Dear Geology Class,

Welcome to Geology 300OL and I hope you enjoy the class. The intention of this email is to confirm your registration for this class.

The following is a copy of the class syllabus, as you may have not been able to enter the course through “MOODLE” yet.

Please read the following paragraphs about moodle.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/COURSE OUTLINE**

Through “MOODLE” you should be able to access the class and the related material, including weekly guidelines, assignments and quizzes. Please review posted outline and review questions carefully in a timely manner and refer to my weekly guidelines and posted outlines frequently (**at least several times per week**) so you do not fall behind. To support your learning and understanding of the topics, timelines will be in place to keep you on task. You must follow the suggested weekly posted timelines in order to be successful in this class.

Good Luck!

For this online class we will use “MOODLE”. For more information about moodle, please check the following sites:

<http://docs.moodle.org/en/student_tutorials>

<http://docs.moodle.org/en/student_FAQ>

You may access your online class material through MOODLE at:

<http://moodle.csun.edu>

At this site you can login using your CSUN username and password. Once logged in, you will see this course in your “my courses” list. This serves as your link to my moodle course site. If you have any question about moodle or if you do not know your userid, please contact the IT Help Center at 818-677-1700 or helpdesk@csun.edu.

Good luck and have fun moodling.

**First assignment (optinal, no points):**

As soon as you can access the class through moodle (first week of the semester or earlier), while in moodle, click on “profile” and post a short summary about you (e.g., academic goals and major, hobbies) including a recent picture of you. Important: The information you provide is open to other members of the class.

Use the following steps to get to “profile” in moodle:

First go to “http://moodle.csun.edu/”

Then click on “login” and use your csun username and password to get to your class

Then click on your online course (Geology 300OL)

Then click on “profile” and then keep on moodling……….

Please feel free stop by my office (please email me first and of course, the sooner the better) if you have any questions about moodle or anything else. My office is located on the second floor of Live Oak Hall, Room 1232.

**CLASS SYLLABUS:**

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

 Department of Geological Sciences

 (Geology 300OL)

Environmental Geology, Fall 2013 Instructor: Dr. Ali Tabidian (ali.tabidian@csun.edu)

Required Textbook**: Living With Earth** Office: Live Oak Hall 1232

 (Travis Hudson) Telephone: (818) 677-2536

**(Optional: the access code that comes with the textbook is not required but recommended)**

**Office Hours:**  In addition to online communications, if you wish to see me in person I will be in my office from **8:00 to 9:30 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays** or by appointment.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is intended to provide a better understanding of natural geologic systems, processes, and hazards; and the adverse impact of humans on the geologic environments and how to minimize these impacts.

**QUIZZES AND GRADING**

- Homework (50 points)

Note: To earn points, all assignments have to be posted in “Microsoft Word” or other formats that can be opened and reviewed.

- QUIZ#1, 100 points

- QUIZ#2, 100 points

- QUIZ#3 (final), 100 points

- All quizzes are open book and open notes. The questions are mostly associated with the weekly posted outlines and the review sections and questions. Reviewing the textbook chapters will help you to understand the geologic concepts documented in weekly posted outlines and the review questions for the exams. Through reading the chapters and the associated supplemental material (provided through the access code), you'll learn more and you'd do better on the tests.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

No “make-up” quizzes or assignments. The primary reason that you have more than one day to take the quizzes and to complete the assignments is to eliminate “make-ups”. Recommendation: take the quizzes during the first day of the designated days and do the homework assignments within the first three days of their initial postings. Please don’t wait until the last day/minute.

Under special circumstances, such as a medical excuse or other serious issues that can be **verified**, make-up and late exams will be considered. **You must come to one of my office hours or classes to take the “make-up”** **within the week following the missed deadline. Make-up quizzes will be closed book/notes and may be in the form of essay type questions.**

“I did not see the announcements related to quizzes and other assignments” is not an acceptable excuse for missing any quiz or assignment.

To remain impartial and be fair to class, make ups for missed assignments and quizzes are allowed only with a **viable reason that can be verified** **in a timely manner**. Your computer-related issues (hardware and software) and its operation as related to moodle applications are not viable reasons for not meeting the deadlines for quizzes and assignments. The primary reason that you have more than one day to take the quizzes and to complete the assignments is to avoid potential problems and eliminate conducting time consuming “make-ups”. If you faced a problem, please contact me right away before the deadline but avoid sending emails if you don’t have a **viable reason that can be verified** **in a timely manner.**

- Each quiz will be composed of mostly true/false and multiple choice questions and possibly a few essay questions.

- The grades will not be curved.

- To be fair to all, I cannot offer any extra credit projects for an individual in the class.

Plus-minus grading will be utilized for this course based on a percentage of the 350 points as follows: (Total earned points/3.5)

 A 95-100 C 70-73

 A- 90-94 C- 66-69

 B+ 86-89 D+ 62-65

 B 82-85 D 57-61

 B- 78-81 D- 50-56

 C+ 74-77 F 0-49

**COURSE OUTLINE**

 **TOPICS**  **CHAPTER**

 1 Introduction/Population 1

 2 Plate Tectonics 3 3 Minerals and Rocks 4

 4 Mineral and Rock Resources 12

 5 Earthquakes 5

 **QUIZ#1: (February 21-23)**

 6 Volcanoes 6

  **7** Oceans and Coasts 9

 8 Streams and Flooding 7

 9 Water Resources/Pollution 10

 10 Water Resources/Pollution 10

 **QUIZ#2: (March 28-30)**

 11 Soil Resources 11

 12 Unstable Land 8

 13 Energy Resources 13

 14 Alt. Energy Sources 13

 15 Environmental Impact/Waste Disposal 15

 **QUIZ#3: (May 9-11)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- The grade of incomplete (I) will not be used for this course.

- Dropping: Read the Schedule of Classes and follow the guidelines and the deadlines. If you decide that you don’t

 want to continue with this course, you must drop the class. You will not be automatically dropped if you simply

 stop participating in class activities.

- Late homework and other assignments **will not** be graded.

- No “make-up” quizzes or assignments.

- Cheating in any form will not be tolerated, and will be treated in accordance with the University policy as

 documented in the “University Catalog” and in the “Schedule of Classes”.

- It is the responsibility of each student in this course to know how to use moodle and follow all written guidelines given by the instructor.

- The above schedule and the course policy are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

- Please respect your instructor and fellow classmates by reserving your grades or complaints/personal

 concerns about the class to private conversations/emailings with the instructor.

**Ethical behavior:**

It is understood that all students will demonstrate the highest ethical behavior. This includes respect for other students and the professor.

**Students with disabilities:**

Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff with the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.

**E-mailing: (ali.tabidian@csun.edu)**

Whenever possible, you are encouraged to come to my office during my office hours, otherwise by appointment only.

E-mail should be used for the following:

- to alert me if there is an emergency

- to alert me that you are confused about a concept and would like to have a conference and/or an office visit

- to communicate personal concerns and class-related issues

E-mail should NOT be used to ask me:

 - to write you a summary of concepts documented in the textbook

 - to discuss a concept or idea that has been already documented and discussed in the course outline.

 - to give you a due date or discuss class policy documented in this syllabus and/or posted online.