**EARTH SCIENCE**

**ESC 1000**

**COURSE INFORMATION AND GRADING POLICY**

**SPRING, 2017**

**PROFESSOR: DR. GUSTAVO MORALES**

**OFFICE: WEST CAMPUS, 1-221**

**OFFICE HOURS**: 12:00 pm –4:00 pm: Monday and Wednesday

 1:00 PM – 5:00 pm: Tuesday and Thursday

 10:00 am- 1:00 pm: Friday (Virtual Hours)

**TELEPHONE:** (407) 582-1428

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**COURSE**: ESC 1000 Earth Science-3 credit hours

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the Earth Sciences with emphasis on geology. Additional topics to be selected from oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Emphasis on Florida.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Earth Science surveys topics in geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. It is designed to give you an understanding and appreciation for the Earth on which we live, for the highly complex and interrelated phenomena that keep our planet in its orbit, for the weather and the oceans that help keep the Earth inhabitable, and for the rocks and minerals that make the foundations of our society's, wealth and health.

Life on Earth not only responds to the physical environment, but also helps to alter it through countless interactions. Without life, the make up of the Earth would be very different.

**VALENCIA COLLEGE CORE COMPETENCIES**

The faculty of Valencia College has identified four core competencies that define the

learning outcomes for a successful Valencia graduate. These competencies are at the

heart of the Valencia experience and provide the context for learning and assessment at

Valencia College. You will be given opportunities to develop and practice these

competencies in this class. The four competencies are:

1. **Think:** think, clearly,and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in the

many domains of human inquiry.

2. **Value:** make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments.

3. **Communicate:** communicate with different audiences using varied means.

4. **Act:** act purposefully, effectively and responsibly.

**TEXTBOOK**

***Foundations of Earth Science*** by Frederick K. Lutgens and Edward J. Tarbuck, Pearson, Eighth Edition, 534 p., 2017.

**SUPPLEMENT:** Internet

**ATTENDANCE**

I will check attendance using a seating chart. Assignments are due according to the deadlines posted. **There will be no make-ups.** Failure to take an exam for any given week will be considered the equivalent of 3 absences. Should you fail to take two exams (six absences) you will be asked to withdraw from the course.

**COURSE FORMAT**

This course will draw heavily on the textbook, and online resources. You will also have at your disposal 26 videos to supplement your readings. You will have direct access to all videos right there in your computer screen. Simply select the video you wish to view and click!

**EXAMS**

There will be **FOURTEEN** exams during the semester. Exams will be multiple choice and true-false; the questions will be based on the chapter objectives and on the questions found throughout the chapter under the heading CONCEPT CHECKS as well as the questions found at the end of each chapter under CONCEPTS IN REVIEW. Exams will cover **only** ONE chapter (the chapter of the week). The Midterm and Final exams will be comprehensive. All exams will be taken online. You will have a full week (from Monday to Sunday) to study each chapter. Exams can be taken any time between **6:00 am on Friday till 11:30 pm on Sunday**. Once the exam is open you will have one hour to complete it**.** (the Midterm and Final Exams will have 100 questions and you will have 2 hours to complete them)**.** Do not wait to the last minute to take your exams; strange things happen to computers after 11:00 pm on Sunday. **Hint! Hint! Hint!** Each weekly exam is worth 100 points. The Midterm and Final exams are worth 200 points each.

**Blackboard does not accept late work…neither do I**!

**GRADING**

The final grade will be determined by the following point system:

**POINTS**

Weekly Exams 1200

Comprehensive Mid-Term 200

Comprehensive Final Exam 200

**TOTAL POINTS 1600**

The final grade earned by the student will be calculated as a percentage of the total points possible during the semester (90%--100% = A, 80%--89% = B, 70%--79% = C...).

**WARNING:**

This course takes as much time and effort as any other course you will take in college, and **you, and you alone** are responsible for allocating a reasonable amount of time for each activity. Think carefully about what you have just read to make sure that you have the self-discipline and motivation to take this course. If you have decided that this course is for you, then forge on! You are about to take one of the most interesting and intriguing courses of your entire career. Congratulations on a challenging choice!!!

**RESPONSIBILITY**

It is your responsibility to take the exams on the set dates. **There are no make- ups!**

Also, this course is entirely run on-line, therefore it behooves you to check your e-mail **often** in case there are issues to discuss. **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** use the message feature in Blackboard to e-mail me. When you use this means of communication I will know immediately in which class you are enrolled. E-mails sent by any other conduit will not be answered!

**EXTRA CREDIT**

**Extra credit** is a travesty of the educational system! It is usually invoked in the last two weeks of the semester by students who have not taken the time to do what is required for the course. I do not want you to do extra work, just the work **I demand** and **expect** from you, a COLLEGE STUDENT, to master the material and pass the course with a decent grade. Remember that the only place where ***success*** comes before ***work***…is in the **dictionary!**

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

There are two Drop Deadlines you should be aware of. The first one is: **Drop/Refund deadline (January 17, 2017 @ 11:59 p.m.).**

The second one is: Per Valencia policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of **March 31, 2017 @ 11:59 p.m.**, will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy; such student will receive a grade of “W.” Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” [For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: http://valenciacc.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75].

**DISCLAIMER**

This syllabus may be modified at any time by the instructor for the benefit of the class. Modifications will be announced to the class and their impact on the final

outcome discussed.