

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY 1134
PAUL LOWREY**

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OFFICE HOURS – by appointment. I can usually be found on M and W before class in my office or the classroom (1416). The best way to contact me is by e-mail.

OBJECTIVES

Overall: Understand the impact of geologic processes on human activities & vice versa.

1. Learn the impact of natural hazards such as volcanoes, landslides, earthquakes, and floods on humans and the environment.
2. Understand geologic factors affecting the use, supply, contamination, and treatment of surface and ground water resources.
3. Understand the geologic aspects of waste management and disposal.
4. Introduce concepts of Earth Systems Science and global change.
5. Discuss and understand issues surrounding several environmental geological case histories.
6. Learn to view geology as well as all issues with respect to their effect on the environment.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not required but will be a factor in borderline grade situations. I don't take attendance, but I have observed that it has a close, direct relationship to grade in most people. You will find it difficult to make the grade you want in this class without attending regularly. You will find it impossible to make a good laboratory grade without attending and performing the labs.

SCHEDULE

On most weeks, Mondays will be devoted to lecture and Wednesdays will be devoted to lab. Sometimes we will use Wednesday to finish up Monday's lecture activities, so you should be prepared to do either at any time. You should be prepared to stay the entire three hours every class meeting. 10-15-minute breaks will be taken after every hour or so of lecture.

EXAMINATIONS

Lecture: Three lecture tests plus a **comprehensive** final. Lecture tests will be given after covering every four or so chapters.

Laboratory: In lab, there will be two exams: (1) a midterm, and (2) a **non-comprehensive** final. Dates for these two exams appear on the lab schedule.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Missed laboratory work can be made up during laboratory time -- not during the lecture. **No make-up exams will be given.** Instead, the student's lowest **of the three lecture tests** will be automatically dropped. This does not include the final – it may not be dropped! Neither lab test may be dropped.

GRADING

Traditional scale: the divisions between F/ D, D/C, C/B, and B/A are 60, 70, 80, and 90, respectively. Lecture counts for 75% of total grade. Laboratory counts for 25% of total grade. Lecture and laboratory are graded separately. Grading breakdown is as follows:

Grade breakdown:

Highest-score Lecture Exam.....	20%
2nd-highest Lecture Exam.....	20%
Lowest-score Lecture Exam.....	0% (dropped)
Final Lecture Exam.....	20%
Research assignments.....	15%
Laboratory midterm.....	12.5%
<u>Laboratory final.....</u>	<u>12.5%</u>
Total.....	100%

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

After every lecture I will assign several questions for you to research, answer, and return to me. I will also post them on the class homepage on "My NWACC Connection". These are designed to increase and broaden your understanding of the course material. You may research them in any way you prefer, although I expect the web will be dominant. Assignments will be due one week after they have been assigned. You may turn them in to me in person, place them in my mailbox, or email the answers to me (preferred). Answers will be graded, and will comprise 15% of your total grade.

INTANGIBLES

Your attitude, attendance, and participation in this class will be noted. These factors will not have a major bearing on your grade but may end up helping you -- or hurting you -- in borderline grade situations.

Talking/whispering/giggling during lecture is not allowed. I will know. Please don't force me to embarrass you in front of the class.

Questions and discussions about lecture material are **encouraged** during lecture, as they tend to aid in everyone's understanding of the subject matter. Environmental Geology lends itself very well to a group discussion format. We will attempt to have more open discussion and less straightforward lecture than in my Physical Geology class.

Please be aware of the drop deadline. If you must withdraw from this (or any other) class for any reason, make sure you **do so before the drop deadline**.

Please do not disappear for several class periods and expect me to catch you up. You are responsible for keeping up with the schedule.

PHONES

Please do not let your phone ring during lecture. I can't emphasize this enough. If you are expecting a call you can't afford to miss, it may be a good idea to stay home that day. Keep in mind that there are ample opportunities to make/receive calls during our breaks, which occur every hour. Phone usage is OK during most lab activities.

SNOW

My snow policy is NWACC's policy, with exceptions. If NWACC is open, I will be here, and you should too. If NWACC opens late due to weather, we will still meet **IF MORE THAN HALF OF THE CLASS TIME REMAINS** when the school opens. In these situations, I will do my best to keep you updated through email and/or posting information on "My NWACC Connection".

