Earth Science Today
GEOL 383.63/PGEOG 701.63
Summer 2010

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Textbook: Earth Science 12th edition Edward J. Tarbuck Frederick K. Lutgens Pearson publishing company (Prentice Hall). This book may be purchased as new or used from Amazon. This textbook is also available as a 360 day subscription eTextbook. Check out www.coursesmart.com and search under the title.

Introduction: Today’s students will inherit our planet tomorrow. We as instructors in Earth Science must ensure that they have the opportunity to obtain a basic understanding of the earth, so that their appreciation of our amazing planet and its place in the Cosmos is enhanced, and also that they are equipped to make informed, environmentally responsible decisions in their fields.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity: Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Grading procedure: For undergraduate credit, there will be two exams based on lecture and reading assignments, each counting for 50% of the final grade. In addition to the two exams, students taking the course for graduate credit must complete one of the research assignments * (See list below). Exams and research assignment will be each counting for 1/3 of the total grade. Makeup exams will not be given. All students must take the final exam. In any event, if missing an exam is unavoidable (i.e., for medical reasons), I must be notified prior to the exam, if possible.

Attendance: Class attendance is recommended. In addition to information provided in the text, extra material and occasional pertinent films may be shown and discussed.

Course Outline: **

Part 1: Foundations and the Solid Earth
Chapters: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
MIDTERM EXAM

Part 2: The Hydrosphere
Chapters: 9, 10.

Part 3: The Atmosphere
Chapters: 11 and 12.
Part 4: Astronomy  
Chapters: 15 and 16.  
FINAL EXAM (Last Day of Class)

*A research paper or power point presentation on:
  a) Theories regarding the formation of the moon. Or,
  b) Theories regarding the extinction of the dinosaurs. Or,
  c) Causes of Ice Ages, specifically the Pleistocene Ice Age. Or,
  d) Complete a self-guided tour of the Museum of Natural History, as it relates to this course (See me for details). Or,
  e) Design an internet exercise to help your students get in-depth information on a particular topic at home.

**Research work is due the last week of classes.

** Lab work/field trips and special topics will be covered - *Time permitting.*

"Incomplete Work in Course: When a student FOR VALID REASON does not complete the work assigned in a course (including the final exam, papers, etc.) and in the view of the instructor still has a reasonable chance to pass the course, the student shall be given the grade IN (incomplete). The student must explain the reason to the instructor or, in the absence of the instructor, to the department chair and arrange a schedule for making up the missing course work. These steps must be taken as soon as possible and no later than the end of the second week of the following semester. The student shall then be given the opportunity to complete the course without penalty beyond previously established penalties for lateness." Students averaging “C” or above are eligible to request an incomplete grade.