

Spring 2015, Resources Geology (GEOS 1024; CRN 13572) - M W – 2:30PM–3:45PM; McBryde 100 [MCB 100]
<http://www.vt.edu/about/buildings/mcbryde-hall.html>

Instructor: Dr. Luca Fedele, 5053 Derring Hall, fedele.resources@vt.edu

Office Hours: Email me for an appointment. (please use **ONLY** the email listed here to contact me)

Textbook: Environmental Science for a changing world – With extended coverage (Karr et al., Freeman Ed.). The book is available at the bookstore and it's **MANDATORY** for the course.

i>clicker: This course will use **iClicker** in class for tests. The remote is available at the Bookstore. You only need iClicker V1 for this course, however if you need V2 for another course you will be able to use that one for my class too. If you already own the iClicker V1 and you want to buy V2 the seller has a rebate program (<http://www.iclicker.com/customers/education/VirginiaTech/>).

Make sure you read the instructions included at the end of the syllabus for using the iClicker in class. FAILURE TO CORRECTLY USE/REGISTER iCLICKER MIGHT AFFECT YOUR GRADE. Please read the instructions on page 5 on how to register your remote.

Scholar web page: Important dates, course notes, syllabus, additional readings etc. will be posted on the class Scholar website (scholar.vt.edu). **Check Scholar regularly!!**

LECTURES AND EXAMS SCHEDULE (Subject to revision)

	Date	Class	Topic(s)	Chapter(s)
EXAM 1	W 01 – 21	01	Environmental Literacy - Science Literacy and the Process of Science - Information Literacy	01 – 02 - 03
	M 01 – 26	02	Environmental Economics and Consumption - Human Populations - Environmental Health	04 – 05 - 06
	W 01 – 28	03	Ecosystems and Nutrient Cycling	07
	M 02 – 02	04	Population Ecology - Community Ecology	08 - 09
EXAM 2	W 02 – 04	05	Biodiversity - Preserving Biodiversity	10 - 11
	M 02 – 09	06	Evolution and Extinction	12
	W 02 – 11	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 01 – Population	**
	M 02 – 16	07	Forests - Grasslands	13 - 14
	W 02 – 18	*	ONLINE VIDEO 01 – Population	**
	M 02 – 23	08	Marine Ecosystems	15
	W 02 – 25	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 02 – Biodiversity	**
	M 03 – 02	09	Fisheries and Aquaculture - Freshwater Resources	16 – 17
	W 03 – 04	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 03 – Urban Forestry	**
SPRING BREAK – 03/07 TO 03/15				
EXAM 3	M 03 – 16	10	Water Pollution	18
	W 03 – 18	*	ONLINE VIDEO 02 – Biodiversity	**
	M 03 – 23	11	Mineral Resources	19
	W 03 – 25	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 04 – Mining	**
	M 03 – 30	12	Feeding the World	20
	W 04 – 01	*	ONLINE VIDEO 03 - Food	**
	M 04 – 06	13	Agriculture: Raising Livestock + Raising Crops	21 – 22
	W 04 – 08	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 05 - Soils	**
	M 04 – 13	14	Coal – Petroleum - Air Pollution	23 – 24 – 25
	W 04 – 15	*	ONLINE VIDEO 04 – Climate Change	**
EXAM 4	M 04 – 20	15	Climate Change	26
	W 04 – 22	*	ONLINE ACTIVITY 06 – Climate Change	**
	M 04 – 27	16	Nuclear Power	27
	W 04 – 29	*	ONLINE VIDEO 05 – Inequality	**
	M 05 – 04	17	Sun, Wind and Water Energy – Biofuels	28 – 29
	W 05 – 06	18	Managing Solid Waste - Environmental Policy - Urbanization and Sustainable Communities	30 – 31 – 32
* This activity or video replaces the in class lecture – YOU DO NOT NEED TO COME TO CLASS				
** The activities and videos are available online in SCHOLAR in the Activities and Video section				
THIS CLASS HAS NO FINAL – EXAM 4 ONLINE IS THE LAST TEST FOR THE SEMESTER				

GRADING, EXAMS, TESTS, ATTENDANCE AND ASSIGNMENTS

GRADES		
Your final grade will be based on the scores from the items below. Grades will be posted on Scholar .		
4 Online exams	Weight depends on each exam	50 %
18 Online Quizzes	Weight depends on each quiz	10 %
15 In class Quizzes (I>clicker)	~ 0.34 % each	5 %
Attendance (15 classes)	~ 0.34 % each	5 %
Online Activities	Weight depends on each activity	20 %
Online Videos	Weight depends on each video	10 %

Grading Scale:

A	≥ 90.6	C	70.60-75.59
A-	88.60-90.59	C-	68.60-70.59
B+	85.60-88.59	D+	65.60-68.59
B	80.60-85.59	D	60.60-65.59
B-	79.60-80.59	D-	58.60-60.59
C+	75.60-79.59	F	≤ 58.59

ONLINE EXAMS

- You will take **4 online exams** during the course. **No exam will be dropped**
- Exams are **non cumulative** and multiple choice. Questions are based on class notes, readings, and material presented in class.
- Each Exam will consist of **5 questions for each chapter covered in the exam**. Each question is worth 1 point. You can take each exam only once. The exam will be timed (1 minute per question).
- **QUIZZES QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE REUSED FOR ONLINE EXAMS**
- Exam schedule is as follows:

EXAM	# Quest. & Pts.	OPENS ON	CLOSES ON	Chapters you need to study
Exam 1	45	M 02/02 – 5PM	F 02/06 – 11PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Exam 2	40	M 03/02 – 5PM	F 03/06 – 11PM	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Exam 3	40	M 04/13 – 5PM	F 04/17 – 11PM	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Exam 4	35	W 05/06 – 5PM	M 05/12 – 11PM	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32

- Closing day affected by the end of the semester

ONLINE QUIZZES (**IMPORTANT: For a complete schedule of the online quizzes look at the end of the syllabus**)

- Quizzes will be accessible through SCHOLAR. A total of 18 quizzes (one per lecture) will be assigned during the semester. Quizzes can be taken only once, they will have 5 questions for each chapter covered in the quiz and will be time limited (1 minute per question, 1 point per question) and opened only for a limited time (generally from one hour after the end of one class to one hour prior the beginning of the next one).

ONLINE QUIZZES WILL NOT BE DROPPED!!

QUIZZES QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE REUSED FOR ONLINE EXAMS

IN CLASS QUIZZES

- Each quiz will be presented in class during the lecture (5 questions per class, 1 point per question). You will answer using the iClicker remote. Each class will have a quiz but **ONLY 15** will be counted for your final grade (you can miss up to 3 quizzes with no consequences on your final grade).

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance will be taken using the iClicker remote when you answer the in class quizzes. To receive the attendance point you need to answer at least 4 out of five questions (regardless if the answer is correct or not). **ONLY 15** classes will be considered for the attendance (you can miss up to 3 lectures with no consequences on your final grade).

ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND VIDEOS.

- An important part of your grade (30 %) will come from **ONLINE ONLY** activities and Videos (also available online). For each activity and video you will have to answer a series of questions available in SCHOLAR (in the Exams and Tests section of the class site). The instructions for the Activities and Videos are available in the Activities and Video section of the class site. All activities and Videos are already open for you to work on. Each one has a deadline of course, but since they are already available you can start working on them any time you want.

EXTRA GRADES

- *Extra grades will be offered during the semester via additional in class quizzes (5 questions each, 1 point per question, to be answered using the iClicker remote). A maximum of 10 extra grade quizzes will be offered. The extra grades will be offered at random during the lectures and will be based on material covered in lectures preceding the one where the quiz is offered. The extra grades cannot lower your score, only increase it. The extra grades quizzes will add a maximum of 1.5% to your final grade.*

MAKE UP POLICY FOR ONLINE TESTS AND EXAMS

ALL MAKE UPS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE ON PAPER AND IN MY OFFICE

- **There is NO make up for online activities and videos;**
- **If you miss a class you can receive attendance and make up the missed in class quiz if you have an official excuse such as:**
 - Medical or family emergency (you will need a note from the Dean's Office)
 - You missed a class for University related reasons (you will need an official note)
- **Make-up of online exams are allowed ONLY if:**
 - you have a family or medical emergency and can get a note from the Dean Office [for medical emergencies a note from the Schiffer Health Center (<http://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/>) or from a Board Certified Doctor is ok]
 - to make up a missed online exam you will have to come to my office and take a paper version of the exam.
- **Make-up of online tests in the event of a technical issue (VERY IMPORTANT):**
 - When you submit work in SCHOLAR, the system will display a submission ID. ***You need to take a screenshot and save it.*** This will allow you to ask for a make up if something goes wrong and your work is not saved. If after submission you do not received the ID, you need to contact me and 4help immediately. If you experience a technical problem and you do not have the submission ID, I will not accept your request for a make up. Please read the description of the technical issues included in this syllabus. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!**

(the syllabus continues on the next page)

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHEN TAKING ONLINE TESTS OR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

VERY IMPORTANT IT WILL HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES ON YOUR GRADE

1. Online submission can be tricky. To minimize the possibilities of problems when taking an online quiz or exam or submitting an assignment I suggest you to do the following:
 - a. Make sure your internet connection is stable. Use a wired connection if you think you might have problems;
 - b. Restart your computer before you take the test;
 - c. Make sure you are NOT running any other software when you take the test;
 - d. Use Firefox browser only (either on a PC or a MAC);
 - e. Once you have finished the test make sure you receive the confirmation ID from SCHOLAR. Save the message (or take a screenshot). You may receive a confirmation email too. If so make sure you save it and keep it handy.
2. I **DO NOT** have any control on SCHOLAR technical problems. Contact <http://4help.vt.edu> to receive technical help.
3. I will not grant you a make up if you experience a technical problem and you **DO NOT HAVE THE SUBMISSION ID**. Take a screenshot of the submission ID and keep it for your records. If after the submission of an online test you do not receive the submission ID, you need to contact me and 4help **IMMEDIATELY**.
4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** SCHOLAR does not support access with multiple sessions. If you access scholar using multiple tabs, or multiple browser windows (or multiple browsers), or you log in from more than one device at the same time (like your laptop and your tablet for instance), your work **WILL NOT BE SAVED** when you submit a quiz or an activity, or take an Exam. This is a **KNOWN** problem with scholar and if your work is not saved due to this, you won't be allowed a make up (The SCHOLAR IT team can check the reasons why your work was not saved, and if you report a technical problem I will inquire with them before deciding to grant a re-take).
5. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Do not start taking a quiz (or answering the questions for an assignment) too close to the deadline time. The system might cut you off if you are working passed the deadline (even if you started before it) and your work will be lost.

You will find additional information here:

<https://help.scholar.vt.edu/ImportantInformationforStudents.html> - TestSubmission

HONOR CODE

- The Honor Code applies to **all work** performed in this course.
- Any suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Code committee.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

- Students with special needs should feel free to meet with me at the beginning of the semester. Efforts will be made to provide appropriate accommodations.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

- GEOS 1024 simultaneously satisfies both Area 4 and Area 7 requirements.
- However **check with your advisor to see if you need to take the lab for your major.**

(the syllabus continues on the next page)

Registering and Using your iClicker in class

You will be using an iClicker remote for in-class quizzes and attendance.
Read the instructions carefully, mistakes will affect your grade.

Please bring your iClicker to each class.

iClicker enables you to respond to the questions I will present during class. Part of your final grade will be based on attendance and the answers you give to those questions.

In order to receive the credits, you **MUST** register your i>clicker remote by **JANUARY 28th 2015**. However I **strongly suggest you** to register your remote as soon as possible. If you miss the registration deadline or if during the semester you change your remote you **MUST** register that too and email me ASAP (include your iClicker ID number) so that I can record it in my iClicker database. After the registration deadline just registering your remote on the web **DOES NOT** insure registration in my iClicker database.

You **MUST** have come to class at least once **AND** voted on at least one question, in order to complete this registration properly.

REGISTRATION USING SCHOLAR

1. Go to <http://www.is.vt.edu/iclicker/tutorial.html> - stu_reg
2. Follow the instructions
3. **IF YOU CHANGE REMOTE DURING THE SEMESTER, REGISTER IT AND THEN EMAIL ME THE NEW REMOTE ID IMMEDIATELY**

iClicker Technical Support: support@iclicker.com *or call 866-209-5698*

On-Campus iClicker Support: innovationspace@vt.edu (<http://www.is.vt.edu/> or go to 1140 Torgersen Hall)

Other relevant facts for students about registration:

- Even if a student is using iClicker for more than one course, she only needs to register her clicker in one course and her registration data will automatically be applied to all of her other Scholar courses using iClicker.
- Students can share clickers with a friend/roommate as long as they are not using iClicker in the same courses. Of course that remote has to be registered by all the people that use it. Each person has to register it for the class(es) she's taking
- Students can register more than one clicker in Scholar. If, for example, a student loses or breaks his clicker, she can register additional clickers through the same tool and all of her registered clickers (and their votes) will be tied to her Scholar ID.

(the syllabus continues on the next page)

HINTS and TIPS to Prepare for the Online Exams (and Quizzes)

Preparing for an exam is often a question of adopting the “right” approach. However this is also a question of personal preferences. If you have a method that has worked so far, chances are that it will work this time too. In any case this is a list of suggestions that students have found useful in the past when studying for this class. Use them (or NOT) wisely ☺ :

1. Do not study by yourself (unless you really find that the presence of someone else is distracting of course). If you study with a friend you can practice the exam asking each other questions. You can use the questions for the in class and online quizzes, however since the questions that you will see in the exams cover much more than what you can see in the quizzes, a good approach is to create your own questions databases while you are doing the readings, and then later to use those to practice;
2. The online quizzes and the exams are composed of questions that are RANDOMLY drawn from fairly large questions pools. These pools cover pretty much all the information contained in the book. They can come from the main text, from the infographics and their captions, and from some of the definitions you will find in the text as footnotes. **QUIZZES QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE REUSED FOR ONLINE EXAMS;**
3. You have surely noticed that the online quizzes and the online exams are timed. While I do not have any way to enforce a “closed book” policy, I am sure you will see by yourself that just trying to go through the book to find an answer to a question in an exam would not work. You NEED to do your readings during the semester, preferably BEFORE coming to each class. This way by the time you take an online quiz (or an online exam!!) you will already be familiar with the material.

If you have any questions please contact me ahead of time!!

GOOD LUCK.

A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF QUIZZES, EXAMS AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES DEADLINES IS AVAILABLE ON THE NEXT PAGE

FULL SCHEDULE FOR ONLINE QUIZZES

QUIZ #	CLASS #	Ch. #	Points	Opens	Closes
01	01	1, 2, 3	15	01/21/2015 04:45:00 PM	01/26/2015 01:30:00 PM
02	02	4, 5, 6	15	01/26/2015 04:45:00 PM	01/28/2015 01:30:00 PM
03	03	7	5	01/28/2015 04:45:00 PM	02/02/2015 01:30:00 PM
04	04	8, 9	10	02/02/2015 04:45:00 PM	02/04/2015 01:30:00 PM
05	05	10, 11	10	02/04/2015 04:45:00 PM	02/09/2015 01:30:00 PM
06	06	12	5	02/09/2015 04:45:00 PM	02/16/2015 01:30:00 PM
07	07	13, 14	10	02/16/2015 04:45:00 PM	02/23/2015 01:30:00 PM
08	08	15	5	02/23/2015 04:45:00 PM	03/02/2015 01:30:00 PM
09	09	16, 17	10	03/02/2015 04:45:00 PM	03/06/2015 01:30:00 PM
10	10	18	5	03/16/2015 04:45:00 PM	03/23/2015 01:30:00 PM
11	11	19	5	03/23/2015 04:45:00 PM	03/30/2015 01:30:00 PM
12	12	20	5	03/30/2015 04:45:00 PM	04/06/2015 01:30:00 PM
13	13	21, 22	10	04/06/2015 04:45:00 PM	04/13/2015 01:30:00 PM
14	14	23, 24, 25	15	04/13/2015 04:45:00 PM	04/20/2015 01:30:00 PM
15	15	26	5	04/20/2015 04:45:00 PM	04/27/2015 01:30:00 PM
16	16	27	5	04/27/2015 04:45:00 PM	05/04/2015 01:30:00 PM
17	17	28, 29	10	05/04/2015 04:45:00 PM	05/06/2015 01:30:00 PM
18	18	30, 31, 32	15	05/06/2015 04:45:00 PM	05/11/2015 01:30:00 PM

Activity / Video	Day	Opens	Closes
Activity 01	W 02 – 11	OPEN	02/17/2015 11:00:00 PM
Video 01	W 02 – 18	OPEN	02/24/2015 11:00:00 PM
Activity 02	W 02 – 25	OPEN	03/03/2015 11:00:00 PM
Activity 03	W 03 – 04	OPEN	03/17/2015 11:00:00 PM
Video 02	W 03 – 18	OPEN	03/24/2015 11:00:00 PM
Activity 04	W 03 – 25	OPEN	03/31/2015 11:00:00 PM
Video 03	W 04 – 01	OPEN	04/07/2015 11:00:00 PM
Activity 05	W 04 – 08	OPEN	04/14/2015 11:00:00 PM
Video 04	W 04 – 15	OPEN	04/21/2015 11:00:00 PM
Activity 06	W 04 – 22	OPEN	04/28/2015 11:00:00 PM
Video 05	W 04 – 29	OPEN	05/05/2015 11:00:00 PM

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Exam 2	40	M 03/02 – 5PM	F 03/06 – 11PM	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Exam 3	40	M 04/13 – 5PM	F 04/17 – 11PM	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Exam 4	35	W 05/06 – 5PM	M 05/12 – 11PM	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32

- Closing day/time affected by the incoming Spring Break
- Closing day/time affected by the end of the semester