

## **COURSE SYLLABUS FORM**

**American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Geology**

### **GEOL 101: The Earth, Present and Past**

#### **1. Course Learning Outcomes**

This course aims at providing basic knowledge of the principles and fundamental concepts of the various processes occurring on the surface and in the interior of our planet. We will also examine how geologic processes and hazards influence and to a certain extent are influenced by human activities. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand Earth as a dynamic planet and to appreciate the relevance of geology to humans and societies and to understand the evidence and reasoning used by geologists to reach conclusions. Moreover, students will have an understanding of natural systems, and will be able to use and to apply systems analysis to earth processes.

#### **2. Resources Available to Students**

The textbook of the course is:

- *Environmental Geology*, C.W. Montgomery, 1997 (5<sup>th</sup> Edition), McGraw-Hill.

Other suggested resources:

- *Modern Physical Geology*, G.R. Thompson & J. Turk, 1993. Updated Version. Saunders College Publishing.

- *Physical Geography of The Global Environment*, H.I. de Blij & P.O. Miller, 1998 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

- *Our Geologic Environment*, H. Blatt, 1997. Prentice Hall, Inc.

#### **3. Grading Criteria**

- Term Exams	45%
- Class contribution	5%
- Final Exam	50%

#### **4. Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1	Our planetary environment		
2	Rocks & minerals		
3	Plate tectonics		
4	Earthquakes		Quiz 1
5	Volcanoes		
6	Streams & flooding		
7	Coastal zones		
8	Weathering & Mass movements		Quiz 2
9	Climate trends		
10	Climate trends		
11	Water resources		
12	Waste disposal & water pollution		Quiz 3
13	Energy resources		
14	Air pollution & global warming		

#### **5. Course Policy**

1. Any student who misses more than one-fifth of the class sessions will be required to withdraw from the course.
2. There will be no make-up exams for any student who misses a term exam or the final exam without obtaining the instructor's permission which will be granted only in most exceptional circumstances before the exam.