



Instructor: Dr. Mark Abbott  
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Office Hours: Wed 5:00–6:00 pm and by appt.



**1. Objective:** This course provides students with an awareness of the environmental problems we face today. Concepts of geochemical cycles and equilibrium will be examined. The impact of population growth and technological change upon the environment will be discussed. Detailed examples of environmental disruption will be presented, emphasizing climate change, volcanism, mass movements, oil spills, earthquakes, resource depletion, sea-level rise, greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, radon threats, etc.

**2. Required Text:** *Earth Science and the Environment, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition, G.R. Thompson and J. Turk, Thompson Brooks/Cole.*

**3. Lecture Times:** Wednesday 6:00 to 8:30 pm in Thaw 203. Attendance is expected at all scheduled class meetings and counts toward the class participation part of your grade. Much of the exam material will be derived from the class notes and video presentations.

**4. Course Requirements:** The goal of this course is for you go gain an understanding of the environment and basic geological principles. Knowing the fundamentals and learning to think objectively will give you a framework to appreciate the landscape around you and understand the natural processes that impact our lives.

**5. Exams and Grading:** There will be 3 exams. Each exam will consist of true-false, multiple-choice, short essay questions. Exam questions will be based on material covered in the lectures, videos and assigned reading. Make-up exams will only be given in extreme circumstances and with a written excuse. Your final grade will be based on your performance on the three exams and in-class participation. The grade will be calculated using the following breakdown: 3 exams = **30%** each and class exercises and participation = **10%**.

**6. Recitation: REQUIRED** and counting for **30%** of your grade the goal is to give you hands on active learning exercises that proved the necessary background to fully understand the class lectures.

**7. Web Site:** The course web site is located at:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~mabbott1/climate/mark/Teaching/teaching.html>

The site will contain the syllabus, lecture notes, announcements and assignments for the class. I tend to revise the class schedule as the term progresses, so please check there for the most current class information.

**8. Disability Resources:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**9. Academic Integrity:** Academic Integrity Policy on cheating/plagiarism must be in the syllabus. [Academic Integrity Policy: Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed.]

**10. E-mail Communication Policy:** Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

**Course Schedule – subject to change:**

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
1	Jan 6	Earth Systems and Climate Change	1
2	Jan 13	Rocks and Minerals	2 & 3
3	Jan 20	Geologic Time	4
4	Jan 27	Weathering, Soil and Erosion	10
5	Feb 3	<b>Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, &amp; 10)</b>	
6	Feb 10	Fresh Water and Water Resources	11 & 12
7	Feb 17	Glaciers and Ice Ages	13
8	Feb 24	Deserts and Wind	14
9	Mar 2	<b>Exam #2 (Chapters 11, 12, 13, &amp; 14)</b>	
10	Mar 9	<b>No Class - Spring Break</b>	
11	Mar 16	The Atmosphere	17
12	Mar 23	Energy Balance in the Atmosphere	18
13	Mar 30	Climate	20
14	Apr 6	<b>No Class</b>	
15	Apr 13	Climate Change	21
16	Apr 20	<b>Exam #3 (Chapters 16, 17, 20, &amp; 21)</b>	