TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS
GEO 105 – Sustainable Earth

Class Time/Place: TH 12:30-1:45 PM; Rm. 205 Smith Hall

Professor: Dr. Rona J. Donahoe; e-mail: rdonahoe@geo.ua.edu; telephone: 348-1879
Office: 243 Bevill Building; Office Hours: M&W 1:30-4:30 PM

Text: GEO 105: Sustainable Earth. McGraw-Hill custom Primus ebook (1).
Supplemental Text: Taking Sides. T.A. Easton (11th &13th editions), M-H custom Primus ebook (2).
Lab Manual: GEO 105: Sustainable Earth Lab Manual. McGraw-Hill custom lab manual, 2007.
CPS Handset: eInstruction RF handset is required for attendance and quizzes. Register your handset using the link on the eLearning home page. You are responsible for making sure your handset is working properly. Carry extra batteries.
Mineral Test Kit: Available in the bookstores.

Grading Policy:

Hour Exams	30%
Final Exam	15%
Class Assignments	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Laboratory	25%

A few extra credit opportunities will be announced in lecture during the semester. **Assignment due dates are firm.** Assignments not completed and turned in by the deadline will be scored as a zero. The lowest quiz and lowest homework scores will be dropped when calculating midterm and final course grade averages.

eLearning: This course will make extensive use of eLearning. The eLearning site for GEO 105 is accessible through MyBama, under the Academics tab. Important dates are posted on the calendar. Weekly quizzes will be posted to the eLearning site on Sunday night and must be completed before midnight on Monday.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is taken. Students are responsible for lecture material that is not in the textbook and for any announced changes in the schedule. Students not participating in class forfeit 10% of their course grade (class assignments).

Other Expectations: Disruptive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. **Be courteous to those seated around you.** Silence your cell phone prior to entering the classroom. Do not arrive late or leave early. Do not have conversations with your neighbors during lecture. Questions and participation during class are welcome.

Make-up Policy: Examination dates are listed in the syllabus and will be adhered to, if possible. No make-up examinations are offered, except in cases of documented personal emergency circumstances. Missed exams, quizzes and homework are recorded as zero, except for valid written medical excuse or documented emergency. All medical excuses must have a valid physician telephone number for verification by office staff.
It is the student's responsibility to contact Dr. Donahoe immediately if they have an excuse for a missed exam, quiz or assignment. All missed work must be completed within one week.

Course Description: This four-hour natural science course provides an understanding of important Earth resources (water, soil, fossil fuels, nuclear and alternative power, rocks and minerals) and how their utilization impacts the environment through water pollution, decreased crop yields, air pollution and hazardous waste production. Laboratory includes an introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) and field trips to local sites of environmental interest.

Course Objective: My goal is to help students become informed citizens and consumers by making them aware of environmental risk factors and knowledgeable of facts and issues concerning population pressures, global climate change, limited Earth resources, waste disposal, pollution and environmental law.

Policy on Academic Misconduct: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. Examples:

- Falsified medical excuses
- Use of someone else's CPS handset
- Use of a cell phone during an exam
- Copying or plagiarizing another student's work

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of suspected academic misconduct.

Disability Accommodations: To request disability accommodations, contact Disabilities Services (348-4285). After initial arrangements are made with that office, give the paperwork to Dr. Donahoe. <u>It is the student's responsibility to make alternate testing arrangements at least one week in advance of exam dates.</u>

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Foundations (Section I)

January	8	The Earth in Space and Time (Chapter 1)
	13	Population Growth
	15	Minerals (Chapter 2)
	20	Rocks; The Rock Cycle

Earth Resources (Section IV)

	22	Earth Resources (Section IV Prologue)
	27	Water as a Resource: Groundwater Basics (Chapter 10)
	29	Water Quality/Groundwater Withdrawal
February	3	Water Use and Supply
	5	Soil as a Resource: Soil Formation and Classification (Chapter 11)
	10	Soil Problems: Erosion and Irrigation
	12	Mineral and Rock Resources: Ore Deposits (Chapter 12)
	17	**EXAM #1** (Chapters 1, 2, 10, 11)
	19	Supply and Demand; Impacts of Mining Activities
	24	Fossil Fuels: Oil and Gas (Chapter 13)
	26	Environmental Hazards
March	3	Coal/Environmental Hazards
	5	Alternative Energy: Nuclear Power (Chapter 14)
	10	Nuclear Safety Concerns, Solar Energy
	12	Geothermal, Wind, Hydro Energy, Biofuels
	17	**SPRING BREAK, No Class**
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	24	Waste Disposal: Solid and Liquid Wastes (Chapter 15) **["W" Drop Date: 3/25]**
	26	Sewage/Radioactive Wastes
	31	Water Pollution: Surface Water (Chapter 16)
April	2	Water Pollution: Ground Water
⇒	**Class Field Trip on Friday, April 3rd, 1:00 - 5:30 PM.**	
	7	**EXAM #2** (Chapters 12-15)

Schedule and Reading Assignments

April	9	Air Pollution: Pollutants (Chapter 17)
Waste Disposal and Pollution (Section V)		
	14	Acid Rain, Pollution Control
	16	Geology and Climate: Glaciers (Chapter 9)
	21	Wind, Deserts and Desertification
	23	Global Climate Change
	28	Environmental Law: Resources (Chapter 18)
	30	Environmental Law: Pollution
May	7	**FINAL EXAM**, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM (Chapters 9, 16-18)