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GLY3163: FALL 2025

GEOLOGY OF AMERICAN NATIONAL PARKS



ABOUT THE COURSE

COURSE CREDITS

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. David Foster

- **Office:** Williamson Hall 366
- **Phone:** 352.392.2231
- **e-mail:** For communication regarding the course e-mail the instructor or TA within e-Learning
- **Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:30-3:30 and by appointment -- please e-mail through Canvas to schedule an office or virtual meeting with the instructor or TA.

COURSE TA

Danilo Cruz

McKayla Meier

COURSE WEBSITE

elearning.ufl.edu



COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

Please post general course questions on the **Have a Questions? discussion board**. Personal questions should be sent via e-mail through e-Learning.

Instructor or TA will respond to students' inquiries within 24 hours on work days and within 48 hours on weekends.

TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES

Geology of National Parks, 8th edition, by D. Foster and D. Hacker. Kendall/Hunt Publishing 2022, ISBN 978-1-7924-8150-5

Web links will be provided in the modules.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEE

N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the geological setting of selected U.S. National Parks. It provides an overview of geological concepts using the Parks as examples and relates the geology to cultural aspects of these parks and environmental issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

This course provides an overview of the geology of select American National Parks and adjacent regions in the context of geodynamic and geomorphologic processes. The National Parks display dramatic landscapes and geological features in nearly every of plate tectonic setting.

We will use the geology of the Parks to better understand the materials the make up the Earth's crust and the integrated Earth systems involved in forming and modifying landscapes in the surface environment. The Earth systems include interactions between the dynamics of the solid Earth (lithosphere), surface water and ground water (hydrosphere), climate and weather (atmosphere), and life forms (biosphere).

The geology of the National Parks will be related to cultural aspects and environmental issues 
We will also study geological hazards including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides that pertain to the various National Parks and adjacent regions.

When you complete this course will be able to identify geologic features of the American National Parks, explain the plate tectonic forces and surface processes that combine to create unique landscapes, analyze data to develop hypotheses about the development of geological elements and predict future conditions in areas within and around the Parks, and evaluate the role of humans in preserving, utilizing and modifying the geology of the Parks. This course will cover the following parks:

- Grand Canyon National Park
- Zion National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Arches National Park
- Canyonlands National Park
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Death Valley National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- Mount Rainier National Park
- Olympic National Park
- Mount Saint Helens
- Crater Lake National Park
- Yosemite National Park
- Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Great Smokey Mountain National Park
- Acadia National Park
- Shenandoah National Park
- Glacier National Park
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Denali National Park
- Glacier Bay National Park



COURSE POLICIES



PERFORMANCE POLICY

This online course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom.

The course material will be delivered to you through your textbooks, and this e-Learning in Canvas course site. You will play an active role in learning the material through:

- Reading assigned textbook material
- View the video lectures
- Quizzes
- Discussion
- Essay exams

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Students are required to participate in all course activities and submit all assignments posted on the website. Students are required to participate in the group discussions by posting and replying to materials.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

[This link to UF policies.](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)  **[\(https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/\)](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)**

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Complete all modules in the order they are presented on the course website; do not skip modules. Late work will not be accepted. In the event of illness or emergency, you must provide documentation and contact the Dean of Students office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>  [\(http://www.dso.ufl.edu/\)](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/).

Should you have technology issues, you MUST contact the Help Desk immediately at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>  [\(http://helpdesk.ufl.edu\)](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu) or 352-392-HELP – select option 2.. Any requests due to technical difficulties must be accompanied by the Help Desk ticket number and be submitted within 24 hours of the incident.



COURSE TECHNOLOGY

Students must use the email tool in Canvas for this course to communicate with the instructor and teaching assistant. Students are recommended to check their email account DAILY for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

For help with e-Learning, contact the Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>  (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>) or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>  (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>  (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwMFAG&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=y2HjEMjRMHJhfdvLrqJZIYczRsfp5e4TfQjHuc5rVHg&m=WXko6OK_Ha6T00ZVAsE;

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GRADING POLICIES

For more information about the current UF grading policies for assignments and grade points go to the [UF Grades and Grading Policies web page](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)  (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>).

ASSIGNMENT	TOTAL POINTS
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ASSIGNMENT	TOTAL POINTS
Essay exams	200
Discussions	200
Quizzes	450
TOTAL	850

Grading guidelines for individual assignments can be found in the course modules. Extra credits totaling 30 points will be awarded for completion of the syllabus quiz.

Grading guidelines for individual assignments can be found in the course modules. Final grading is based upon the percentage breakdown below:

93 – 100	A
90 – 92	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
67 - 69	D+
63 - 66	D



60 - 62 D-

Below 59 E

GRADING SCALE

UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at the following site:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>



UF POLICIES

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/)  (<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>).



GETTING HELP

TECHNICAL HELP

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk:

- Location: HUB 132
- Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu (<mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu>)
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>  (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>)

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document

the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.



DISCLAIMER

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Aug 28, 2025	Module 00: Syllabus Quiz https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662430	due by 11:59pm
	Module 01: Quiz 1: Background Material (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662437)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 2, 2025	Module 02: Quiz 2: Grand Canyon (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662442)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 4, 2025	Module 02: Discussion: Colorado Plateau (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662447)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 9, 2025	Module 03: Quiz 3: Bryce, Zion (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662428)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu Sep 11, 2025	 <u>Module 03: Quiz 4: Arches and Canyonlands</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662434)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 18, 2025	 <u>Module 03: Exam 1 Essay</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662448)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 25, 2025	 <u>Module 04: Quiz 5: Death Valley and Grand Teton</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662441)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 30, 2025	 <u>Module 05: Quiz 6: Olympic</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662436)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 2, 2025	 <u>Module 05: Quiz 7: Cascade Arc Volcanoes</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662438)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 7, 2025	 <u>Module 05: Quiz 8: Katmai</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662439)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 9, 2025	 <u>Module 05: Discussion: Hazards of Arc Volcanoes</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662445)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 14, 2025	 <u>Module 06: Quiz 9: Yosemite</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662435)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 16, 2025	 <u>Module 06: Discussion: Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park</u> (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	assignments/6662443	
Thu Oct 23, 2025	 Module 07: Quiz 10: Yellowstone (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662440)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 24, 2025	 University of Florida GatorEvals – Summer 2023 (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3638193&include_contexts=course_542308)	11:59pm
Thu Oct 30, 2025	 Module 07: Exam 2: Hawaii Volcanoes (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662449)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 4, 2025	 Module 08: Quiz 11: Great Smoky and Shenandoah (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662431)	due by 11:59pm
	 Module 08: Quiz 12: Acadia (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662429)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 6, 2025	 Module 08: Discussion: Great Smoky Mountain National Park Air Quality (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662444)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 7, 2025	 University of Florida GatorEvals – Summer 2023 Main Project (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3638191&include_contexts=course_542308)	11:59pm
	 University of Florida GatorEvals – Summer 2024 Main Project (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3638192&include_contexts=course_542308)	11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu Nov 13, 2025	 Module 09: Quiz 13: Glacier and Rocky Mountains (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662427)	due by 11:59pm
	 Module 10: Quiz 14. Glacier Bay (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662433)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 18, 2025	 Module 10: Quiz 15. Denali (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662432)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 20, 2025	 Module 10: Discussion: National Parks, Sea Level Rise and Receding Glaciers (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/542308/assignments/6662446)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 28, 2025	 University of Florida GatorEvals – Summer 2025 Main Project (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3638194&include_contexts=course_542308)	11:59pm