

Time & Place: Lecture: 10:00 - 10:50am WF CEC 102 (Shen Auditorium)

Discussion: 1-1:50 TR CEC 107 (Core Science Lab)

Instructor: Roger G. Olson Phone: x6295 E-mail alias: rogero

Office: Science 018 **Hours:** E-mail me to make an appointment or just see me after class

TEXTS

1) Wilson, E.O., *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge*, Vintage (1999), ISBN-13: 978-0-679-76867-8

2) Deffeyes, K., *Beyond Oil: The View from Hubbert's Peak*, Hill and Wang (2006), ISBN-13: 978-0809029570

3) The course syllabus booklet with a lecture schedule and outlines, lab exercises and supplemental readings... **Be sure to bring this document with you to both lecture and discussion sessions.** You'll find it helpful for taking notes in lecture, and there are lab exercises.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Examinations: There will be two examinations – a midterm and final, and each will count 15% toward your final grade. These will be common multiple-choice exams given at 10 a.m. in the Shen Auditorium, the midterm on Wednesday March 3 and the final on Wednesday May 5.

Quizzes: There will be a short (5-10 minute) quiz once a week. Each quiz will be over material covered in the most recent lecture(s). Altogether the quizzes will count 25% toward your final grade. Make-ups for quizzes will be at my interpretation of a valid excuse that you must e-mail me. To compensate for any unexcused absences, I will drop the lowest TWO quiz scores for your *final* (not midterm) grade, and this will also compensate for missing discussion sessions. Please realize that this rubric does not imply that you should miss two discussions!

Oral Presentation: A 15-20 minute presentation by a team of two or three of on one of the ten chapters from the Deffeyes book will count 10% toward your final grade. You will give me a one-page outline of your presentation at least one day prior to your talk. We will discuss the specifics of this requirement in the first week of the class.

Writing: In order to satisfy the collegial writing requirement, you will have several types of assignments: Essays, reading responses, “essential questions” from each lecture, and possibly an in-class lab report. Together these writing assignments will count 35% of your course grade. The weighting of components will be: Essays: 20%, Essential Questions: 10%, Lab/Reading response: 5%.

(REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING continued on page two)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING (continued)

Writing Assignments – Essays and Essential Questions

I will discuss the *essential questions* concept in class. This type of assignment encourages you to attend lectures and has been shown in the past few semesters to make discussions more interesting and relevant. Essential questions should be written *during lecture*, and in the next discussion session, I will walk around class and read your questions. Then each group (of 4?) students will pick a couple of the best questions and write them on the board for discussion. Essential questions will count 10% of your course grade.

The essays and article summaries will be formal assignments to be done on word processing format. They must be in a standard 12-point font, **double-spaced**, have one-inch margins, and should meet the minimum/maximum length requirements as I will specify.

Writing Assignments – Lab(s)

We will attempt to integrate hands-on and visual experiences into the course by having occasional hands-on exercises during the discussion session. One of these will have a short write-up. If you miss class the day we do a lab, it's up to you to make arrangements to make it up. The lab report will count 3% of your course grade.

LATE WORK POLICY

You will be penalized 10% for each calendar day a writing assignment is late. Do NOT wait until the next class period to turn in a late assignment! Please turn in late assignments to my **office** - Science Building B018 - **not** my Core Building mail box! ☺

LECTURE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Lecture attendance is extremely important to the learning process. It is also a matter of respect to lecturers who have spent many hours preparing these lectures.

You *may* (**not should!**) miss a **maximum of THREE** lectures without penalty. **After that, each lecture missed will result in a deduction of 3% from your final grade. Refer to my grading scale and note that three unexcused absences will result in an entire letter grade drop.**

The only valid “excused absences” from lecture are the following:

- Hospitalization or funeral of an immediate family member as verified by Campus Ministry.
- Illness with a physician's note.
- **Change** in a schedule of an athletic or academic event.

DISCUSSION ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at our discussion sessions is critical to your learning process. It is also a matter of respect to me and your fellow students who have prepared presentations. If your absences become **habitual**, I will ask you to provide a physician's (or other health care professional's) note delineating the justification for your absences. If you absolutely must miss discussion, here are the steps you must take:

- E-mail me and let me know the reason you missed.
- I will be the sole arbiter of whether this reason is valid, and thus if you can make up the quiz for this session. *If* I deem your excuse to be valid, you can either make arrangements to come to my office to take the quiz, or I will e-mail you the Word or text file.
- You must e-mail me your essential questions for the lectures we plan to cover in discussion.

SUMMARY OF GRADING CRITERIA

Exams: 30%	Quizzes: 25%	Writing: 35%	Presentation: 10%	Lecture Attendance: -3%
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Note on Lecture Attendance: 3% will be deducted from final average for each lecture absence after the fourth

GRADING SCALE FOR COURSE LETTER GRADE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	60-66

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINAL COURSE GRADE

To make sure you understand how your final grade will be computed, figure what your final letter grade would be if you have: 65% and 59% on the two exams, 81% average on the quizzes, 95% average on your essential questions, 88% on your first essay, 92% on your second essay, 97% on your lab report, and 90% on your oral presentation.

Answer: $.65(.15)+.59(.15)+.81(.25)+.95(.10)+.88(.10)+.92(.10)+.97(.05)+.90(.10) = 80.2\% = C+/B-$