above C = 70-79% F = 59% and below
B = 80-89% D = 60-69% FN = check with Registrar for full definition
Grades will not be 'curved'. NO individual extra credit will be assigned. No exceptions!

FYI: An "A" requires *extra effort* and to earn one is a great honor. Doing the bare minimum will not result in an "A." Students who earn "A's" are attentive, punctual with their assignments, are prepared for the discussion, work well with their teammates, score the highest on assignments, are leaders in discussions, and put extra effort into their assignments. Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to this class. ***Just because it is an online course, does not mean it is easy.***

Course Evaluation:

You will be evaluated through completion of numerous on-line activities this semester. Work will be directed through Blackboard and the Mastering Geography websites. ALL work is to be submitted online for evaluation. It is your responsibility to keep track of each assignment and submit the correct file for each assignment by the due dates.

a. **LATE WORK:** For full credit, assignments must be submitted at on the due date, unless otherwise approved by the instructor. Late work submitted late will automatically receive a **20% reduction**. Beyond that, an **additional 10% penalty per day** will accrue (e.g., 2 days late = 30% penalty, 4 days late = 50% penalty, 10 days late and later receive NO CREDIT).

b. **NOTE:** Late team assignments could cause problems with other members of your group.

Therefore, be considerate and submit your portion of team assignments one day prior to the assignment due date! This will give your team time to assemble the final document. **If you submit your portion of a**

group assignment to the group, as evidenced by your discussion board posts, later than required individual submission due dates, you, individually, will be penalized and points will be deducted from your grade

c. **NOTE: NO Late Assignments will be accepted the last week of the regular semester or during finals week.**

Schedule Change Policy: The Department of Geography and Geology strictly adheres to University policies regarding schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of individual students to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waved. The Student Schedule Exception form is used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances.

ADA Accommodation Statement:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited.

If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX

Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

The Learning Center (TLC) Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. www.wku.edu/tlc

Writing Center Assistance

The Writing Center has locations in Cherry Hall 123 and in the Commons at Cravens Library on the Bowling Green campus. The Glasgow Writing Center is located in room 163 on the Glasgow campus. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can *help you* brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper *for you*. See instructions on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment. More information about the Glasgow Writing Center hours can be found at the website: <http://wku.edu/startcenter/writingcenter.php>

Strategies for Student Success: Effective study takes time. Success at the college level probably will require more time, and more careful use of time, than many students expect. An oft-quoted rule of thumb is that *students should spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class*. Do you? If you have questions about how to take better notes, or learn more effectively, here's an excellent website for suggestions on how to achieve academic success: <http://slc.berkeley.edu/study-and-success-strategies>

General Comments

In order to do well in this course, you must spend time - every week – in online discussion, study, assignment completion and working with the available course materials. Get in the habit of regularly spending time on all aspects of the course – it will pay off in the end both in terms of your grade and your comprehension of course materials.

***NOTE: This syllabus functions rather like a contract. By remaining enrolled in this class, it is understood that it is your responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the policies herein. The instructor will inform you as to any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to make these adjustments.**

HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER!!

*syllabus is subject to revisions by instructor – the entire class will be notified via Blackboard of any alterations to this syllabus