GEOLGY 305 (701) – EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS – 3 HOURS

FALL SEMESTER 2016
Dr. Margaret E. Crowder

Purpose of the Course: Collaborative, problem-based learning (PBL) experience, using real-world examples to enhance student understanding of earth system science, with a focus on relevance in science teaching grades K-12. Includes PBL-based lesson plan development. Applicable towards a major in geology only for those students seeking teacher certification.

Course Location and Meeting Time: ONLINE, via Blackboard and through Mastering Geography
Office, Office Hours:
Office: EST, Room 312, e-mail: Margaret.Crowder@wku.edu
Phone: 745-5973
Office Hours (physical):
2:00-3:00pm MW *Other times, including virtual office hours, available by appointment*

Pre-requisite: Geol 111 and 113 or Geol 112 and 114
Additional Requirement: Code to access to Mastering Geography website (instructions will be given via Blackboard on how to access this). The code will be included with textbook packages that specify Modified Mastering access.

Outline
This course is a web-based course in Earth System Science and problem based learning. Portions of the course have been developed by the Earth System Science Education Alliance (ESSEA). The course is primarily designed for undergraduate students who plan to become middle and high school teachers; however, any teacher or student with interests in Earth Science education and problem based learning is welcome to take the course. Students will learn about climate change, drought, pollution, and other topics from an Earth System Science perspective. Segments of the course are structured as collaborative, problem-based learning (PBL) experiences and are designed to enhance students understanding of PBL and Earth System Science. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours of undergraduate credit from Western Kentucky University. The discussion space for the course can be found on WKU's Blackboard system.

A detailed course outline will be available via Blackboard and/or the Mastering Geography website. You need to complete/post your assignments by specified deadlines, so you should always check the Course Outline/Course Calendars at the beginning of each new week. Then you can plan when you will do your work. ALL work will be posted to Blackboard or the Mastering Geography website for assessment.

Special Instructional Materials: A computer with Internet access is required for this course. Nearly all course correspondence, notes, discussion, and assignments will be conducted through Blackboard and/or Mastering Geography (which will always be accessed through the Blackboard course page).
Access Blackboard: http://blackboard.wku.edu/
Use of iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android, and related devices are generally not acceptable, as there is much content that will not be accessible through the web browsers available on these platforms. Because it is essential that you have access to a computer and the Internet, it is required that you identify at least one backup computer with Internet access in case you have problems with your personal equipment (any equipment problems will not be considered a valid excuse for missing assignments). For example, the WKU student computer labs and most public libraries have computers with Internet access.
Student Behavior and Communications:
Students are expected to assist in maintaining an online environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an equal opportunity of success in this course, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. All course communications are limited to the subject material of the course and all communications are monitored by the instructor. Inappropriate online behavior with the instructor or any student shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. All incidents of inappropriate behavior will be reported to the Department Head and the Dean of Ogden College. Students should also report inappropriate online behavior to the instructor.

Email:
Email: I view my email twice a day (once in the morning and once in the afternoon). I will make every attempt to reply to your email within 48 hrs (This does not include weekends.). If you send me an email, it should contain the following:

Subject line: descriptor of nature of email; include course number
Salutation: Dr. Crowder,
Body of email: brief statement/description of your question/request
Closing: Sincerely/Regards/etc., (your name)

Academic Honesty:
Students are required to follow the WKU student code of conduct for academic honesty. 
http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php
No plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism may result in failure of the class and/or dismissal from the University. Each student is responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php

Privacy Policy and Internet Security:
The course will be conducted online primarily through Blackboard. Your WKU NET ID and password will give you access to Blackboard and provide a measure of privacy protection of the course content and your grades. Do not share your ID or password with anyone. If using a public computer (for example, at a hotel or library), you must log out and completely close the browser software when finished. This will prevent another person from accessing the course using your identification, doing mischief in your name, and violating the privacy of other students. You are expected to represent your identity in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for disciplinary action of all parties involved.

Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mastering Geography online homework</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBL Assignments (Individual, not including final)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBL Assignments (Team)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBL Final Individual ESS/Associated Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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*see the various rubrics and assignments for individual point values
rubric values are multiplied by three for the final assignment

Even though team work is involved in this class, your team does not control your grade.

Grades: Below is the scale used to calculate your final grade in the class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FN</td>
<td>check with Registrar for full definition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will not be ‘curved’. NO individual extra credit will be assigned. No exceptions!

FYI: An “A” requires extra effort and to earn one is a great honor. Doing the bare minimum will not result in an “A.” Students who earn “A’s” are attentive, punctual with their assignments, are prepared for the discussion, work well with their teammates, score the highest on assignments, are leaders in discussions, and put extra effort into their assignments. Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to this class. Just because it is an online course, does not mean it is easy.

Course Evaluation:
You will be evaluated through completion of numerous online activities this semester. Work will be directed through Blackboard and the Mastering Geography websites. ALL work is to be submitted online for evaluation. It is your responsibility to keep track of each assignment and submit the correct file for each assignment.

For PBL assignments, students are responsible for:
1) Reading and becoming familiar with each rubric. Students should read the rubric prior to attempting the assignment and again before submitting their final assignment for a grade.

For all assignments, students are responsible for:
2) Submitting work on-time.
   a. LATE WORK: For full credit, assignments must be submitted at on the due date, unless otherwise approved by the instructor. Mastering Geography work will be assigned specific late deductions which are visible on that website. PBL work submitted late will automatically receive a 20% reduction. A grace period of one week is permitted for late work to be submitted and still receive up to 80% credit. After 1 week the assignment will be subject to an additional 10% penalty per day (e.g., 8 days late = 30% penalty, 10 days late = 50% penalty, 15 days late and later receive NO CREDIT).
   b. NOTE: Late team assignments could cause problems with other members of your group. Therefore, be considerate and submit your portion of team assignments one day prior to the assignment due date! This will give your team time to assemble the final document. If you submit your portion of a group assignment to the group, as evidenced by your discussion board posts, later than four hours prior to the assignment due time, you, individually, will be penalized by the total number of points lost by your group (i.e., in a group of four, if your late assignment causes the group assignment to be two days late, you personally will lose 80% off of your assignment, while the rest of the group will only lose 20% each).
   c. NOTE: No Late Assignments will be accepted the last week of the regular semester or during finals week.

Schedule Change Policy: The Department of Geography and Geology strictly adheres to University policies regarding schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of individual students to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waved. The Student Schedule Exception form is used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances.

Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC): In compliance with university policy, students with documented disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the SARC in DSU 1074.
Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the SARC.

**The Learning Center (TLC)** Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc)

**Writing Center Assistance**
The Writing Center is located in Cherry Hall 123 on the Bowling Green campus and also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions of the website [www.wku.edu/writingcenter](http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment.

**Strategies for Student Success:** “Effective study takes time. Success at the college level probably will require more time, and more careful use of time, than many students expect. An oft-quoted rule of thumb is that students should spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Do you?” This quote comes from an excellent website for suggestions on how to achieve academic success: [http://faculty.winthrop.edu/stonebrakerr/retention/strategies.htm](http://faculty.winthrop.edu/stonebrakerr/retention/strategies.htm)

**General Comments**
In order to do well in this course, you must spend time - every week – in online discussion, study, assignment completion and working with the available course materials. Get in the habit of regularly spending time on all aspects of the course – it will pay off in the end both in terms of your grade and your comprehension of course materials.

*NOTE: This syllabus functions rather like a contract. By remaining enrolled in this class, it is understood that it is your responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the policies herein. The instructor will inform you as to any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to make these adjustments.*

**HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER!!**

*syllabus is subject to revisions by instructor – the entire class will be notified via Blackboard of any alterations to this syllabus*