Valencia College

Earth Science 1000: CRN 26148

Spring 2024

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

PROFESSOR: Will Weiss

Preferred contact: Please use the messenger through Canvas. I cannot open email at my other jobs.

Emergency EMAIL: wweiss2@valenciacollege.edu

Phone: 407-582-1549 (Science Dept. Office)

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only (email any time)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Contact days and hours/week:** Online

**Class meeting location:** Canvas

**Term the course is offered:** Spring 2024

**Credit Hours earned upon passing:** 3 credit hours

**Prerequisite(s) and Co-requisite(s):**  None

**Course Description:** Acquaints student with elementary physical, biological, chemical and geological characteristics of world ocean system. Emphasis on Florida's unique relationship with ocean environment.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**



We will be using “Foundations of Earth Science” by Lutgens and Tarbuck 9th edition. ISBN 9780135851722. I recommend whatever version fits your budget. When in doubt the book will contain the correct answer to any questions. The web may have conflicting or differing opinions.

You also must have access to the online component as well called “Mastering Geology” from Pearson Publishing. Your homework and testing will be completed using that program via Canvas or directly. Please see instruction PDF on Canvas.

For the first assignment, you must go through Canvas to connect your account to Mastering Geology. After that, you can log into Mastering Geology directly if needed. When you log into program for first time, you can choose option to get 14 free days of program. It is at bottom of payment page in blue. This will give you more time if needed to pay for full version. However, do not let it expire before you upgrade. Many students in past have experienced problems upgrading after the 14 days have passed.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

To get a first-hand experience of processes that have shaped our planet. To learn about the materials, processes and events that shape the planet around you. A special focus on Florida will also be present in most topics. To better understand the process of scientific inquiry, so we don’t believe EVERY fact we read on the internet.

**DISCLAIMER**

**Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.**

**STUDENT CORE COMPETENCIES**

This course seeks to reinforce the following Valencia Student Competencies:

* **Think** clearly, critically and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating and evaluating knowledge.
* **Evaluate** your own and others’ **values** from individual, cultural and global perspectives.
* **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively.
* **Act** purposely, reflectively and responsibly by implementing effective problem solving and decision making strategies.
* **Understand** and **use** quantitative information.

**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The academic policies and procedures for this course follow those established for Valencia Community College. You can access this information by selecting this link: <http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/current/>. Please note that each student is responsible for knowing and adhering to the policies and requirements that affect them.

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 15 @ 11:59 PM 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. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy 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://valenciacollege.edu/oit/lts/StudentResources/integrity/documents/09B_policies.pdf>

The drop refund date is Jan. 16th @ 11:59 P.M.

This college believes that regular attendance and class participation are significant factors which promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled (Policy 6Hx28:10-22). Each instructor determines the specific attendance policy for his/her class, but attendance must be recorded for each student. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

The criteria for excessive absence for this class are as follows:

This class is structured to make the best possible use of your time. It is essential that you attend every class to get the most out of it you can. However, I know that in in life things happen and you may miss a class. If you miss **one week** of assignments, you will be sent an excessive absence notice. At that point, you are required to meet with me on Zoom to discuss your class progress or to fill out a withdrawal slip and take it to the Registrar’s Office.

Tardiness causes distractions that are disruptive to learning and is a form of disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior in the classroom is addressed in the Student Handbook in the Code of Student Conduct (6Hx28: 10-03). Tardiness is particularly unacceptable in the workplace and I consider being a student to be your job. I expect you to be on time to your “job” every class day. Federal financial aid regulations require that attendance be recorded. The following principle should be followed:

**If you are early you are on time;**

**If you are on time you are late;**

**If you are late you are left behind!**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY (Policy Number: 6Hx28:10-16)**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Students shall take special notice that the assignment of course grades is the responsibility of the student's individual professor. When the professor has reason to believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, and before sanctions are imposed, the student shall be given informal notice and an opportunity to be heard by the professor. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

* loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
* reduction in the course grade;
* or a grade of "F" in the course.

At the option of the professor, the appropriate administrator of the campus may be furnished with written notification of the occurrence and the action taken. If such written notice is given, a copy shall be provided to the student. Students guilty of engaging in a gross or flagrant act of academic dishonesty or repeated instances of academic dishonesty shall also be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary penalties that may include warning, probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the college.

**My personal philosophy is a follows:**

*A student in Professors Weiss’ class does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those that do.*

**Days off- No class on following Days**

Dr. MLK Day: Monday Jan. 15th

Learning Day: Friday Feb. 9th

Spring Break: March 18-24th

**Grading**

The final grade will be determined by the following system:

**Methods of Evaluation / Percent of Grade**

Homework = 10 -15 points each

Exams = 50 -60 points each

Activities = 10 points each

Projects = 50 points each

On-line Chat = 10 points per post

Zoom chat = 0

**GRADING SCALE**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

**Homework:** On Canvas via Mastering Geology toevaluate understanding of chapter reading. These will be due **on Thursdays.** If you do not complete one on time, log directly into the Pearson and complete it. I may be willing to give an extension if you complete the work first. Once a due date has passed, Canvas will not allow you to open homework. Homework may be completed at your leisure before due date. You are allowed hints and guess with a penalty.

**Exams:** Exams will be given for **every** two (2) chapters throughout the semester and be **due on Sundays**. They will be made up of any combination of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay at my discretion. All exams will be cumulative from Day 1 of course (so don’t forget). Exams have a 180 minute time limit. Use your time wisely.

**Exams cannot be made up!!** You can take them early if you know of an upcoming conflict and with approval.

 If you miss the final exam, you will receive a “0” for the test and an “F” for the class may be earned, unless preapproved for an extraordinary circumstance by instructor. The final exam is **Friday April 25th, 2024** by the end of the day. This gives one day to deal with any issues for final exam.

**Activities:** Students will complete a series of activities to further their understanding of course material. Points will be based on effort not accuracy, as activities are your opportunity to make mistakes. However, you have to try to get correct response.

**On-line Chat:** Students will participate in a discussion when assigned in a curious and professional manner. There will be **no** tolerance for any cyber bulling or inappropriate language.

**Zoom Chats:** We will have a Zoom chat every week on Monday from 5:00- 5:30PM. These will be voluntary and be used to answer questions, have discussions, and serve as reminders and updates. There may be limited direct instruction if needed. Additional Zoom times can be requested if a need arrives. The chats will be recorded so if you miss one you can go back and view.

**CANVAS** **COMPONENT**

You ***will*** be using Canvas to access some of your online exams, quizzes, and assignments. If you do not presently have a computer, the Learning Resources Centers have computers available for you to use.

If you have difficulty accessing Canvas on your computer or difficulty opening different pages on the class website, you can do several things:

1. Contact Student Help at 407-582-5600,
2. follow the “help” link on the Canvas login page,
3. follow this link for Blackboard online help: <http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/>,
4. send an email to: oithelp@valenciacollege.edu, or
5. use computers in the Learning Resource Center.

If you experience problems with Canvas, try these above options immediately. If use of these options fails to take care of the problem, contact me as soon as possible. You are responsible for insuring that you receive all and any information relating to this course!

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic adjustments or auxiliary aids or service for this course are required to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities.

Valencia College has contracted with BayCare, a private and confidential counseling service, to provide short-term assistance to students who need to resolve problems that are affecting their college performance. Examples might include: stress, relationship/family issues, alcohol/drug problems, eating disorders, depression, and gender issues. Students who are experiencing any of these issues should call the BayCare toll-free number **1-800-878-5470** to speak to a professional counselor. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor.

We ask that you follow college policy relating to children on campus. Please make arrangements for childcare outside of classrooms or labs. Please make note of evacuation route from you classroom in case of emergency. Interpret all audible alarms as valid and act accordingly.

**Special Needs**

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic adjustments or auxiliary aids or service for this course are required to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities.

Any issues requiring special consideration (child/family care, work, etc.) should be addressed at the beginning of the semester.