Course Description

Earth Science, and the Environment, are completely pervasive. They are all around us, and affect every aspect of our personal lives as individuals, as well as every facet of life on Planet Earth. The goal of this course is to furnish students with the basic foundation, information, and analytical tools necessary to grasp the fundamental concepts central to the study of our planet and its myriad processes, functions, and interrelated systems.

This is a vast and highly diverse subject, and thus will require an overview approach in a short course such as this one. We will cover the most important areas in some detail, both in the classroom and in the laboratory, while striving to achieve a balanced view of the big picture ideas.

Required Texts

There are TWO required textbooks for the course, which may be supplemented from time to time with additional materials from Professor Kunich. The textbooks are:

and

**Betting the Earth: How We Can Still Win the Biggest Gamble of All Time**, by John Charles Kunich (published in 2010 by Parkhurst Brothers).

ISBN-10: 1-935166-17-7

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**Grading Policy**

Grades will be determined as follows: **10 percent for laboratory work**, **20 percent for the midterm exam**, which will be held on Thursday of the third week; and **70 percent for the final exam**, which will be held on Friday of the final week. Professor Kunich also reserves the right to incorporate **classroom attendance** and **quality of participation** into determination of each student’s grade in the course. Our classroom sessions are designed to be highly interactive, with a large component of direct participation and active discussion from every student.

**Course Policy**

Students are expected to do **all** the readings for the week in their entirety before class meets on each Wednesday. In addition to reading the assigned material, you are required to think about the material and analyze it in comparison to other subjects under consideration. This will greatly enhance the value and quality of our classroom sessions. Use of cell phones, iPhones, any and all forms of Social Network activities, and any other electronic communication, games, or internet devices in class is strictly prohibited.

**Course Hours**

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

**Course Schedule**

**NOTE**: Our actual pace may be faster or slower than indicated on this schedule. We will spend more time on some chapters and subjects than on others.

**KEEP UP WITH OUR CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS AND READ AHEAD ACCORDINGLY. IT IS BETTER TO READ AHEAD AND BE READY THAN TO FALL BEHIND AND BE UNPREPARED FOR OUR CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS!**

**WEEK ONE:**

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1. Introduction and the Origins of Resources.
3. Plate Tectonics.

WEEK TWO:

5. Earth Resources through History.
7. Overview of Environmental Regulation and Pollution Control.

WEEK THREE:

10. Abundant Metals.

WEEK FOUR:


WEEK FIVE:

15. Water Resources and Pollution Control.
17. Future Resources.

Academic Honesty

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students’ own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one’s own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another’s work within these general definitions. However, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of F for the entire course.