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Fall 2015

EES 5560

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University of New Orleans

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**SYLLABUS: GEOL 5560 Environmental Geology of Coastal Louisiana
Fall 2015**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Kulp

Meeting times: W 4:30-7:15 pm Geology and Psychology Bldg. 1000

Office Location: Geology and Psychology Bldg 1029

Contact Information: 280-1170, mkulp@uno.edu (the best method!)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 11-12, Wednesdays 11-2 or by appointment

Course Objective: *Environmental Geology of Coastal Louisiana* is an upper level course that introduces you to the many environmental geologic problems faced by Gulf Coast states. Most of our discussions will cover topics that are particularly relevant to Louisiana but some material will expand beyond Louisiana to cover environmental geology issues in other Gulf States. In this course you will learn about the geologic framework and processes of the northern Gulf of Mexico coastal zone and how we as a society cope with environmental problems that manifest as a result of the geology and our exploitation of the Gulf Coast environments.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course students will be able to (at a graduate student level): 1) discuss and explain an integrated understanding of the types of environmental issues faced by Gulf States societies, 2) distinguish and differentiate the environmental geology problems of the individual Gulf states, and 3) integrate their knowledge of environmental geology problems along the northern Gulf of Mexico to propose and produce a final project that explains and assesses the types of problems some other coastal society currently faces.

Text: There is no assigned text for this class but I will be providing you with reading materials and possibly some materials that you are expected to acquire through our library or inter library loan.

Class structure: *Environmental Geology of Coastal Louisiana* consists of a weekly meeting that will consist of lecture, in-class discussions, guest speakers, or student presentations. The days of student presentations are listed in the accompanying schedule and I will let you know in advance of any plans I have for the format of class meetings.

Graduate Students: There will be 2 exams including the final. Percentages are provided in the table below. During the semester you will be asked to construct 3 abstracts and 3 presentations, we will discuss how this is to be done. Additionally you will be required to develop a project for which you will write a report and present it as an oral presentation at the end of the semester.

Exam #1: 20%

Abstract #1 and Presentation (5% presentation, 5% abstract): 10%

Abstract #2 and No Presentation: 10%

Abstract #3 and Presentation (5% presentation, 5% abstract): 10%

Final Project Paper and Presentation (presentation = 5% of total project grade): 20%

Timely choice of Final Project Topic: 5%

Final Exam: 15%

Attendance: 10%

No makeup exams are allowed. The exam dates are listed in the schedule. Exams will consist of essay questions and/or example problems to work out. Final exam will be cumulative in coverage.

Graduate Student Presentations: You will have 10 minutes for the presentations that you must give, I will be timing you and you will be cut off if your presentation extends beyond 10 minutes. Grading of your presentation will be based upon organization, accuracy, and presentation of all material within the allotted time. A score of 0-5 (0= lousy, 5 = excellent) will be given for each of these areas and the total points will be averaged to derive a grade of the presentation. A rubric for the grading of presentations is posted on Moodle.

Abstracts: Your abstracts will be no more than 250 words, single spaced and provided on an abstract template that I will make available to you. Grading will be on a scale of 0-5 (0= lousy, 5 = excellent) and will be based on grammar, spelling, sentence construction and accuracy of material. An abstract for is available on Moodle.

Exams: These will be essay style exams that will be designed to take approximately 1 to 1.5 hrs.

Final Project for Graduate Students: This will consist of a 7-9 page paper, double-spaced at 12 font on a topic that we jointly decide upon with 2-4 figures. Pages for figures will not count toward the final page count. The paper will include graduate level references.

Grading: Total class grade: over 90% = "A", 80% = "B", 70% = "C", and 60% = "D".

Extra Credit: None. Don't ask. Likewise, don't ask to make up missed tests due to unexcused absences.

Class Attendance: All absences must be excused or authorized by the University Provost.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

Accommodations for Disabilities: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

GEOL 5096: TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics
8/19	Introduction to Environmental Geology
8/26	General Geologic History and Framework of the Northern Gulf of Mexico
9/2	Subsidence along the Northern Gulf: Causes and Impacts for Texas, Louisiana, Florida
9/9	Graduate Student Final Project Topic Due!! Subsidence along the Northern Gulf: Causes and Impacts for Texas, Louisiana, Florida
9/16	Fluid Withdrawal-Generated Subsidence and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole
9/23	Exam #1
9/30	Abstract #1 Due (ALL STUDENTS) and Graduate Student Presentations
10/7	Coastal Dynamics and Erosion
10/14	Coastal Dynamics and Coastal "Restoration" Efforts
10/21	Surface Hydrology, River Management and Impacts
10/28	Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia
11/4	Abstracts #2 Due (ALL STUDENTS) and Undergraduate Presentations, NO GRADUATE PRESENTATION
11/11	Aquifers of the Northern Gulf: Use and Abuse
11/18	Abstract #3 Due (ALL STUDENTS) and Graduate Student Presentations Soils, Erosion, and Contamination
11/25	Soils, Erosion, and Contamination
12/2	Graduate Student Final Project Presentations and Paper
12/9	Final Exam 5:30-7:30 pm