

## **Our Geologic Environment – GSCI 100-02 – MWF 12:30-1:20 – Newton 214**

Dr. Ben Laabs

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245-5305

ISC 234 (second floor of the Integrated Science Center, east wing, hallway that faces the quad)

**Office Hours:** 1:30- 3:30 pm Mondays or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

“This course is intended for non-science majors who have an interest in their physical environment. The course is designed to develop an understanding of the interaction of Earth processes, the environment, and the human population. Topics include Earth materials, natural resources, geologic hazards, environmental change, and global environmental issues.” – UG Bulletin

### **Expected Outcomes of the Course:**

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to...

- 1) demonstrate an understanding of the Earth as a system and identify and discuss interactions between the geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere (specifically those that include humans and their environment).
- 2) relate different earth-ocean-atmosphere processes to each other in the context of global climate change.
- 3) discuss the depth of geologic time and the wide range of rates for geologic and environmental processes.
- 4) extract information from geologic materials (e.g. rock, maps, etc.) and use your observations to synthesize logical, scientific conclusions.

### **Means of Assessment:**

2/3 of the grade you will receive for GSCI 100 is based on the lecture, 1/3 of the grade will be based on the lab. *You must pass the lab to pass the course.* The components of the lecture grade are as follows:

in class assignments	10%	
lecture exam 1	20%	
lecture exam 2	35%	
lecture final	<u>35%</u>	
	100%	total for lecture

Final grades will be based on a curve that will not exceed the following: a final score of 90% will yield a minimum grade of A-; 80% will a minimum grade of B-; 70% a minimum grade of C-. *These limits do not override the policy that you must pass the lab to pass the course.*

### **Required Text**

“Exploring Geology” by Reynolds, Johnson, Kelly, Morin, and Carter (1st edition)

### **Reading Assignments**

These are posted on the lecture schedule. I construct all lectures with the assumption that students have completed reading assignments before coming to class.

### **In-class assignments:**

Throughout the semester I will assign short, in class assignments. For example, I could give you a graph of sea level over time and ask you to interpret it with respect to global warming. We will go over the answers after I have collected them. These assignments will be graded on the following scale:

0	no or wretched effort	zero credit
-	incorrect answer	full credit
v	correct answer, wrong reason	full credit
vv	correct answer, correct reasoning	full credit.

Since I will go over the answers directly following the exercise, I will not return your answers. If for any reason you wish to see your answers after an assignment is turned in, please let me know.

**Make-up of in class assignments:**

Since I will go over the answers to the assignments in class immediately following the exercise, you cannot make-up these assignments. If you need to miss a lecture because you are sick or are traveling with another class or athletic team, let me know in advance (preferably by email) and any assignment you will miss will not count against your grade. Assignments cannot be made up on account of unexcused absences, even with prior notification.

**Lecture Exams and Final:**

There will be two midterm exams in the lecture as well as a final exam. The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. The final is cumulative, and will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in the lecture room

**Exam conflicts:**

If you have a conflict with the exam days, *contact me at least a week in advance* to set up an alternative exam time.

**Office Hours:**

With a class this large, there is no way one set of office hours will work for everyone. If my office hours happen to be when you have a class, practice, etc. please contact me – talk to me after class, send me an email ([laabs@geneseo.edu](mailto:laabs@geneseo.edu)), or call (245-5305). We can set up a time that works for both of us. This is the best way for me to get to know who you are – so if you have questions...ask!

**Accommodations:**

SUNY Geneseo will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional or learning disabilities. Students should consult with the Director in the Office of Disability Services (Tabitha Buggie-Hunt, 105D Erwin, [tbuggieh@geneseo.edu](mailto:tbuggieh@geneseo.edu)) and Dr. Laabs regarding any needed accommodations during the first week of the semester.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

See the section on academic dishonesty in the undergraduate bulletin (<http://bulletin.geneseo.edu>; see pages 344-345) for complete details regarding the definition and penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Please reference fully all material in your writings (from printed and from internet sources). If you need guidance with referencing, please let me know. Any plagiarized work will receive a zero and a grade of E will be assigned to any quizzes and exams involving cheating.

[VIEW LECTURE SCHEDULE](#)