



Syllabus for Environmental Geology

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2021

Course ID & Section #: GEOL-10-V2052

Instructor's name: Emily Wright

Number of proctored exams: 0

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office hours: by appointment at WhenIsGood.net/WrightOfficeHour

Email address: Emily-Wright@redwoods.edu

Preferred contact method: Pronto (video and text chat)

Catalog Description

An introductory study of earth systems, earth materials and how earth processes impact human activities and how human activities influence the geological environment. Students will investigate geologic hazards, including landsliding, earthquakes, and volcanic activity, and make decisions concerning mitigating action. Students will also learn about water, mineral, and energy resources within the context of earth systems and consider issues of sustainability.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (*from course outline of record*)

1. Describe how the scientific method is used to understand natural phenomena.
2. Assess the geologic principles, consequences, and corrective/adaptive options related to specific earth hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides.
3. Describe the origin of geologic resources (such as groundwater, fossil fuels, and minerals) and the consequences of resource-management choices.

Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

None

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19—DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

This course is graded based on a system of points. Your final grade will be determined based on the total points earned on all assignments divided by the total possible points. Letter grades will be assigned according to the CR grade scheme:

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 70.0%
D	< 70.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	

Assignment Categories and Grading:

Lessons *5-15 points each* *~31% grade*

These are online “worksheets” that involve short activities. Activities are scored for points and generally you are allowed unlimited attempts on activities. You will be assigned several lessons each week, with multiple lessons due on the same day.

Discussions *5-10 points each* *~20% grade*

You will be required to post to discussion forums. Most discussions will require around 200 words and will also require responses to your peers. However, there will also be shorter “quick check-in” discussions related to content in the lessons.

Discussion responses *5 points each* *~5% grade*

You will be asked to respond to your peers posts in discussion forums for most discussions. Your response posts are scored as a separate assignment worth 5 points. ***This is the one category of your grade that you can’t earn points for if completed late, but your lowest two scores in this category will be dropped.***

End of Module Quizzes *5-15 points each* *~21% grade*

At the end of each module (approximately 7 per semester), you will complete two quizzes to assess your learning over that module. These quizzes are comprised of two parts, both accessed through Canvas. The first part will include automatically graded questions such as multiple choice questions. You will have three attempts on this part of the EOM quiz ***and your grade is the average of your scores on each attempt***. The second part will have short answer questions to be graded by the instructor and you will have just one attempt.

Numeric Practice Problems 1-5 points each ~2% grade

Modules with numeric style questions on the End of Module Quizzes will also have unlimited attempt practice quizzes that are required before you can begin the EOM quizzes. These aren't worth many points, but they are important because you must score a minimum score on each practice quiz before Canvas will allow you to move on in the Module.

Essays 50 points each ~16% grade

There are two essays related to Module 3: Mt. Rainier and Module 6: To Frack or not to Frack. You will be given a prompt for an essay that will likely be around 1-2 pages in length.

Essay Self Evaluation 5-10 points each ~5% grade

This category is composed of several surveys that will guide you in your self-evaluation of your midterm and final essay. These surveys are designed such that you will earn credit for completing them.

Note: percentages listed above are approximate and may vary depending on the specific point value of assignments.

Important Dates

Fall 2021 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/21/21*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/27/21*
- **Last day to confirm your presence in class to avoid "no show" drop 9/02/21 (this class)**
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/03/21*
- *Labor Day Holiday (all campuses closed): 09/06/21*
- *Census date: 9/07/21*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/28/21*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/29/21*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/29/21*
- *Veteran's Day (all campuses closed): 11/11/21*
- *Fall Break (no classes): 11/22/21 – 11/26/21*
- *Thanksgiving Holiday (all campuses closed): 11/24/21 – 11/26/21*
- *Final examinations: 12/11/21 – 12/17/21*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 12/17/21*
- **Semester ends: 12/17/21 (last day to submit any late assignments)**
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 01/07/22*

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with no penalty, until the last day of the semester, Friday December 17 at 11:59 pm. No work will be accepted after that point.

The only points that cannot be earned late are points for Discussion response posts (You can earn points for your initial post, just not for response posts after the class has moved on from that discussion). However, the lowest two discussion participation scores for each student will be dropped.

The schedule of due dates is intended as a guideline to keep you on track. The flexibility of due dates is intended to accommodate students who may have issues come up that cause them to fall behind.

However, students who fall behind will never be excused from any assignment (beyond two discussions response assignments) and therefore getting caught up from behind will require more effort and time commitment each week than the effort required to stay caught up in the first place. If you fall behind, it is important to communicate with the instructor to avoid being dropped for non-attendance.

Class participation and Attendance policy

You should expect to log in and participate in this course at least three times per week. Your participation will be tracked through the completion of scored assignments such as lessons and discussions. School policy allows me to initiate a withdrawal for a student who has “excessive absences” prior to the *Last day for faculty-initiated W* deadline. For this online course “excessive absences” will be defined as missing one week or more of assignment deadlines with no communication with the instructor. It is your responsibility to participate in this course on a regular basis. If you intend to withdraw from the class, it is also your responsibility to do so before the deadline. Do not assume that I will initiate the faculty-initiated W.

Contacting your instructor

The best way to reach me is through Pronto or Canvas messages. Pronto is a chat app linked to Canvas. You can open the Pronto chat in Canvas, or use the app on your smartphone (look for “Pronto Team Communication” by Hitlabs in your app store). You can ask questions in the whole class chat or through a direct message. I am most likely to see and respond to your message immediately if you use Pronto, but I will also check Canvas messages and email. Sometimes I may be away from my computer or involved in other things and might not answer your message right away. Barring exceptional circumstances, such as illness or power outage, I will respond to messages in Pronto, Canvas, or email within at most 36 hours Monday through Friday. If I am available weekends, I will respond to urgent messages, but I cannot guarantee that I will be in internet communication every weekend. If you have not heard back from me within a reasonable time frame, it is possible that I have lost your message, so please resend.

If you want to meet with me over video (or voice), we can also do this in Pronto or set up a Zoom meeting time. If my Pronto status is “online” (green dot) this means that I am most likely available to meet with you. Send me a message asking to meet. If I am not currently available, you can request an appointment using whenisgood.net/WrightOfficeHour and I will send you an invitation for a time that works for both of us. This is a request form, not an appointment reservation form. The more availability you enter, the more likely I can find a time that works for me.

Class schedule

Due dates will be every Monday and Thursday @11:59 pm, except on holidays and breaks. Multiple assignments will be due on most due days.

Below is a list of modules and their approximate dates. This is a tentative schedule. Detailed scheduling of due dates will be listed in Canvas. **Notice that several modules span multiple weeks!**

Module	Topics	Tentative Dates
Module 0: Welcome to Environmental Geology	<i>About this class</i>	8/23-8/26
Module 1: Cascadia Subduction Zone	<i>Introduction to Plate Tectonics The Scientific Method Tsunami Hazards</i>	8/26-9/13
Module 2: It's Our Fault!	<i>Faults and Plate Tectonics Earthquake Hazards Relative and Absolute dating</i>	9/13-9/30
Module 3: Mt. Rainier	<i>Volcanoes and Tectonics Igneous Rocks Basics Volcanic Hazards Risk, Vulnerability and decision making</i>	9/30-10/14
Midterm Essay and Evaluation	<i>Evaluate your own work and the work of your peers</i>	10/14-10/25 Essay due 10/21
Module 4: Last Chance Grade	<i>Landslide Hazards Hazard Mitigation</i>	10/25-11/4
Module 5: Crops or Craps? Where should the water go?	<i>Groundwater Water rights and water law</i>	11/4-11/14
Module 6: To Frack or not to Frack?	<i>Introduction to Energy Resources Sedimentary processes and fossil fuel formation Geologic structures Greenhouse gasses and climate change Comparison of energy sources</i>	11/14-12/6
Final Essay and Evaluation		12/6-12/13 Essay due 12/9
Module 7: People, Products and Minerals	<i>Rocks and Minerals Ore and ore grade The process of converting ore into usable products Resource extraction and economics Environmental impacts of mining</i>	12/13-12/16

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Respectful Engagement in this Online Course

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. There may be times in this class where you may wish to express disagreement with another student. Environmental issues can be complex, and discussing areas where we disagree can be very valuable. It is important to engage in disagreement, and in discussion in general, in a manner that is respectful and inclusive. We all are responsible for ensuring that disagreement remains respectful by not letting challenges to ideas become attacks on personal identity.

In such (rare) cases where the instructor determines that a student's discourse in online discussions, chats or live sessions has disrupted the educational process or violates the student code of conduct in any way, the instructor will remove the offending post(s). In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Setting Your Preferred Name and pronouns in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

You can set your pronouns in Canvas in your account settings. If you haven't already, please do, it's very helpful for online classes!

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://webapps.redwoods.edu/tutorial/>

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook award, career academic and personal counseling, school supplies, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!