

Syllabus

Geol 490 – Careers in Geology & Environmental Studies

Fall 2015 – Section 001

Course Information & Instructor

Time & Location – Mondays 12:20 to 1:00 pm, EPS Room 223

Credit Hours – 1 credit hour, but not for graduate credit

Instructor – Larry McKay, EPS Rm 306, lmckay@utk.edu 974-5498

Office hours – Wed 12:20 to 1:00 pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites – none, but a freshman course in geology or a related science is recommended

Course Objectives

The main objectives of the course are to:

- introduce students to the range of career opportunities available to graduates in Geology and Environmental Studies
- help students prepare for these opportunities through skill building, selection of courses, internships, research, etc.
- help students learn job or grad school application skills, including writing CVs, application letters, interview techniques, etc.

Readings

Readings will mainly be from websites or handouts. These will be available on Blackboard, typically a few days before each class. There is no required textbook.

Grading and Assessment

30% Attendance & participation in class discussions

70% Written Assignments (examples include: job summary, career plan statement, search for ads, CV, letter of application for job or grad school, etc.)

Academic Integrity & Respect

Students are expected to adhere to the UT Honor Statement, as shown on the Student Judicial Affairs website <http://judicialaffairs.utk.edu> - *“An essential feature of the University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither*

knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity."

Disability Services

Any student who has a disability that might affect their performance in this course should schedule an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087 or <http://ods.utk.edu/>) to discuss your specific needs. Once you've met with Disability Services, you should make an appointment with the instructor, who will assist with special accommodations you may require

Absence Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes, with grade deductions for unexcused absences as described in the grading section. Students can request an excused absence due to academic or professional scheduling conflicts (like field trips, athletic competitions, etc.), illness or unexpected personal crises, provided they contact the instructor before the absence, or as soon as possible afterwards.

Preliminary Schedule (subject to change)

- August 24th – Introduction & finding out about student interests
- August 31st – What does a geologist or environmental scientist do for a living?
- Sept 14th – Sources of information on geoscience and environmental careers & job market
- Sept 21st – Improving your chances of success, through internships, undergraduate research, minors, etc.
- Sept 24th (Thursday at 5 pm) – special talk by recruiter from ExxonMobil
- Sept 28th – Finding & applying for internships
- Oct 5th – Guest speaker from Career Services? Or an Environmental Consulting firm?
- Oct 12th – Graduate school opportunities, applications, costs & benefits
- Oct 19th – Writing a CV & job or grad school application letter
- Oct 26th – Interview skills
- Nov 2nd – Guest Speaker (Career Services or Environmental consulting firm)
- Nov 9th – careers with government agencies and non-profit organizations
- Nov 16th – careers in academia and research
- Nov 23rd – Guest Speaker on careers in K-12 education - UTeach (could be changed to another date)
- Nov 30th – last class – Career/family/life/social balance

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS DUE NOV 30th (NO EXAM)