

Welcome to Geo-Environmental Science 114



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This course is called **Geo-Environmental Science 114, or GEOM 114 for short.**

The course substitutes the past Geology and Geography first-year modules and is now a generic course that BSc, BA and BComm students can enroll in. The course focuses on Earth System Science, which combines basic concepts from physical Geology and Geography, as well as current issues in Environmental Science.

Please note the following:

- You can find the class and practical timetable on the course contents page on Web-CT. **Please note that class attendance is extremely important for this course** and it is unlikely that you will pass without attending classes.
- Lectures will be held in the WP de Kock Hall on the groundfloor of the Chamber of Mines Building.
- You need a minimum of 50% average for your practicals in order to write the exam at the end of the semester. **Should you miss more than one practical without a doctor's note or valid reason, you will not be admitted to write the exam and will therefore fail the course.**
- Practicals will take place in Room 2041 on the first floor of the Chamber of Mines Building.
- You will also find a course layout on the course contents page – the layout is subject to change and these **changes will be announced in class and will not necessarily be posted on Web-CT.** It is your own responsibility to keep yourself

up-to-date with what is expected of you, and the easiest way to do this, is to attend classes.

- You will be required to complete various **Web-CT quizzes** during the course. Most of these quizzes will be concerned with practicals that had already been completed and there will also be questions on the subject matter that make up the practicals. **Quiz dates will be announced in class – note that quizzes have time-limits and have to be completed on certain dates.**
- The prescribed **textbook** for the course is **Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology (9th ed) by Tarbuck and Lutgens**, and it is available at Van Schaik bookshop in the Neelsie Center, as well as at Protea bookshop in town. It is not compulsory to acquire the textbook, but you will need access to a textbook at several stages during the course. There are some copies of the book in the library on the reserve rack (these can not be taken from the library).
- A **study guide** for the course will be handed out free of charge in class during the first couple of weeks of the semester. The guide is **not a substitute for the prescribed textbook**, but is intended as a guide to lectures and discussions. **Please bring the study guide to all classes and to all practicals.**
- You will be provided with a practical manual, which contains all the material you will need for practicals. All questions will be answered in the manual and you will hand in the manual after each practical session to be marked. **No late work will be accepted.**
- **Both the study guide and the practical manual are available on Web-CT**, should you need to view diagrams in colour, or prepare for a practical while your manual is being marked.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me (contact details above).

Enjoy 2008!