

GEOLOGY 101 sections 519-527: PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY (4 credit hours)
Spring 2007
MW: 4:10-5:25 PM HALB 101

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Office hours: Monday 2:00 – 3:00 or by appointment

Scope of Course: Geology is the study of the Earth. One of the primary goals in geology is to study Earth's present processes, and interpret Earth's history so that we might predict the future of our planet. You already know that the Earth is continually changing through natural and human-induced processes and it is important to discover where these changes are recorded. Rocks are like the journals of geologic time. In this class we will explore how you read the rock record. When you leave this course, you will have a better understanding of how the Earth came to be and what it might look like in the future. We will also explore the science behind current societal concerns such as global climate change, water quality, and natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, mudslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Resources:

Textbook: *How Does Earth Work?* 2006, Smith, Gary A. and Pun, Aurora; Pearson Prentice Hall. For those students who prefer an electronic version of the textbook, you can purchase a 150 day subscription at www.safarix.com.

Web Pages:

<http://www.einstruction.com> (class key = F26529J785)
<http://elearning.tamu.edu/> The TAMU WebCT Vista system will allow you to check your grades, download syllabus and obtain other course information.

Laboratory: Laboratory sessions are mandatory and will account for 25% of your final grade in this class. Lab sections meet **this week**-see your schedule for room numbers.

Class Participation: To do well, you must attend class and actively participate. Class participation will be recorded via daily quizzes using our Classroom Performance System so be sure to bring your response pads to class every day. Quizzes should be viewed as a learning tool and may test reading comprehension (given at the beginning of class), retention (reviewing past material), or understanding during a lecture period. Quizzes are designed to be a helpful gauge but are NOT a substitute for careful reading and studying. *To do well on the exams you will need to know more material than will be covered by the daily quizzes.*

Examination & Grading: Grades will be determined based strictly on the following point schedule. THERE WILL BE NO CURVE thus EVERY student has the opportunity to receive an A in this class (see "How to get an A" for tips). Exams may contain multiple choice, true/false, and matching exercises.

A = 90 to 100%	Exams (3)	45%
B = 80 to <90%	Cumulative Final	25%
C = 70 to <80%	Participation	5%
D = 60 to <70%	Laboratory	25%
F = 0 to <60%		

Tentative Exam Schedule: Exam I-Feb.14, Exam II-March 7, Exam III-April 11, Final Exam-May 7 3:30-5:30 pm

You must bring a gray SCANTRON sheet and #2 pencil to each exam.

A make-up exam will be given if you have a university-approved, documented excuse for missing the exam. Otherwise, you will accept a grade of 0 for that exam. It is your responsibility to contact me (via e-mail or telephone) before the exam or as soon as possible after the exam to arrange a make up. Any make-up exams will be given during office hours the week after the scheduled exam and **may be essay** format.

Courtesy: Please be respectful of your fellow classmates and TURN OFF all mobile communication devices such as cell phones, pagers, or hand-held e-mail devices before entering the classroom. If you or your electronic device becomes disruptive you will be asked to leave.

ADA Statement: The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building. The phone number is 845-1637.

Copyright and Plagiarism Policy: All materials used in this class are copyrighted. These materials include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless permission is expressly granted.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

The Aggie Honor Code is fundamental to the value of the A&M experience. **Know the Code. "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."** <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE: Any changes will be announced in class. You must come to lecture to find out what will be on each exam!

Date	Topic	Reading
01/17/07	Introduction-study tips, geology, careers	Syllabus
01/22/07	Introduction, Scientific Method	Ch 1
01/24/07	Earth Materials as Time Keepers	Ch 7
01/29/07	Geologic Time and the Age of the Earth	Ch. 7
01/31/07	Plate Tectonics	Ch.12, 13
02/05/07	Plate Tectonics	Ch.12, 13
02/07/07	Earth Materials	Ch. 2
02/12/07	Wrap-up & review	
02/14/07	EXAM I	
02/19/07	Rocks and Rock Forming Processes, Intro Igneous Rocks	Ch. 3, 4
02/21/07	Magma and Igneous Rocks	Ch. 4
02/26/07	Volcanoes -video	
02/28/07	Metamorphism& Metamorphic Rocks	Ch. 6
03/05/07	Wrap-up & review	
03/07/07	EXAM II	
03/12/07	SPRING BREAK	
03/14/07	SPRING BREAK	
03/19/07	Earthquakes & Faults	Ch. 11
03/21/07	Weathering and Soils	Ch. 14
03/26/07	Sedimentary Rocks	Ch.5
03/28/07	Streams & Drainage	Ch. 16
04/02/07	Natural Groundwater	Ch. 17
04/04/07	Groundwater Contamination	Ch. 17
04/09/07	Wrap-up & review	
04/11/07	EXAM III	
04/16/07	Shorelines: Changing Landscapes	Ch. 19
04/18/07	Wind: Global perspective	Ch. 20
04/23/07	Glaciers	Ch. 18
04/25/07	Global Warming	Ch. 18
04/30/07	FINAL REVIEW	
05/07/07	FINAL EXAM-CUMULATIVE 3:30-5:30 PM	