Instructor: Ray Roberts  
Office/Hours: #154 Conference Center  
Monday/Wednesday: 8:00-12:00  
Tuesday/Thursday: 8:00-9:20/11-12  
Friday: 8:30-11:00  

ADA Statement  
In accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the regulations published by the United States Department of Justice 28 C.F.R. 35.107(a), Hill College’s designated ADA coordinator, Melanie Betz, Director of Academic Advising & Student Success, shall be responsible for coordinating the College’s efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under ADA. Students with disabilities requiring physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact: Director of Academic Advising & Student Success, at (254) 659-7651.

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY 1405  

Purpose Statement: The course is designed as a study of interaction and relationships between humans and the Earth. By examining such topics as earth’s natural resources, renewable energy, atmosphere and climate patterns, soil conditions, pollution, recycling, waste streams and toxic chemical disposal, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) legislation and its effects, students will better understand sustainability issues and trends that affect human populations and its well-being.

Course Description: The earth as a habitat. Interrelationships between humans and the environment. Geologic factors in urban and regional land use planning.

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 1  Semester Credit Hours: 4

Course Objectives: At the completion of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Be familiar with modern practices and technological developments in using our natural resources that will help human populations work towards the goal of a sustainable future.

2. Understand the importance of soil, land ecosystems, and the role that land preservation, soil degradation and reclamation play towards future crop production and self-sustainability.

3. Understand the history of the Environmental Protection Agency, the various environmental acts and laws, and the impact of the environmental movement in America.

4. Analyze the various positive and negative effects of how human activities, such as building dams and water reservoirs, can impact the natural environment.

5. Identify the various types of air, water, and land pollution, geographical environmental “hot spot” areas of concern, and issues and laws related to disposal of hazardous and toxic chemicals.

6. Analyze the state of the planet from a hydrological viewpoint and assess the present and future water availability and needs for both groundwater and surface water resources as correlated to human population dispersal in both rural and urban areas.

7. Increase individual enlightenment towards the implementation of daily living “best practices” such as composting, recycling, using efficient energy conservation practices, tree planting for environmental benefits, and other conservation methods that will demonstrate characteristics of good citizenship and help meet the goal of sustainability and a high quality of life.

The students’ success in completing these objectives will be measured using a set of examinations and assignments described, in detail under the section of this syllabus headed “Method of Evaluation.

**Attendance/Absence Policy**

1. In order to be successful in Environmental Geology 1405, students are expected to punctually attend all scheduled classes, complete class assignments, take and pass all unit exams according to grading policy. Tardiness is strongly discouraged.

2. Students are expected to actively participate in the learning process; this includes attendance, preparation for class, and class participation. Pre-class preparation and active involvement in classroom activities are necessary for comprehension, integration, and implementation of course concepts. Students are expected to come to class having read/prepared all assigned activities.

   *Faculty understands that occasional emergencies and unexpected problems occur, but it is the student’s responsibility to notify faculty, in a timely manner, of their absence. Documentation may be requested for any and all absences.*

*For online classes,* the attendance and absence policies listed above obviously do not apply.

**Academic Dishonesty**

It is the philosophy of Hill College that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Academic dishonesty can take on various forms, including, but not limited to the following: cheating on tests, copying another person’s work, magazine publication, or additional material as your own. The student handbook, located on the Hill College
website, outlines penalties for academic dishonesty. The instructor reserves the right to assess penalty for academic dishonesty in any of the following methods:

- A reprimand from the instructor
- A requirement to resubmit the assignment in which the irregularity occurred
- A change in the grade for the course or the assignment in which the irregularity occurred
- Referral to the Dean

**Online students** who are unable to take their exams at the Hillsboro or Johnson County campus testing centers are responsible for locating a local testing center with an appropriate proctor approved by the instructor for all exams.

**Course Evaluation**

Four major exams and a final exam will be given during the semester, along with some chapter quizzes. Students will also be graded on their attendance and participation, but that **grade for both lecture and lab class attendance and participation will be totally figured into the lab grade**. The total grade from the three-hour lecture course will comprise 70% of the final grade and the one-hour lab requirement will comprise 30% of the final grade.

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Materials/Enhancements**

1. Lecture and power point notes
2. Handouts
3. Critical thinking exercises
4. Group work*
5. Presentations
6. Professional papers
7. Assigned readings

*Group work for **online classes** through blackboard discussion forums

**Required Textbooks**

**Course Outline**

The topics in the course will be covered in chronological order of the chapters in the textbook. Certain chapters will be emphasized more than other chapters due to the subject content, information, and possible time constraints. A general idea of what the exams will cover is outlined below. However, the instructor does reserve the right to make changes due to schedule alterations that may take place during the semester.

*Exam #1 – Part One/Two – Chapters 1-5 Sustainable Future/Ecology

*Exam #2 - Part Two/Three – Chapters 6,7,10,11 Human Populations and Essential Resources

*Exam #3 - Part Four – Chapters 12-16 Human Populations and essential Resources/Harnessing Energy for Human Societies

*Exam #4 - Part Five – Chapters 17-23 Pollution and Prevention/Sustainability and composite questions/final exam

*probable quizzes or assignments in these units also to help break up unit material covered by exam

Final Exam = Exam #4

**Final Grade:**

60% of final grade is from the 4 exams and quizzes accumulative average from the semester’s work including the final exam

10% of the grade is from lecture class assignments

30% of the grade is from the lab

**Course Withdrawal Policy:** The last day to withdraw (November 15). You may repeat this course only once after receiving a grade, including W.

**Cell Phones and Beepers in Class:**

Students should turn cell phones off if they are brought to class. Disruption of class by the sounds of cell phones and paging devices or by texting is forbidden. Emergency use of electronic devices in the classroom is permitted only with the consent of instructor.

For online students, these rules would be applicable for Testing Center regulations along with any other rules set by that proctor.