



ESS 190: Selected Topics: Coastal Processes, Hazards & Society

Syllabus for Sections 01, 02 Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Sean Cornell

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Lab/Office Hours: M, W., from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; W, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Shearer 103 & by appointment.

Lecture Schedule and Location:

Section 01 of this course will meet Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in Shearer Hall Room 202.

Section 02 of this course will meet Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Shearer Hall Room 202

Mission of the University and the Department of Geography – Earth Science

According to the mission of the University, this course along with others in the Department of Geography and Earth Science, are designed to “prepare students to think logically, read critically, write clearly, and verbalize ideas in a succinct and articulate manner; [moreover these courses] also broaden students’ knowledge of the world, past and present.”

Mission Statement & Goals: Geography Earth Science Department

The Geography-Earth Science Department at Shippensburg University is committed to student learning and personal development through innovative teaching, high quality field application, and use of geotechnology in all aspects of departmental programs. These commitments will deepen students’ appreciation of Geography-Earth Science, encourage life-long learning, and enable Geography-Earth Science majors to teach at the middle/secondary level, to enter a geography-earth science related professional career, or to pursue a higher degree.

Common Goals

1. Develop student mastery of substantive disciplinary knowledge focusing on the six essential elements of geography outlined in the *National Geography Standards Geography for Life*. (Knowledge)
2. Develop student proficiency in one or more of the geo-techniques. (Skill)
3. Facilitate student proficiency in communication and analytical skills. (Skill)
4. Foster an appreciation of having a geographic perspective that will serve as the basis for life-long learning. (Attitude)
5. Provide a well-articulated curriculum, strong academic and career advising, and opportunities for research, collaboration, and field experiences.

Course Objectives: This course is offered as a Category C – Science with lab general education class. This course will provide students with a global perspective of coastal landscapes, the processes responsible for their formation, diversity, and change over time, as well as societal responses to current changes in the coastal zones around the world. Active learning elements include analyzing real data sets and applying critical thinking and problem-solving skills to real-world coastal issues that affect human populations. Students will complete a capstone project in which they consider a real-world coastal issue.

Course Organization and Content: During the semester we will investigate, discuss and analyze the geology and geography of coastal landscapes and the processes that interact to produce these dynamic landscapes over various temporal scales. We will actively explore how humans and human landscapes in coastal settings are impacted by natural processes and explore options for adapting, mitigating, or otherwise find solutions to reduce the economic, social, and cultural impacts of these processes on societies. To assist students reach the learning objectives, this course will make use of Desire2Learn and the course website (<https://www.e-education.psu.edu/earth107/>) where all course materials and learning support materials are available. The course materials are developed collaboratively with faculty from several universities who specialize in the topics of the course and three universities will be teaching the course simultaneously to evaluate the course materials and learning gains. All course assignments, quizzes, midterms, labs, and discussion boards will be administered and submitted through the D2L system, unless otherwise instructed.

Text Book & Materials: There is no required textbook for the course. All course content will be made available through the course website listed above. For best performance, you should have a laptop or an iPad, or other technology that enables you to have access to the web when you come to class. Because you will need to work with several software programs (all are freeware) which include GeoMapApp, and Google Earth, it is best if you have a laptop. Please consult with your instructor if you have any challenges. The software are available for you to download from the web, according to instructions provided on the course “orientation” website. You can also use them on the computers in the Geo/ESS department which are located on the first floor of Shearer Hall. You will also need to use Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and it is recommended that you use Microsoft OneNote as a learning aid.

Grading: Your grade is based only on the points you earn. I **do not** grade on a “bell curve.” Your final class grade is calculated per the breakdown below. When final grades are calculated, if your final grade is very close to a grade cutoff (i.e. less than 1.0 %), it is my prerogative to elevate a student’s grade to the next highest letter grade if that student’s participation and assignments were consistently above average and attendance was good. If your final letter grade is just below a grade cutoff, don’t come asking for a bump in grade.... you will already have received the bump if you earned it.

2 Midterm Exams:	2 @ 15 pts = 30 %
Weekly Quizzes	= 15 %
Weekly Lab Assignments:	= 30 %
Weekly Blog / Discussion	= 10 %
Course Capstone: Coastal Vulnerability Audit:	= 15 %

Total: 100 pts

Note – I will drop the lowest score for the weekly quizzes and weekly blogs.

Grade Distribution: A: >95 %, A-: 91-94.99 %, B+: 87-90.99 %, B: 83-86.99 %, B-: 80-82.99 %, C+: 76-79.99 %, C: 70-75.99 %, D: 60-69.99 %, F <60%

Attendance: It is a fact that students who miss my class do poorly on their exams and lab assignments regardless of aptitude. Therefore it is in your best interest to be in class regularly. It is the policy of the Department of Geography & Earth Science that students attend all class days. It is also critical that if you miss a class due to a pre-approved reason (athletic, religious, or other academic purpose) that you provide documentation of the absence in advance of the absence. In such cases, you are still required to get all notes from a class mate and must still turn in any assignments that are due by the assignment deadline.

Exams: You will have two midterm exams in the course. Exam 1 will take place after Module 6, and Exam 2 will take place at the end of Module 12. Both will be administered online on D2L and will be timed. A written exam may be provided in coordination with the Office of Disability Services according to pre-existing modifications.

Quizzes (D2L): Each week, students are expected to come to class prepared for working on course materials having read the assigned materials. To ensure this happens students are expected to take a quiz through the Desire2Learn website for the course.

Assignments & Deadlines: Students will be expected to hand in assignments ON TIME! Assignments need to be submitted via the course dropbox on D2L or, with permission of the instructor, in written form. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, and cannot be submitted after the assignment is graded and returned to the rest of the class. Deadlines for each assignment are not flexible, unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the instructor– no exceptions!

LAB ASSIGNMENTS: We will complete lab assignments for each module of the course. These lab assignments will be hands-on and focused on developing observational and critical thinking skills, as well as to provide you with opportunities to improve your organizational and written communication skills. Each assignment, as assigned, MUST be type-written unless otherwise noted.

COURSE BLOG/DISCUSSION: Each student will be required to complete a weekly discussion posting on D2L according to the instructions posted on the course website: <https://www.e-education.psu.edu/earth107/> It is critical that each of you spend time reflecting on what you are learning each week and apply concepts from the course to case studies outlined in the media and see how these elements influence your learning of the material.

Field Trip:

We may have the opportunity to take a field trip to the coast of Virginia. Details will be forthcoming, and will be contingent on interest, availability of funding to support the travel, and other considerations. In the event that funding is not obtained to support the travel, costs will depend on the number of interested students. Typically, costs are less than \$100.00 per student for the weekend (meals, housing, and transportation included).

Additional Information:

- 1.) For your privacy, I will not discuss your grades over the telephone or via E-mail (with you or any other person), so please do not ask! If you have a question about your grade, I expect that you will make arrangements to visit me during office hours or at another pre-arranged time.
- 2.) If an assignment or exam is missed due to an official University closure, that assignment or exam will be made up the following class period. Please refer to the University website or phone 717-477-1200 for information about closures or other schedule changes.
- 3.) Academic integrity is tantamount to the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. All members of the Shippensburg University community are expected to act with personal integrity, and MUST respect the dignity of other students and this includes their intellectual rights and intellectual property as well as the intellectual rights of other people. All students should work to create and maintain an environment that is based on mutual respect so that all students can succeed through their own hard work and efforts. Thus your work, in all aspects of this course, should be your own and adhere to the Universities policies on academic honesty. Plagiarism detection software will be employed on all submitted assignments to help ensure that students are employing academic integrity. Should it be suspected that an assignment is not one's own, it will be handled according to procedures outlined in the undergraduate catalog (found online at www.ship.edu/catalog/ug/). This may include, but is not limited to: receiving a zero grade for the assignment, failure of the course, and/or other sanctions assigned by the university.
- 4.) Students who need additional assistance according to documented disabilities should see me **by the end of the first week of classes** in order to facilitate learning in this course. I am dedicated to making any reasonable accommodations for students who need them and will work with the Office of Disability Services. For all students, I encourage you to make use of my office hours and the Learning Assistance Center on the first floor of the library to improve your studies.

5.) In the event that you will need to miss class at any point during the semester for a religious holiday, or an athletic competition, you need to provide me with a list of those dates in writing (not by phone) **by the end of the first week of classes.**

Tentative Course Schedule Subject to Change At Instructor's Discretion:

Week	Dates	Topic to Be Discussed/Worked On	Reading/Assignments
Week #1	8/25 to 8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Course Introduction & Orientation • W: Software Tutorials –Google Earth, GeoMapApp, etc. • F: Software Tutorials – Capstone Project Overview 	Read all orientation materials on course website & complete all Week 1 Tasks outlined on D2L
Week #2	9/1 to 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: NO CLASS Labor Day • W: Module 1: The Societies & Economics of Coastal Regions • F: Lab Module 1 Due 9/10/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 1 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/8 • Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/8
Week #3	9/8 to 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 2: A Global Glance of the Geology of Coastal Landscapes • W: Lab Module 2 – Lab Module 1 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 2 – Due 9/17/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 2 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/15 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/15
Week #4	9/15 to 9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 3: Coastal Systems: Landscapes & Processes • W: Lab Module 3– Lab Module 2 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 3 – Due 9/24/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 3 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/22 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/22
Week #5	9/22 to 9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 4: Understanding Sea-Level Change • W: Lab Module 4– Lab Module 3 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 4 – Due 10/1/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 4 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/29 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 9/29
Week #6	9/29 to 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 5: Coastal Catastrophes: Storms and Tsunamis • W: Lab Module 5– Lab Module 4 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 5 – Due 10/8/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 5 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/6 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/6
Week #7	10/6 to 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 6: Impacts on the Societies & Economics of Coastal Regions • W: Lab Module 6– Lab Module 5 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 6 – Due 10/22/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 6 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/13 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/13
Week #8	10/13 to 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: No Class – Fall Break • W: Exam Review & Capstone Planning Review • F: Exam 1 In Class or Online 10/16/2014 	<i>Study For Exam 1 & Work on Capstone</i>
Week #9	10/20 to 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 7: Hard Structures and Coastal Modifications Through Mimicking Natural Processes • W: Lab Module 7– Lab Module 6 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 7 – Due 10/29/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 7 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/27 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 10/27
Week #10	10/27 to 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 8: Managed Retreat/Multi-Layered Protection • W: Lab Module 8– Lab Module 7 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 8 – Due 11/5/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 8 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/3 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/3
Week #11	11/3 to 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 9: Smart Building • W: Lab Module 9– Lab Module 8 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 9 – Due 11/12/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 9 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/10 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/10
Week #12	11/10 to 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 10: Understanding & Assessing Coastal Vulnerability • W: Lab Module 10– Lab Module 9 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 10 – Due 11/19/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 10 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/17 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/17
Week #13	11/17 to 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 11: Tsunami and Storm Surge Policy • W: Lab Module 11– Lab Module 10 Due Today in Class • F: Lab Module 11 – Due 11/24/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 11 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/24 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 11/24
Week #14	11/24 to 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 12 Prep – Lab Module 11 Due Today in Class • W: Thanksgiving Break – No Class • F: Thanksgiving Break – No Class 	<i>Study For Exam 2 & Work on Capstone</i>
Week #15	12/1 to 12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M: Module 12: Sea-Level Rise Policy • W: Lab Module 12 – Due 12/8/14 – To Course DropBox • F: Course Wrap Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & Complete Module 12 • Quiz Due: 8:00 a.m. 12/8 Discussion Due: 8:00 a.m. 12/8
Exam Week:	12/8 to 12/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 @ Assigned Exam Time TBA (non-cumulative) • Capstone Project Due 12/12/14 (Submitted to Course Dropbox) 	