

# THE GEOLOGY OF FLORIDA

GLY4155C, SECTIONS 2018, 243G, & 1265 (13474, 13475, & 30773)  
3 CREDITS, SPRING 2023

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Robert Hatfield

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Virtual Office hours: Wednesdays 2 – 4 pm EST via Zoom.  
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97878889642?pwd=NElvZUVRYi9UYVY4TWRnb0F6dG0wdz09>

Additionally, *students can contact me by e-mail to schedule an appt. outside of the regularly schedule office hours.*

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

**COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:** For any class-related questions, students should use the **Course Questions Discussion Forum**. This will benefit all students that might have similar questions. The instructor will regularly answer all questions and participate in this forum. Students should check if the question they have has already been answered in the forum before posting. *Private questions should be sent to the instructor through the course management system, or to instructors .ufl e-mail address (this would include questions about grades, late work, etc.).* Emails will be responded to within 24 hours except on weekends when it may take a little longer.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:** TEXTBOOK: The Geologic History of Florida: Major Events that Shaped the Sunshine State by Albert C. Hine. University Press of Florida Publishers. ISBN 978-0-8130-4421-7.

Additional outside readings will also be assigned (and provided), although in some cases VPN access to the UF libraries may be required.

**MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES:** There are no material and supply fees for the online version of this course.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Access to a basic introductory Physical Geology Text and Historical Geology Text is useful, but not required.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course the principles of physical and historical geology are applied to the study of the geology and natural resources of Florida.

The course is comprised of 5 ~3-week modules that each investigate a different aspect of Florida's geology. Understanding of basic core knowledge from the core courses in the curriculum (GLY2010C, 2030C or equivalent; GLY2100C or GLY3105C; GLY3202C or equivalent) will be pre-assessed with a course pre-assessment (pre-assessment counts as a completion grade, content will be assessed during the Exam 1). Two proctored exams will assess student understanding of geologic process and the Geology of Florida. Additionally, students write a paper on the geologic history of a place outside of Florida and create a presentation on a geoscience topic. Module Subject Areas are detailed below. All due dates are listed in the course calendar.

Module 1. Basement Geology and Geologic History

Module 2. Surface geology and Cenozoic History

Module 3. Geologic Resources: Solid Earth Materials

Module 4. Geologic Resources: Water and Aquifers

Module 5. Regional Geohazards

**GENERAL EDUCATION:** GLY4155C, The Geology of Florida, is a GenEd physical science (P) course. Physical science courses provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the physical sciences. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern physical systems. Students will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments.

### General Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

Category	Institutional Definition	Institutional SLO
<b>Content</b>	Content is knowledge of the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area.	Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critical thinking is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.	Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area.
<b>Communication</b>	Communication is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms.	Students clearly and effectively communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in written or oral forms appropriate to the subject area.

### Physical and Biological Sciences Subject Area Student Learning Outcomes

Content	Critical Thinking	Communication
Identify, describe, and explain the basic concepts, theories and terminology of natural science and the scientific method within the subject area. Identify, describe, and explain the major scientific developments within the subject area and the impacts on society and the environment. Identify, describe, and explain relevant processes that govern biological and physical systems within the subject area.	Formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes or living things within the subject area. Apply logical reasoning skills effectively through scientific criticism and argument within the subject area. Apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking effectively to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes	Communicate scientific findings clearly and effectively using oral, written and/or graphic forms. Write effectively in several forms, such as research papers and laboratory reports.

This course challenges students to investigate physical, historical, economic, and societal aspects of geology. Successful completion of all aspects of this course requires students to demonstrate ability in each of the *Student Learning Outcomes* listed above. Although each of the three content categories for the SLO is important for every aspect of this course, different aspects of your grade address and evaluate each. Reading assignments and course assessments focus on *Content* outcomes, module assignments on *Critical Thinking* outcomes, and the course papers, presentation, and discussion forums on *Communication* outcomes (in addition to the other two).

**PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:** Students should have completed courses in Physical Geology (GLY2010C, 2030C or the equivalent) and Historical Geology (GLY2100C, GLY3105C or equivalent). Additionally, students should have completed (preferred) or at least be concurrently taking a course in Earth Materials (GLY3202C or equivalent). Additional GLY coursework is of benefit but not essential, so ideally this course should be taken in a student's final year. Students are expected to be proficient with basic computer skills and productivity software (spreadsheets, word processing, presentation software, etc.). Quantitative reasoning, use of a scientific calculator and basic algebra and trigonometry skills are needed for some assignments.

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:** When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding and ability to apply important concepts and skills established as goals in previous geological sciences coursework.
- Demonstrate an understanding of Florida's geologic history and the events and processes that shaped it past and present, and to be able to place that history into context of the relevant global geologic history and events.
- Apply knowledge and skills attained from geological sciences BA degree curriculum coursework to analyze and communicate to others the geologic history and important issues of geologic context as they pertain to a specified region other than Florida.
- Put into practice fundamental data analysis and communication skills necessary to the successful geoscience professional including the ability to work in a group context.
- Demonstrate awareness of different Florida-Related geoscience research topics.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** In this course you will have assigned reading assignments taken from the course text and select professional publications, video lectures, an assignment/lab, and discussion forums or peer review assignments associated with each module. The course paper requires you to research the geology of an assigned area outside of Florida.

## COURSE POLICIES:

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** This is a fully online course without any specific required synchronous activities requiring attendance. This is a full semester course comprised of 5 different modules and it is expected that you will be active in the course throughout the duration of the term. In addition to assigned readings and lecture videos, students are required to complete assignments and participate in discussion forums of various

forms in each module. All assignments are listed in the course schedule, and specific due dates can be found in the calendar. As this is an online course, students must plan to have regular internet access and time to explore the resources available on the various ideas and topics that we will be covering.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Students are expected to:

- Complete all Module assignments in a timely fashion.
- Actively participate in all module discussions and peer review activities specified in each module (discussions take different forms in different modules).
- Complete the 2 proctored course exams
- Complete the course paper and presentation
- Check the course announcements and class e-mail at least three times a week.

**EXAM DATES/POLICY:** There are two non-comprehensive Honorlock proctored exams each worth 20% of the overall course grade. Details regarding preparing for a Honorlock exam are provided below. Exam 1 is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> and will cover topics discussed in Modules 1 and 2. Exam 2 is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will cover information from Modules 3, 4, and 5. Each exam day availability window (start times) will be set from 6am-11.55pm EST. Students should contact the instructor immediately regarding any issues scheduling their exams.

**ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** Each module has assignments associated with it (combined 25% of overall grade). Due dates are specified on the course calendar, and timely submission is expected. Assignments must be submitted to Canvas via the assignment page and any instructions detailed therein. Assignments will be graded before the end of the subsequent course module.

**DISCUSSION/PEER REVIEW POLICY:** Each module has discussion forums and/or peer review assignments associated with it (combined for 15% of overall grade). These are opportunities to explore important issues related to the geology of Florida (and elsewhere). Students are expected to adhere to professional etiquette/netiquette standards (see *UF Policies* below) in all posts and to engage in CONSTRUCTIVE dialogue. Posts are expected to be thoughtful, detailed responses (i.e., "yes," "no," "I agree," or "I disagree" answer is not sufficient). In most cases discussions require some research prior to their initial post. Follow-up posts are typically required. For both discussion forums and peer-review assignments **timeliness is critical** and due dates should be strongly adhered to. Please check the course Calendar for the specific due dates.

**COURSE PAPER:** Each student will be assigned one of several preselected areas that they will study and report on in the form of a term research paper that details the geologic history of that area. Details are provided on the course paper assignment page. An initial draft must be submitted (see deadlines in course calendar) which will then undergo peer review before revision and submission of the final draft. In total the course paper accounts for 10% of the overall course grade (5% for draft submission, 5% for final paper submission). Peer review assignments for initial submissions contribute to the discussions portion of the course grade.

**COURSE PRESENTATION:** Each student will prepare and deliver a short presentation related to a Florida-relevant geoscience topic. Details are provided in the course presentation assignment page. Deadlines are detailed in the course calendar. The course presentation is worth 10% of the overall course grade.

**LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY:** Module assignments may be submitted up to one week late with a penalty of 5% of the score per day late (or fraction thereof). Discussion posts more than one day late may not be accepted (penalty for late submission is integrated into the rubric. A note may be required to make-up any missed exams or work overdue by more than one week.

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:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**COURSE TECHNOLOGY:** Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. Course work will require use of a computer and a broadband connection to the Internet. In addition, students are required to have speakers and a webcam to take the proctored exams. For additional information on UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences policy regarding computer requirements you can visit: <http://it.clas.ufl.edu/policies/student-computer-requirement/>

*For technology related issues the UF computing help desk can be reached at:*

<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

- (352) 392-HELP (4357)

**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 [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

## HONORLOCK

Your exams in this course will be proctored using Honorlock. Review the Honorlock Student Exam Preparation Information available at <https://dce.ufl.edu/media/dceufledu/pdfs/Honorlock-Student-Exam-Preparation-Information.pdf>.

### PREPARING FOR YOUR HONORLOCK EXAM

- You will need to take all your proctored exams online using the google chrome browser which can be installed from <https://www.google.com/chrome/>. You will then need to install the Honorlock extension within chrome. You will be prompted to do this when you try to access the exam through the chrome browser.
- A practice exam can be found under the Honorlock tab or through the Quizzes tab. This exam is not required or assessed; it is available for you to familiarize yourself with the Honorlock process.
- You will need a webcam and some type of speakers and microphone.
- You will also be required to verify your picture identification at the time of your exam. Approved forms of identification include, but are not limited to, a driver's license, military identification card, passport, or school-issued identification card.
- No breaks are allowed during your testing session and cell phones and other devices will not be permitted in the testing area.
- No other people are allowed in the area in which the test is being taken.
- Any unauthorized notes or other attempts to cheat will be automatically reported to your instructor

## UF POLICIES:

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**(REQUIRED):** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> . It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**CLASS DEMEANOR OR NETIQUETTE:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. UF netiquette guidelines can be found at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

## **GETTING HELP:**

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk 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.



Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

## GRADING POLICIES:

Your course grade based on the following categories (percentage breakdown included)

- Proctored Exams: 40%
- Module Assignments: 25%
- Discussions and Peer reviews: 15%
- Paper draft submission: 5%
- Final paper submission: 5%
- Presentation: 10%

## GRADING SCALE: Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

Grade	%	Grade Points		Grade	%	Grade Points
A	≥93	4.0		C	73 – 76	2.0
A-	90 – 92	3.67		C-	70 – 73	1.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33		D+	64 – 66	1.33

B	83 – 86	3.0		D	60 – 63	1.0
B-	80 – 83	2.67		D-	57 – 59	0.67
C+	77– 79	2.33		E	< 56	0

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

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

### COURSE SCHEDULE:

**CRITICAL DATES:** Exam 1: 3/1, Exam 2: 5/2, paper initial submission: 2/24 and final submission: 4/21. Presentation due: 4/12.

Deadlines for all modules and deliverables (assignments, discussions, exams, etc.) are included in the Canvas course schedule.

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.