



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

SYLLABUS

Earth Science

ESC1000-P1321

Spring 2026, Session A

Instructor: Vicki Knoch

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Office Hours: Online by appointment

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Last Date of Drop/Add: January 15, 2026

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: April 6, 2026

Final Exam Date: TBD

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday, Thursday | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Class Location: Pensacola Campus, Building 21, Room 2107

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

Course Description: Using the scientific method, critical thinking skills, data analysis, this course will examine the fundamental processes of the earth system, composed of an atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and exosphere, through time. The course will also explore interactions between these spheres, including critical analysis of scientific theories and emphasize Earth's connections with humans.

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Course Designations: **College Transfer.** Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

General Education Core Course Standard: Per Florida Statute 1007.25, "Natural science courses must afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena."

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:

The Good Earth; McConnell; 5th ed.; 2021; 9781260466218, McGraw Hill Publishing

The educational materials used in this course, including textbooks and ancillary materials, are intended for educational purposes only. All opinions represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of Pensacola State College, or the instructor.

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.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

1. 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.

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

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

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:

Graded Items	Points
Syllabus Quiz (1@ 10 points)	10
Quizzes (15 @ 20 points)	300
News Reports (4@50 points)	200
Course Review Questions	30
Pop up Attendance (10 @ 10 points)	100
Extra Credit Survey	30
Final Exam	200
Total Points	870

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B+	87-89%
B	80-86%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

F1: Assigned to a student who has attended throughout the entire semester and failed the course.

F2: Assigned to a student who has ceased attending, missed assignment deadlines, or who has been absent beyond the allowable limit.

F3: Assigned to a student who has cheated on an assignment or submitted a plagiarized document.

Instructor Requirements:

Assignments: Late assignments are not accepted. What is a late assignment? A late assignment is: An assignment (quiz, discussion response, or other assignment) submitted outside of the specified grace period or extended availability date, where you did not request an approved extension prior to the due date.

Your professor is here to support you. We understand it can be difficult to find focused time to complete quality work. Sometimes personal, family, and/or work events occur, or you have unforeseen technical difficulties. All quizzes and assignments in the first seven units of the course have an automatic 24-hour grace period. If you need more time

beyond the automatic 24-hour grace period, communicate this to the professor as soon as possible, before the due date. There are exceptions to the automatic grace period:

- All discussions, quizzes, assignments, and exam(s) due in the last module of the course have firm due dates. No assignments will be accepted after the final day of the class unless you have prior approval for a grade of Incomplete.
- When applicable, late group work will be addressed by the professor on a case-by-case basis.

All extension requests must be made before the due date. If you experience a personal, family, or work emergency that may require a longer extension, please contact your professor to evaluate options for an extended availability date. It is your responsibility to keep the professor informed about issues that may interfere with your course work, and how long it will interfere with your ability to concentrate and participate in this course. In many cases, an arrangement can be made that will allow you to continue and complete the course, but the professor needs to be kept informed.

You can always contact the professor by email. If requested by the professor, provide appropriate documentation of a personal or work emergency, and they will review your options.

Participation: To succeed in this course, you must attend class, so you do not miss critical course information and updates. Additionally, communication with your professor is very important and plays a vital role in your success.

Attendance: You are expected to participate in an academic activity to be considered “present” in the course. **You must attend class and complete an academic activity during the first week of the course, for attendance verification to the college.** The academic activity will be the syllabus quiz based on information in this syllabus.

You are **not permitted to miss more than two classes in a row and no more than three classes in total** or you will be considered for dropping from the class for lack of attendance. For excessive absences during the course, a student will be granted an F at the end of the course for lack of attendance.

When students come to class late, it can disrupt the flow of a lecture or discussion, distract other students, impede learning, and generally erode class morale. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class, it will be noted as a tardy. Excessive tardies will be counted as absences and you will be considered for disenrollment from the course.

Withdrawal Policy: It is your responsibility to withdraw from this course. If you stop participating and do not withdraw by the deadline, you will receive an F.

Extra Credit Policy: There is no extra credit offered for this course.

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.

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: [Academic Integrity](#)

ADA Statement: Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act of 2008 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss academic accommodations. Appropriate academic accommodations are determined on an individual basis with careful consideration of the course learning outcomes and the documentation of the disability. For more information, students should visit the Student Resource Center for ADA Services on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603; call 850-484-1637; email ADAservices@pensacolastate.edu; or complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the MyPSC apps dashboard.

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.

Flexibility Statement: 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.

Non-Discrimination Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex (as defined by applicable federal and state law), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or marital status in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Officer at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

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.

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.