ESC1000 – Earth Science (Online) – 4 credit hours

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Course Description

ESC1000 Earth Science (4 credit hours). This course provides an introduction to materials, processes, and interactions of Earth's global environments – the lithosphere (solid earth), hydrosphere (water earth), atmosphere (gaseous earth), and biosphere (living earth). It also includes a survey of sciences pertaining to the Earth, including basic astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and geology.

This course is a Florida State Core Courses and is protected in transfer to other public state institutions as meeting the state Core General Education requirements.

Course Prerequisite

None.

Course Materials

Tarbuck, E.J., Lutgens, F.K., and Tasa, D., 2015, Earth Science, 14thEdition. Prentice Hall. In addition, online Earth Science students are required to purchase a rock and mineral kit from the bookstore. The rock and mineral kit is used for two activities and assessments during the first two weeks of class. Supplemental study materials will be provided by your instructor in the D2L Content section of the course.

This course employs lecture capture software to provide you with videos of your instructor's lectures, PowerPoints, notes, demonstrations, etc. These videos can be viewed with a standard Internet connection. If your home Internet connection is not adequate, please remember that any NWFSC open lab is available to you. You need only take your own headphones with you. Your local library, Panera, and McDonalds have free wifi too.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Internet Access (broadband is recommended)
- Activated NWFSC E-mail Account
- Textbook

Contact Information

I strongly prefer students contact me through email. If you wish to correspond with me via email, I will only respond to an official NWFSC email address. Please indicate your course name and section (Earth Science online) in the subject line of your email so that I can identify which course you are taking. It is my policy to respond to all emails requiring a response, so if you sent a critical or important request to me and I did not respond within a few days, check to be certain that you sent it to my correct (and correctly spelled) email address and did so through Raidernet or D2L.

NWFSC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES SLO'S

NS-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, distinguishing between fact, scientific law, hypotheses, and theory; and recognizing the difference between scientific and non-scientific explanations.

NS-2: The student will interpret data, given in problem form or obtained experimentally, in order to demonstrate problem-solving skills (critical thinking), develop testable explanations, or distinguish the difference between correlation and causation.

NS-3: The student will demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the terminology, major concepts, and theories of at least one field within the physical sciences, and in the biological sciences.

NS-4: The student will relate scientific discoveries and theories to broader areas of human concern.

COMPREHENSIVE (WHOLE COURSE) OBJECTIVES FOR ESC1000

ES-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of vocabulary terms from each chapter covered by the instructor.

ES-2: The student will cite examples of Earth Science-related events and their impact on humans and the environment.

ES-3: The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of scientific evidence supporting major concepts from geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy.

ES-4: The student will demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the scientific approach to problem solving, including the interpretation of scientific data, either collected by the student or provided by the instructor, to determine relationships between causation and/or correlation of events.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be based on total points earned from four sources: chapter vocabulary quizzes, module exams, labtivities (which are lab-like activities), and two major exams (Midterm and Final Exams).

A video tutorial is provided in the Content-->Course Information section of our D2L website that will provide an orientation for effectively reading your textbook. After the textbook, it is suggested that you watch either the full lectures for each chapter which are provided in the Content section (under Lectures, listed by chapter) or, if available, go through the supplemental materials that cover subtopics from the chapter. Note that topics and concepts covered in lectures are more likely to appear on exams than are those that the instructor does not address. In addition, concepts covered by labtivities are also more likely to be addressed in exams.

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

To encourage students to read the assigned pages from the textbook, each chapter has a 10-point vocabulary quiz. The vocabulary quiz contains multiple-choice questions in which the student chooses the best definition for a word, or matches a word to a definition. The vocabulary words are the bold or italicized words from the reading assignment (only). Each quiz will be open and available during a window of days during which the specific chapter is be covered, and the course calendar lists the deadlines for each quiz. The quiz cannot be taken once the deadline passes. However, students may make two attempts at a quiz, and the highest score will be recorded. Beware that some questions on the second attempt may be different than those from the first attempt because the questions are randomly pulled from a larger test bank for each attempt.

MODULE EXAMS

There will be six (6) comprehensive 100-point online “module exams”, each of which will cover topics from approximately three chapters. The tests have some questions common to all, but about half of the exam is generated by a random selection of questions from the test bank. Students will be given an opportunity to improve their exam score by retaking the exam once more. Following the first attempt, the student will be able to see their graded exam. If a second attempt is taken, the exam will be similar but will draw some new questions from the test bank. If a student elects to retake the exam, the score from your first exam will be averaged with the second attempt. The second attempt must be completed by the exam deadline.

In addition, at the end of the semester the module exam with the lowest grade will be dropped when calculating the final grade for the course.

Note: If you want to retake a module exam, do not do so immediately after taking it the first time. Your instructor has seen this done hundreds of times, and almost never does a student's grade go up, and sometimes it goes down. The reason for a retake is so that a student can take a day or two to study the items they didn't understand from the first attempt. If you are not going to re-study this material, do not bother with the retake. Obviously, to be successful, you will also need to take your first attempt at least a day before the exam deadline to give yourself time to study.

To discourage “cheating” and encourage “studying”, a time limit will be imposed on each attempt of a module exam since they are taken without a proctor. The time limit will be checked after each exam deadline and any student with questionable overtime will be asked for justification. The instructor may issue a grade of zero (0) for exams that are deemed to have abused the time limit. Discuss with the instructor any issue you may have with such time limits in advance of the first module exam. If you would like to take a second attempt without a time limit, you will need to arrange with the instructor to take the exam proctored, preferably from the Testing Center on one of the campuses, or through ProctorU.

LABTIVITIES

You will be participating in about 10 to 12 activities, called labtivities. Each labtivity will require you to either complete a short worksheet and upload it to the course drop box in D2L, take an online quiz to report your answers to a worksheet, perform a data gathering exercise, take a Google Earth tour and show what you have learned through an accompanying quiz, or write a short report. Labtivities are usually worth 10-25 points, but some may be worth considerably more. The grade for these labtivities will be included in the calculation of your final grade. Specific file formats are required for submitted work, and are usually listed with the assignments. Video tutorials for some computer operations, such as copying and pasting of graphs, are provided in the Content-->Course Information section of D2L.

MAJOR EXAMS

A Midterm Exam and a Final Exam will also be given. These exams will each be worth 200 points and will cover key concepts from the first half and second half of the course, respectively. The exam questions are pulled from the three module exams preceding them. These exams must be taken during the short testing window listed in the

college's calendar for midterm and final exams. If you cannot take the exam during those times, contact the instructor and request an alternative time frame. Only one attempt is allowed.

GRADING SCALE

Grades: A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89% C = 70%-79% D = 60%-69% F = <60%

FA=Failure for not finishing or non-attendance

INCOMPLETE GRADES

At the discretion of the instructor, an incomplete grade ("I") may be awarded when the student is unable to finish the required work because of unforeseen extenuating circumstances such as illness or TDY assignment. To receive an "I" grade, the student must have successfully completed a significant portion of the required coursework and be able to finish the remaining work without attending class. An "I" grade will automatically convert to a grade of "F" if the student does not complete the remainder of the coursework by the established deadline.

Make-up Work

The course follows a directed path with specific deadlines. If you need to deviate from the published calendar due to work or family emergency, notify your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for adjusting the calendar.

Contact the instructor if you need to make up missed work. Petitions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Classroom Conduct

College is a professional environment, and there are many "unwritten rules" that are expected of you when in the classroom. Here are some of them. Failure to follow these rules may result in disciplinary action or, at the very least, lowered respect from your instructor and fellow students.

ENTERING/EXITING CLASS

Arrive on time to class and stay for the entire class period. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and may be viewed as insulting to the instructor.

If despite your best effort you arrive late, please quietly take your seat. Similarly, in the rare event that you must leave class early (e.g. for a medical appointment), email your instructor in advance or see him/her before class to let me know what to expect. Then, leave as unobtrusively as possible.

If you can't get to class on time or often leave early because of a class or work conflict, either seek specific permission from your instructor or do not take the class.

NOISE

When class begins, please stop your conversations and focus on your instructor.

Wait until class is completely over before putting your materials away in your backpack, standing up, or talking to friends. Packing book bags is disruptive and generally sends the message to your instructor that you do not want to be there and cannot wait to leave.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No taping, filming, or photography in class without your instructor's prior permission (whether by camera, cell phone, or other means).

These activities are distracting and inhibiting to faculty and other students, may infringe upon privacy or copyright, and have a chilling effect on classroom discussion.

Laptops may be used for taking notes in class with the instructor's approval. They are not to be used for surfing the web or updating your Facebook page during class.

Cell phones should be turned off. No talking on cell phones, text messaging, or emailing on laptops during class. Wait until after class to return any calls received. If you are awaiting an emergency call, tell your instructor before class, turn off the ringer and set the phone to vibrate, then step outside to answer.

No listening to iPods or other electronic recording devices during class.

Do not send or receive text messages during class.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

You are expected to write as you would for any professional correspondence. Email communication should be courteous and respectful in manner and tone. Do not send emails that are curt or demanding.

Do not expect an immediate response via email (normally, a response will be sent within two business days). If your email question is sent at the last minute it may not be possible to send you a response before an assignment is due or a test is given.

Sending an email to your instructor or other non-peer that contains texting abbreviations (like, U R GR8) is a serious breach of common sense. Use full, complete words and sentences, and use your spell checker.

Watch those homonyms! Know the difference between there, their, and they're, or do, due, and doo, or to, too, and two, for example. Ignorance of our language is a sure sign of ignorance in general. You are in college and college students should know basic grammar. If uncertain, look it up on Google or use a grammar checker.

PARTICIPATION

Keep on the topic at hand. If you have questions off the current topic, address these outside of class during office hours or by email.

Do not talk out of turn. Wait to be recognized before speaking and do not try to dominate a discussion with your questions or comments – give others a fair opportunity to participate.

Come to class prepared to take notes. If you do not have paper and a writing instrument, you are not prepared for college.

COMMON COURTESY

Do not read the newspaper or novels during class.

Sleeping or “resting your eyes” with your head down is disrespectful. If you are ill, step outside the classroom and get something to help you wake up, or go home.

Email your instructor later to explain why you left abruptly.

Food and drink are discouraged in class and not allowed in laboratories. There may be times that you need a beverage or small snack during class. Avoid bringing in large meals or food that is noisy when unpackaged or chewed.

Show respect for me and for your fellow classmates. Do not interrupt another who is speaking. It is okay to disagree with an idea but not okay to ridicule or make fun of another person and his/her ideas. Raised voices, derogatory language, name-calling, and intimidating behavior will NOT be tolerated.

Do not disturb others by engaging in disruptive behavior. Disruption interferes with the learning environment and impairsthe ability of others to focus, participate, and engage.

Do not chew and/or spit tobacco in class.

Do not ask your instructor for money so that you can buy a snack.

Do not come to class drunk, high, or sick. If you do, you will be asked to leave.

Classroom Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. For an online course, this means making significant weekly progress. D2L logs will show when you log in, how much time you have spent on the site, and when you logged out. Your instructor will check these logs regularly. Missing two weeks would not be acceptable in a traditional course, so that would also be an excessive absence in this class too. Students who do not keep up with the course work, do not log in and perform significant work on a regular basis, or simply log on the off to “appear” to be participating, will be given a grade of “FA”, which informs the college (and Financial Aid) that the student failed due to poor attendance. See the NWFSC College Catalog and Student Handbook. Federal regulations require that students receiving Title IV aid must attend classes and have verified attendance in order to receive financial aid funds. This general policy applies to a student absent from class whom is traveling as a member of a college group, or club or for personal reasons.

Students who stop attending class or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus may receive a failing grade of “FA”. An “FA” grade is a failing grade in GPA calculations and may impact the receipt of federal aid in subsequent courses. In our course, a student who sporadically logs in to appear active but does not keep up with assignments, or otherwise shows no ongoing and genuine effort to pass the course, will be given a grade of "FA". Students traveling for college approved activities will not be penalized academically but will be responsible for missed work.

Assignments

A calendar is provided in the Course Information area of the Content section. We will try to stay close to the schedule, but the pace of a course is difficult to anticipate. Also, should a “teachable moment” occur, such as a major disaster, it may serve us best to suspend the schedule and look into the scientific aspects. Therefore,

consider the schedule tentative. If the class gets off schedule, a revised schedule may be handed out to replace the old one.

Email

Email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your email regularly for any class and College notifications.

Minimum Technical Skills and Specialized Technology

Although this is not an online course, it has a strong online component. Course materials, all quizzes and exams, and some lessons are provided through D2L Brightspace, the college's learning management system.

Students need to be familiar with using a computer, beyond just turning it on and surfing the web. We make extensive use of MS Word documents, Portable Document Format (pdf) files, and use MS Excel. You need to be able to open these types of files, fill them in, and save them in the same format to complete assignments. If you do not have MS Office (a free, online version is available to students), be sure that the word processor and spreadsheet programs on your computer will open and save your files in these formats. Mac users can use iWorks programs, but will need to convert their files to non-Mac formats from the list below (your instructor uses a Mac, but D2L Brightspace has a problem with these types of files). Also, Google Docs is free to use and will save (download) your files in .docx or .pdf formats. If you do not know how to save files or open them in the correct formats, "Google" it or send a help desk request to Distance Learning from the login page. Handwritten and scanned files are not acceptable for submission for assessments utilizing D2L Brightspace.

Thus, some homework assignments (worksheets, etc.) will need to be uploaded to the D2L Dropbox and will need to be in a format that can be read by computers other than your own. To assure your work can be viewed and graded, you will be directed to upload your work in one of these formats:

- .doc or .docx (MS Word compatible)
- .pdf (Adobe Reader compatible)
- .rtf (Rich Text Format, a universal format for all word processors)
- .xls or .xlsx (MS Excel compatible)

We will also taking numerous narrated virtual field trips around the world using the free software Google Earth. Google Earth is available on most campus computers. Should you wish to use this software at home, a link for downloading this software is provided below. The files we will be using with Google Earth will only run on actual computers (not tablets or phones) with good, fast, reliable Internet connections. If you do not have this, or you simply cannot use Google Earth, a low-resolution alternative is provided in the form of streaming videos of the tours we will be taking using this software.

Download Google Earth here: http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html

In addition, students may need one or more of the following plug-ins:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- PowerPoint Viewer
- Windows Media Player
- QuickTime Player
- Adobe Flash Player
- Desire 2 Learn

Like all NWF State College classes, this class uses Desire 2 Learn (D2L), a platform for online learning. You can access this class's D2L site at Desire 2 Learn, or through RaiderNet. You will find the class syllabus and other resources.

Turnitin

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, you are consenting to upload your papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to Turnitin are saved as source documents within the Turnitin database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other papers.

Videos

This course employs lecture capture software to provide you with videos of your instructor's lectures/PowerPoints/notes/demonstrations, etc, should you want to use them to review or make up for a missed class. These videos can be viewed with a standard Internet connection. If your home Internet connection is not adequate, please remember that any NWF State College open lab is available to you. You need only take your own headphones with you.

Cell Phone/Electronic Devices

Cell phones, pagers, and other such electronic devices must not distract from learning. Courtesy to the professor and other students requires that phones be on vibrate or silent mode during class. No student should initiate conversations, including texts, during class activities. Use of electronic communication devices during examinations or other graded activities may constitute grounds for disciplinary action; such devices must be completely out of sight during exams or other assessments. Where emergency or employment situations require access to electronic communication services, arrangements may be made in advance with the instructor.

Emergency College Closure

In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college re-opens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized as a result of the adjustments, but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

Children in the Classroom

As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with them to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in any lab, shop, office, or classroom or other college facility where potential hazards exist. If a child-related emergency means you must miss class, contact the instructor as soon as possible to determine your options. (The full "Children on Campus" policy statement appears in the College Catalog.)

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/e-mail use and other items included in the Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the current Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action.

RESOURCES

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is located in the Activities Center (Building 410) on the Niceville Campus. The ASC provides free learning support services such as tutoring, ESOL, and writing assistance for all NWF State College students. Individual and group tutoring is available in a wide range of subjects on a walk-in-basis and by appointment. For more information, call the Academic Success Center at (850) 729-5389 or visit our website at Free Tutoring.

MATH LABS

Math Labs are located in the Math Building (300), Room 131, on the Niceville Campus and in Building FW-47, Room 702 on the Fort Walton Beach Campus and Room 131 at the Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center at the Crestview Center. The math labs are open to all students and provide free walk-in tutoring for all mathematics courses. For lab hours, students may call the Math Department at (850) 729-5377 or visit our website at Math Lab.

SMARTHINKING

Smarthinking is an online, real-time tutoring offered free to students, who may access this service via RaiderNet.

OPEN COMPUTER LABS

There are numerous open computer labs throughout the NWF State College campuses. Students may access our website for lab locations and hours: Computer lab location and hours

TESTING CENTER

Testing Centers administer college admissions tests, placement tests, proctored exams, ACT/SAT, GED, CLEP, and DSST (formerly known as DANTES). Make-up exams may be taken in the Testing Center, depending upon instructor policies on late work. General test information concerning tests, testing center locations, and hours may be accessed on the Testing Center website at Testing Center.

LIBRARY, ONLINE REFERENCE MATERIALS, AND RESOURCES

The library is a comprehensive, learning resource center providing information in print, digital, and multimedia formats to support the educational objectives of the College. In addition to in-house materials, online services and resources can be accessed through the Learning Resource Center website. Library hours are posted each semester at the building entrance and on the LRC website at Learning Resource Center

ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS

Northwest Florida State College supports our military and veterans students. You may contact NWF State College Hurlburt Center Educational Services Building at 850-200-4190 or visit our website at Support Our Military

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Northwest Florida State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you have disabilities for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services on the Niceville Campus, or call 850-729-6079 (TDD 1-800-955-8771 or Voice 1-800-955-8770.