

Course Information

Semester & Year:**Spring 2023**
Course ID & Section #:**GEOL-10-D5024 (A-Yard)** and **GEOL-10-D5025 (A-Yard)**
Instructor's name:**Professor Renner**
Day/Time of required meetings:**5:00PM-8:10PM (Tuesdays on A-Yard; Thursdays on A-Yard)**
Location:**Pelican Bay State Prison**
Course units:**3**

Instructor Contact Information

Office location, office hours, phone number and email address: Not applicable; see "Availability" below
Availability: Because students at Pelican Bay State Prison have limited and restricted access to persons outside the classroom – including me – at times other than class times, note the following: *If you have need to discuss a course-related issue with me or submit an assignment or formal letter, you can do so in two ways:*

- **RECOMMENDED:** Initiate contact with me **in the classroom** immediately before or after a class session.
OR
- **ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY:** Fill out a "Burning Questions" form and then mail it (or a late assignment, formal letter, etc.) to me via the CR Scholars Program's correspondence mailing system.

Required Book

Living with Earth: An Introduction to Environmental Geology (Hudson), ISBN: 978-0131424470.
Paperback; your textbook may be either new or used.

Catalog Description (from CR catalog)

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. However, **college-level fluency in English is expected** since you will do a lot of reading and writing.

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 Prof. Renner, or Ms. Tory Eagles (Coordinator, Pelican Bay Scholars), or Disability Services and Programs for Students (DSPS).** Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on **campus location:**

- **Pelican Bay State Prison: Contact the Pelican Bay Scholars Program Coordinator, Ms. Tory Eagles, via a formal written letter or an Ask CR Sheet.** Please send your formal letter or Ask CR Sheet to the Pelican Bay Education Department (Attn.: CR Scholars), so that your request can be routed through our correspondence mailing system.
- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor (**irrelevant for this class**)

- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library (**irrelevant for this class**)
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103 (**irrelevant for this class**)

If you are taking online classes (**irrelevant for this class**) DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. **In the case of face-to-face instruction (such as at Pelican Bay State Prison)**, 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 Services

To learn about support services available to students in the Pelican Bay Scholars Program, contact the Pelican Bay Scholars Program Coordinator, Ms. Tory Eagles, via a formal written letter or an Ask CR Sheet. Please send your formal letter or Ask CR Sheet to the Pelican Bay Education Department (Attn.: CR Scholars), so that your request can be routed through our correspondence mailing system.

Class Policies & Practices

Rigor

This is a degree-requirement, transfer-level science course. It is comparable in rigor to similar courses taught at any UC or CSU institution. It's imperative that you keep up, as the material will build upon itself. You will most likely succeed* at this class if you work consistently and diligently, participate actively, and submit all work; otherwise, a low or failing grade can be a likely outcome. * Remember, a grade of 'C' means 'satisfactory'; an 'A' grade means 'excellent' – *in brief, to obtain an 'A' in this course will require outstanding effort and results. 'A' grades are sometimes earned in this course, but do not expect an 'A' (or even a 'B') without doing the serious work to earn it.* **For the full description of how grades are assigned, please refer to page 4.**

How to Succeed

Because you will be provided with the textbook and ALL of the lecture documents to be used for the entire semester, a "best practice" is to **GET AHEAD AND STAY AHEAD of your reading. You will ALWAYS be expected to have read the lecture for the week's class BEFORE THE CLASS, along with textbook chapter(s) cited in that lecture document.** So, "getting ahead" means reading materials yet another week or two ahead of time, if/when possible. Finally, right before class it would be helpful to review what you've already read for that week's work, so that when you enter the classroom you will be thoroughly prepared for the night's lecture & discussions.

What to do if class is Cancelled

Classes are occasionally cancelled unexpectedly (due to lockdowns, etc.). If this happens, **CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK OUTLINED IN THE CLASS SCHEDULE**, even though class isn't happening that week. Upon our very next class, I will bring us back up to speed, but **this is ONLY possible IF you continue to do the work outlined in the Class Schedule; at the very minimum, do all the assigned readings on schedule.**

Expectations on Students, and General Information

Please be aware of the following:

- **Participation**: For this class, "**participation**" is defined as **ACTIVE, REGULAR, ENGAGED INVOLVEMENT IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS, ACTIVITIES and ASSIGNMENTS (not merely the act of showing up for class)**. Furthermore, weekly class quizzes, assignments and other instructor-led activities require continuous involvement and have specific deadlines (which are specified in the separate Class Schedule and/or in the assignments themselves). To ensure that you succeed, plan to participate thoroughly in class and do any/all needed study & preparation before class. Missing classes will prevent complete participation, so **attend and actively participate in every class if possible!**

- **Instructor-Initiated Drops**: Because consistent attendance & participation are crucial components in this class, I may unenroll (“drop”) you if any of the following should occur:
 - **During Week Three (between Jan. 30 – Feb. 3)**: Students may be dropped who the instructor has determined to have exhibited poor or irregular participation and/or attendance in the first two weeks of class (in which case their transcript will not show a class “attempt”).
 - **After Week Three and at any time until Mar. 31**: Students may be dropped (in which case they **WILL** get a “W” on their transcript) if **any one of these apply**: *
 - 1) If a student fails to participate fully in 3 or more required Class Activities; or
 - 2) If a student fails to participate fully in 2 or more **consecutive** Class Activities; or
 - 3) If a student fails to submit and/or fully participate in significant portions of the work (assignments, quizzes, project reports, etc.)

* If you are in jeopardy of being dropped for any of the reasons listed above, I will attempt to contact you (in person if you attend class, or by notifying a staff member in the Pelican Bay Scholars Program) with a “drop warning.” If you then wish to appeal to stay in class and not be dropped, you must reply **within one week** to my drop warning. A student’s failure to receive or reply to this drop warning does **not** provide immunity from being dropped, and I retain the final authority regarding whether or not a student will be dropped. If I then submit the drop (normally 7 days after issuing the warning) to Enrollment Services, the drop is final and cannot be reversed; no exceptions.
 - **Mar. 31 is the last day I can drop you (see above) or that you can withdraw from this class**. After that day, you **will** receive a letter grade for the course at the end of the semester (even if you’ve stopped participating in and/or attending class) based upon whatever points/scores you’ve accumulated during the semester; see “**Grading**” section below.
- **Academic Honesty**: 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 may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. **The Student Conduct Code (AP 5500) is available upon request.** Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures are all located in the college catalog.
- **Class Norms and Expectations**: In this class (and in fact in every college class), students must demonstrate mutual respect in their interactions with their peers and with the instructor. In our textbooks, lectures and class discussions, issues may arise that are sometimes difficult and/or controversial. As your instructor, my goal in facilitating these discussions is never to cause anyone to become uncomfortable; rather, my goal is to facilitate discussions that develop our ability to think critically and to have appropriate dialogue in a group setting even when working through material that might feel uncomfortable. As an academic community we share a mutual responsibility to create and maintain a supportive environment where students as well as the instructor feel able to speak up and respond to the course material in a thoughtful and productive way, despite differences in opinions or experiences. This means that each student’s ideas, feelings, and questions are valued, and the professor’s ideas, feelings, and questions are valued. This shall be the basis for our interactions with the course materials and one another throughout the semester. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you find something upsetting or if you need support.

In order to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions, I expect you to use language that is inclusive and respectful. Furthermore, student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor’s directions; language which is overly loud, vulgar or obscene; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In your communications I expect you to be courteous, constructive and accepting of diversity. **I expressly prohibit aggression, harassment, bullying, etc., and treat such as violations of the Student Conduct Code.**

- **Pay attention to the Class Schedule.** Points are assigned to tasks that you’re asked to do; failure to do tasks or to do them within the required time frame will cause you to lose points. Late work may be penalized or entirely rejected, at the instructor’s sole discretion.
- **Major Exams:** Exams will likely occur 3 times during the semester (subject to change): Exam One in approximately week 6*, Exam Two in approximately week 12*, and a comprehensive final exam during the final week of the semester. (* subject to change; see Class Schedule).
- **Late or Missed Exams or Assignments:** If a documentable situation (e.g. serious illness or injury, emergency, lockdown, etc.) arises that prevents you from submitting assigned major class work * (such as a project report) or exams on time, then **contact me before (if possible) or as soon as possible after missing the work.** If I agree to accept the late work (or to provide a make-up exam), then we will negotiate a timeframe within which the work must be submitted or exam taken. (* Some work items [such as **quizzes** and **class discussions/activities**] are exempt; they **cannot be made up if missed.**)

Grading

Points are earned for completed tasks. Late work may be penalized or entirely rejected, at the instructor’s sole discretion. The table below shows how points can be earned. **There is NO “EXTRA CREDIT” in this course; do NOT ask for Extra Credit since there will not normally be any such accommodation (unless the instructor creates such an opportunity for everyone).** Here is how you earn points in the course:

Course Components and how they factor into the end-of-semester Course Letter Grade¹

Items	Percent ²	Comments
Class Activities	30% (# of activities may vary ³)	Points awarded for active, thoughtful, thorough participation in required class activities/discussions.
Quizzes	10% (# of quizzes may vary ³)	Each quiz covers a specific lecture and related class activities/discussions; open-book, open-note; timed (20 minutes unless otherwise stated).
Exams	30% (3 @ 10% ea.)	Each exam is a synthesis of course materials covered prior to that exam; open-book, open-note; timed (90 minutes each unless otherwise stated). Exam One in approximately week 6*, Exam Two in approximately week 12*, and the final exam during the last week of the semester (* subject to change; see schedule).
Projects	30%: Three (3) projects; each worth 10%	Details (topic, instructions and grading rubric) will be distributed when each project is assigned.

¹ At the end of the semester, a letter grade will be assigned. The instructor may, at his option, uniformly “curve” the cumulative raw class scores upward (but never downward) to derive cumulative final percentage scores. In this course, letter grades are assigned from the cumulative final percentage scores as follows:

A = 93% or above	A- = 90-92.9%	Excellent : Fulfills all requirements; exceeds expectations.
B+ = 86-89.9%	B = 83-85.9%	Good : Fulfills all requirements; meets expectations.
C+ = 76-79.9%	C = 70.0-75.9%	Satisfactory : Fulfills most requirements; meets some expectations.
D = 60-69.9%		Poor : Fulfills some requirements; does not meet expectations.
F < 60%		Failing : Does not fulfill requirements or expectations.

(CR policy does not provide for a grade of **A+** or **C-** or **D+** or **D-**)

² Each “Item” category above (such as “Class Activities” or “Quizzes”) is assigned a weighting, by percentage, of the entire course’s possible value; the categories add up to 100% of the total possible course value. Within any category, grading “points” are assigned for specific items in that category (such as “10 points possible for each quiz”, or “20 points possible for each project”, etc.). The usage of “points” allows me to assign easily-understood grading values for each item within a given category AND ³ allows me at any time to add or remove an item(s) within that category without changing that item category’s percentage value. While true that “the value of each point” in one category will differ from “the value of each point” in another category, **the total points within each category are mathematically converted to the percentage of the course grade for that category as stated in the table above.**

If you experience a *specific, extenuating circumstance* *beyond your control* preventing you from completing the course work, and face a non-passing grade or the need to withdraw...

... you can complete & submit the **Excused Withdrawal Petition** to request an **Excused Withdrawal (EW)** “grade” (instead of receiving a Withdrawal “grade” [W] or a non-passing grade [D, F, or NP]). Your instructor can provide more information upon request. *Supporting documentation is required.*

Class Schedule

This is provided in a separate “Schedule” document

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies that affect this class

- **CLASS BEGINS** – Jan. 17 (for D5024 on A-Yard) and Jan. 19 (for D5025 on B-Yard)
- **1/27/2023 @ 5:00 PM PST** – Last day to drop without a W
- **2/03/2023** – Prof. Renner drops students who have not been fully participating in class
- **3/02/2023** – Last day to petition to graduate; last day to petition for a Certificate
- **Week of 3/13 - 3/17/2023** – Spring break (**no classes**)
- **3/31/2023 @ 5:00 PM PDT** – Last day for student-initiated withdrawal; last day for faculty-initiated drop (with W grade issued); no refund
- **5/9/2023 (for D5024 on A-Yard) and 5/11/2023 (for D5025 on B-Yard)** – Final exam administered in this class
- **5/12/2023 @ 5:00 pm PDT** – semester ends: absolutely no materials accepted after this day/time; no exceptions
- **5/31/2023** (approximate) – Your grades from the spring semester will be available for transcript release