INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jennifer Cash

Office: Hodge Hall 317
Phone: 516-4753
Office Hours: Monday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Tuesday 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Thursday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
You may also schedule appointments at other times

e-mail: jcash@physics.scsu.edu
web page: http://physics.scsu.edu/~jcash/teaching/

CLASS MEETING TIME:
Lecture Meets Tuesday 05:30-8:30PM in Hodge Hall Room 205

TEXT:
"Earth Science and the Environment, Third Edition" by Thompson and Turk
Additional on-line readings will also be assigned throughout the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A one semester course for non-science majors. It is designed to enhance the scientific literacy of those students who do not have a strong background in mathematics or special aptitude in science. Basic concepts in geology, atmospheric science, and astronomy will be examined.

COURSE RATIONAL AND OBJECTIVES:
This course, through its content and activities, prepares the students to be "reflective decision makers" and "effective performers" in a technological society. In general, the successful student will, upon completion of this course,

- be aware of the natural world around them,
- understand the importance of science in their everyday lives,
- understand how the natural world affects their lives,
- understand the basic processes at work in the natural world,
- understand the interconnections between the concepts studied.

COURSE OVERVIEW:
The following is an outline of the major concepts to be covered in this course:

I. Introduction to Physical Science
II. The Earth System
   1. Geosphere
   2. Atmosphere
   3. Hydrosphere
III. The Solar System
   1. The Sun
   2. Small Bodies
   3. The Planets
OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT:
The instructor will provide you with a rough schedule for the course. Changes may be necessary as the semester progresses, and the instructor will inform you as soon as possible if needed.

SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This class is most appropriate for disciplined students who work independently and complete course work on-time. The course is classified as a "web enhanced" course and students will be expected to complete online assignments.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:
The grades for this course will be determined according to the following breakdown. Refer to the descriptions of each item below the table.

If changes to this grading scheme become necessary the instructor will inform you as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Activities</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance and Participation:
Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class by signing in on the class roster. Signing in and then leaving will not count as attending the class, and you may not have another student sign in for you. Students signed in by the start of class will receive 3 attendance points. Students who arrive to class no more than 30 minutes late will receive 2 attendance points. Students arriving more than 30 minutes late but within the first hour of class will receive 1 attendance point. Students arriving to class more than one hour late will not receive attendance points but may still be awarded participation points.

Participation points are handed out at the instructor’s discretion and may be awarded for such things as contributing to classroom discussions, assisting in demonstrations, originality in classroom activities, helping with equipment, as well as other forms of participation.

Your overall attendance and participation grade will be calculated based on the total number of participation and attendance points earned. The standard level will be calculated based on an average of 4 points per lecture. Students who average 4 points per lecture will receive the full 10% towards the overall course grade. Students who regularly arrive late or do not regularly participate in the lecture will earn less than the full 10% for the attendance and participation portion of the course grade.

InClass Activities:
During each lecture session, students will be given various activities related to the lecture material. The in class exercises may be group activities, individual assignments, or a combination of both. In class activities will be completed and turned in before leaving the lecture. Students who miss a lecture section may arrange to make up the in-class activity for full credit with an excused absence or partial credit if the absence is unexcused. In either case, the student is responsible for arranging the makeup work and must contact the instructor within a week of the absence and complete the work within two weeks of the absence.

Outside Assignments:
Assignments for this course will be handled through Blackboard, the University website for courses. Although the instructor will generally comment upon the assignments, it remains the student’s responsibility to check the Blackboard site for assignments and seek help if they encounter difficulties completing the assignments. Unless otherwise instructed by the instructor all assignments will be submitted on the Blackboard website.

All assignments must be submitted by the due date to receive credit. Contact your instructor immediately if you have questions or problems completing or submitting any assignments. (See the sections on Late Work, and Absences below)
Exams:
The exams will be administered throughout the semester at the end of the lecture time. The exams will be announced 2 weeks ahead of time and will generally cover 4 lectures worth of material. The instructor will discuss with the class the possibility of using the Instructional Research and Development Center (IRDC) for computerized testing outside of class.

GRADING SCALE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.0% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0% - 90.0%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0% - 80.0%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0% - 70.0%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS POLICIES:

Readings:
Students are expected to complete the assigned readings from the textbook or website before the lecture covering that material. The instructor may also provide photocopied handouts of additional material for you to read. The lectures will build on the basic material in the readings and a basic understanding of the concepts presented in the text will be assumed. If you do not read the material in the text, you may have difficulties following the lecture or completing the in class activities. Some material presented in the assigned readings will not be covered in the lecture, and some material presented in lecture is not covered in the text. You may be tested on any material covered in the lectures or assigned readings. If you are having difficulties understanding any material in the textbook, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for additional help.

Attendance:
Since each lecture represents a weeks worth of class, attendance is very important to your success in this course. You should avoid missing a lecture if at all possible. If you must miss a class, it is the student’s responsibility to get notes on the material covered in lecture and contact the instructor as soon as possible (see the further details under the excused and unexcused absences sections).

Excused Absences:
If you miss a lecture, contact the instructor as soon as possible to determine if the absence may be considered excused. Absences which may qualify as excused include: official school activities, medical emergencies, a death in the immediate family, and court appearances. Other reasons may also qualify as an excused absence at the sole discretion of the instructor. You will need to provide documentation to receive an excused absence. An excused absence will allow you to makeup any missed work for full credit without penalty provided you complete the missed work within two weeks of the absence. Excused absences will also receive credit for the attendance and participation points missed during the lecture.

Unexcused Absences:
If you miss a class for any reason not qualifying for an excused absence, you should contact the instructor as soon as possible. You will be allowed to makeup any in-class activities or exercises you missed for partial credit provided you complete the missed work within two weeks of the absence. The amount of partial credit you may receive will be determined in part by the amount of time that has passed since the missed lecture, so it is important to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Late work:
All outside of class assignments will be posted with the due date on the course Blackboard website. Due to the structure of Blackboard you will not be able to submit online assignments after the due date. All students with excused absences need to contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange alternate submission of any missed assignments. Students with unexcused absences may contact the instructor about submission of late work, however it remains solely within the instructors discretion if the work will be accepted for partial credit.
**Academic Dishonesty:**
No cheating or attempts to cheat will be tolerated. If anyone is caught cheating or attempting to cheat, the penalty is an immediate ZERO on the work involved. This grade of zero will not be dropped. A second offense will result in an automatic grade of F in the course. This policy includes in-class exercises, exercises done outside of class, writing assignments, and tests.

**Additional Assistance:**
If you are having any difficulties in this course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. This includes missed work, questions on grading or your status in the course, and difficulties with either the concepts or technical aspects of the course. Ask questions and be active in your education. I am available to you in class, during office hours, by email and phone, and outside of office hours by appointment. The earlier we address your difficulties, the more options will be open to you.