

**Ogden College of Science and Engineering
Department of Geography and Geology
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course
(Information Item)**

Contact Person: Jennifer Cole, jennifer.cole1@wku.edu, 745-4555

1. Identification of proposed course

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: GEOL 304
- 1.2 Course title: How to Build a Habitable Planet
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: HON: BUILD A HABITABLE PLANET
- 1.4 Credit hours: 3
- 1.5 Schedule type: Seminar
- 1.6 Prerequisites: None
- 1.7 Course description:

The only evidence for past or present life in the Universe is found on Earth. We will begin with the Big Bang and finish with 7+ billion people on the planet. Students will learn how to create a terrestrial planet like Earth, and the elemental building blocks required for life. The many forms of life on Earth are possible because of certain physical properties of our planet and a tightly regulated system that connects physical, chemical, and biological components. Importantly, students will come to appreciate the role that humans occupy within this complex Earth system, rather than separate from it.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis:
This course is being offered in partnership with the Honors College on a trial basis, with the goal of developing a permanent course for the new Colonnade General Education program.
- 2.2 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units:
This course presents material of a highly interdisciplinary range. Though aspects from many traditional disciplines (e.g., astronomy, geology, biology, geography) are presented in some forms, there is no current course that covers all of the material proposed here from this perspective. This course will be cross-listed with GEOG 304 and BIOL 304.

3. Description of proposed course

- 3.1 Course content outline
 - A. Earliest history of the Universe
 - i. Big bang
 - ii. Formation of chemical elements
 - iii. Formation of molecules, interstellar clouds
 - B. Formation of our Solar System
 - i. Our Sun
 - ii. Formation of rocks & the planets
 - iii. Timescale of the Universe & Solar System

- C. The physical Earth
 - i. Planetary differentiation – Earth as layers
 - ii. Plate tectonics – Earth in motion
 - iii. Connections between the layers
 - iv. Making it comfortable – atmosphere
- D. The organic Earth
 - i. Populating the surface
 - ii. Competition, evolution, and extinction
 - iii. Human impacts on environment & climate

3.2 Tentative text(s)

Langmuir & Broecker (2012) *How to Build a Habitable Planet*. Princeton. ISBN 978-0691140063.

4. Term of Implementation: Spring 2013

5. Dates of review/approvals:

Geography and Geology Department	_____ 9/5/2012 _____
Ogden College Curriculum Committee	_____ 9/6/2012 _____
Ogden Dean	_____ 9/6/12 _____
UCC Chair	_____
Provost:	_____

Attachment: Course Inventory Form

Office of the Registrar

COURSE INVENTORY FORM

Check One Create New Course
 Temporary Course Offering

1. Has this course previously been offered on a temporary basis? Yes No If yes, indicate the term offered

2. Subject Area Course Number Course Title (as it should appear on the transcript; maximum of 30 letters & spaces)

3. Term for Implementation (e.g., Spring 2012=201210, Fall 2012=201230)

4. Official Course Title

5. Offering Unit (See Table of Code Values.) College Department

6. Credit Hours Fixed Credit Hours: Variable Credit Hours

7. Repeat Limit (See instructions.) Total Maximum Hours (See instructions.)

8. Grading (Check all that apply.) Standard Letter Grading Pass/Fail Only No Grade
 In Progress – IP (Course is intended to span more than one term.)

9. Schedule Type (See Table of Schedule Types.) S

10. Corequisites (courses required to be taken concurrently with this course)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Equivalent Courses (Include South Campus [C suffix] courses and other equivalent courses.)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text" value="GEOG"/>	<input type="text" value="304"/>	<input type="text" value="BIOL"/>	<input type="text" value="304"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

12. Prerequisites (See instructions.)

Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number	Subject Area	Course Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

13. Course Attribute Other Honors Course Developmental Course

14. Course Restrictions Include/ Exclude College College Major Major Classification

15. Course Description (Indicate exactly as it should appear in the University Catalog. Include pertinent special information, e.g., course fees, pass/fail grading, field trips, transportation requirements, etc.)

16. Approvals for Temporary Course Only:
 Department Head Date
 College Dean Date
 Graduate Dean _____ Date _____
 Provost Office _____ Date _____

Graduate Council _____ Provost _____ Banner Data _____ Evaluate _____

March 2012