

## **GEOL 295 B: Medical Geology**

**Spring 2010**

Professor: Greg Druschel

Office: Delehanty Hall 321

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 2:30-3:30 pm and by appointment

Class Times: Wednesday 6:15 – 9:15 p.m.

Class website: [http://www.uvm.edu/~gdrusche/Medical\\_Geology.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~gdrusche/Medical_Geology.html)

Texts: There is no prescribed text in this class, you will however be responsible for weekly readings from various sources to be handed out in class.

### **Course Goals:**

- To go through an in-depth synthesis of the environmental health problems surrounding asbestos and to see how geology, medicine, law, and public policy are interrelated in society's responses to the problem
- To go through an in-depth synthesis of the environmental health problems surrounding arsenic contamination and to see how geology, medicine, law, and public policy are interrelated in society's responses to the problem
- To gain an appreciation for how geological phenomena can have an effect on the medical health of human beings, and how we can use principles of geology and chemistry to better inform medical studies, public policy, and legal disputes.

### **Course Design:**

This class is a once-per-week discussion class, preparation and participation are key to getting the full effect of the class. Every week a reading assignment will be given. As part of this assignment, you will prepare a detailed crib sheet – filled with notes on the reading, including any additional research to aid in your understanding of the article and specific questions you have about the article. This sheet will be used in class but collected for grading afterwards. Grading will be based on detail, not on whether you have understood the article on its first reading. At the end of the class there will be a capstone assignment in which each student will select a topic on something involving the intersection of geology and medicine (in consultation with the instructor) and prepare a paper and a poster reviewing the geological and medical aspects of this problem together with any pertinent issues in public policy and law it affects. The final day of class will involve a poster session where all students present their work and review each other's posters.

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

Weekly Crib sheets	50%
Participation	10%
Final Paper	20%
Poster Presentation	20%