



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Earth Science – Section Syllabus

ESC 1000, Section D9118

Summer 2025, Session A

**Instructor:** Dr. Ophelia George

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**Office Hours:** TBA

**Department Head:** Dr. Vasanth Ramachandran

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**Final Exam Date:** TBD

**Last Date of Drop/Add:** 5/15/2025

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** 7/14/2025

## **Course Description:**

Using the scientific method, critical thinking skills, and data analysis, the student will examine the fundamental processes of the earth system, composed of an atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and exosphere, through time. This course will also explore the interactions between these spheres, including critical analysis of scientific theories with an emphasis on the earth's connections with humans.

**Class Meeting Time:** Online (asynchronous)

**Class Location:** Canvas

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisites:** Placement at the college level or completion of the appropriate exit-level developmental course(s) with a grade of C or better.

**Offered:** FA, SU, SP

**Distribution:** Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

## **Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:**

The Good Earth; McConnell; 5<sup>th</sup> ed.; 2021; 9781260466218, McGraw Hill Publishing

## **Methods of Evaluation:**

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

The grade in this course will be based on the following weighted scheme:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	<b>A</b>
87% - 89.99%	<b>B+</b>
80% - 86.99%	<b>B</b>
77% - 79.99%	<b>C+</b>
70% - 76.99%	<b>C</b>
67% - 69.99%	<b>D+</b>
60% - 66.99%	<b>D</b>
Below 60%	<b>F</b>

Grading Calculation			
Assignment/Assessment	% of Total Grade	Duration	Total points per task group
Class activity and attendance	15%	Untimed	150
Homework (6 @25 pts each)	15%	Untimed	150
Exams* (5 @100 pts each)	50%	60 minutes	500
Chapter quizzes (7) + Syllabus quiz	20%	25 minutes	200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total pts</b>	<b>1000</b>

- **Assignments** will vary between homework assignments and chapter quizzes.
  - You will be allowed multiple (3) attempts on the syllabus and chapter quizzes and Canvas will keep your best score, but all attempts must be submitted by the assignment deadline to avoid the late submission penalty.
- **Exams** may include any of the material covered in the assigned readings, lectures, and any handouts, and will consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in, and short answer questions.
  - There will be only one attempt allowed for each exam; please ensure that you are prepared to take the exam on the date listed in the Course Calendar as **no makeup exams will be given except in extreme circumstances.**
  - Caveat: While there are **5 exams** offered in the course, **only 4** will be required to pass the class as each student's lowest test score will be swapped out for their best, **PROVIDING THAT THE STUDENT HAS NOT CHEATED ON ANY OF THE EXAMS.** This means that test 5 can serve as a replacement for a poor performance on one of the earlier exams or skipped all together and be replaced by the grade from one of the 4 previous exams.

**Student Expectations:** Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

**Scientific and Mathematical Literacy:** The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

**Information Literacy:** The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. List and/or identify the most common elements, minerals, and rocks of the earth's crust.
2. Diagram the rock cycle and correlate rock types with the environment in which they are formed.
3. Understand the actions and interactions of external processes such as wind, weathering, mass wasting, and the general role of water on the earth's crust including streams, ice, and underground water.
4. Recognize the internal processes such as earthquakes, plate tectonics, igneous activity, mountain building and geologic structures and the theories related to these processes.
5. Discuss the geologic features of the ocean floor and explain the dynamics of the ocean floor.
6. Describe the composition and structure of the atmosphere focusing on the elements of weather in relation to earth processes.
7. Appreciate earth's place in the universe regarding the general nature of galaxies, stars, and the solar system.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: <https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/2024-2025/catalog/student-handbook/student-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-academic-cheating/>

**Student Email Accounts:**

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

**Flexibility:**

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

**ADA Statement:**

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

**Pirates CARE Student Resource Center**

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with your academic and personal success. These can include things such as basic needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.), increased anxiety, depression, substance use, grief, or other stressful experiences. The Pirates CARE Student Resource Center provides free services to students, including emergency aid, campus food pantries, career clothing closets, connections to local resources for basic needs support, and confidential mental health counseling services provided in-person or via telehealth.

You can contact the Pirates CARE Student Resource Center at 850-484-1759 or by email at [PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu). More information about our services can be found online at [www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE](http://www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE).

For additional 24/7 crisis help, the Crisis Text Line can be accessed by texting "GULF" to 741-741, and the Suicide Lifeline can be reached by phone at 9-8-8.

**Equity Statement:**

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information in its programs, activities, and employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Student Conduct, 1000 College Blvd., Building 5, Pensacola, Florida 32504, (850) 484-1759.

**Security Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

**Emergency Statement:**

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.