**Geological Sciences 110 — Life Through Time**

**Syllabus – Spring 2014 MW)**

**George Davis Office Hours: 2 - 3 pm MW**

**E-mail:george.davis@csun.edu Live Oak Hall, Rm. 1220**

You are embarking on an adventure that in terms of time will cover some 4.6 billion years and, in space, the whole of the Earth. When you have completed this course you will have gained a basic understanding of how the earth and the life on it have evolved, and a brief introduction to the materials and geologic processes that have led to the familiar Earth of today. The Earth (and the life it has spawned) was not always as it is today, and we will explore the how’s and why’s of its journey through “Geologic Time.”

**General Education Information:** For successfully completing this class you will receive 3 units of Lower Division General Education credit in Section B.2, Natural Sciences-Earth Sciences and Astronomy. This class is required for Geology majors and minors and Earth Science Majors. If you need to take a General Education lab course, you may take, either concurrently or later, Geol. 112, which is the laboratory course to accompany Geol. 110.

**Required text:** Levin, Harold, 2012. *The Earth Through Time*, 10th Edition, John Wiley & Sons, softbound.

**Exams and Grading:** There will be three midterm exams (100 points each) and a non-cumulative final (200 points), total 500 exam points. You will need a SCANTRON **Form No. 882-E** for each of the tests. **The FINAL will require 2 Scantrons: one for the Geologic Time Scale portion of the test, and one for the main part of the test.**

There will also be additional points associated with in-class assignments, take-home assignments, **pop quizzes**, projects, etc. **Missed quizzes may not be made-up.** Generally, there will be **no make-up exams**. The reason for missing an exam must be extremely compelling, and any make-up exam granted will consist entirely of **essay** questions. Failure to take the **final exam** will result in a grade of **F**.

**Grading scale (straight percentage – no curve):** **A**  90 - 100%

**B** 80 - 89%

**C** 67 - 79%

**D** 50 - 66%

**F** < 50%

**Extra Credit:** Anyone feeling the need for extra credit may, at anytime during the course, visit either the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County** (across from USC) in Exposition Park or **The George Page Museum** (La Brea Tar Pits) in Hancock Park. You may earn up to 15 points extra-credit by writing a three page, double-spaced, typed report on any exhibit that entails a direct aspect of Geology (mineralogy, paleontology, etc.). Submit your chosen paper (along with proof of your visit - i.e., receipt or ticket stub for either museum) no later than the start of class, Monday, May 9, 2014.

As an alternate source of extra credit, mid-semester, I will release a list of movies that deal in some way with Earth History. You may pick one and write a three page, double-spaced, typed “**Earth Historical critique”** paper (up to 25 points extra credit). Guidelines for both papers will be handed out later in the course.

**Field Trip:** None planned at this time. However, this may change and you will be informed sufficiently ahead of time if a trip becomes possible.

**Your responsibilities for succeeding in this class**

*(The assumption is made that you wish to succeed)*

The following must be adhered to for successful completion of this course:

1. If you do not understand something, **please ask questions**.

2. Use your **Earth History** class time for **Earth History**! Take notes for the current session. If you have missed a lecture and need to copy a classmate’s notes, find a **photocopying** machine — it’s a lot faster than copying by hand.

3. **Give yourself time to study.** The general consensus is that to do well in a class the average student should spend two hours outside study for each hour spent in class. Only you know if you are average or not and need more or less time. Regardless, review notes as soon as possible after class to fill in unfinished diagrams and partial sentences while they are still fresh in your mind.

4. **Historically the first exam is a wake-up call.** Pay attention and don’t hit the snooze button. If you do not do well on the exam. Ask for help **then,** not later.

5. **Cheating/Plagiarism. DON’T!!!** If caught, you will automatically fail the course, and a report will be filed with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. In short I abide by the CSUN rules on academic cheating. Those rules are on the CSUN website. I suggest you access and read them.

6. Some **No’s**:

No eating in class — bottled water is OK

No electronics (I-pods, CD players, cell phones, etc.) during class

**No text messaging during class. If seen, you will be asked to leave the class**

7. **Come to class.** **Attendance is mandatory.** Historically, those who fail the class have cut the class. **AND** **be on time**. **Lateness** will not be excused past the first week of class. And anyone coming in late, please use the rear door. I do not appreciate the rudeness of someone who is late walking between me and the class while I am lecturing. Be prepared to spend the entire time in class.

8. This should not be a problem, but if you are taking more than one class, check your final exam schedules early to determine if there will be any time conflicts that need to be resolved.

9. If you e-mail me, you must start your subject line with EH (If I don’t see this in the subject line I will simply delete the post.

Example: **Subject: EH-** ; “My last test”

**Course Outline**

**DATE Materials to be covered Relevant Chapters**

**Week 1 – Jan 22 Intro to Earth History, Important**

**Concepts, Scientific Method Ch. 1**

**Week 2 – Jan 27 Plate Tectonics (history) Ch. 7**

**Jan 29 Plate Tectonics 2 (functionality) Ch. 7**

**Week 3 – Feb 3 Early Geologists Ch. 2**

**Feb 5 Geologic Time Ch. 3**

**Week 4 – Feb 10 Rocks & Minerals Ch. 4**

**Feb 12 Rocks & Minerals Ch. 4**

**Week 5 – Feb 17 Midterm 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7)**

**Feb 19 Sedimentary Archives Ch. 5**

**Week 6 – Feb 24 Sedimentary Rocks Ch. 5**

**Feb 26 Darwin/Evolution Handout**

**Week 7 – Mar 3 Life on Earth (Fossils) Ch. 6**

**Mar 5 Life on Earth (Fossils) Ch. 6**

**Week 8 – Mar 10 Hadean/Archean Ch. 8**

**Mar 12 Midterm 2 (Ch. 5, 6, 8, Handout )**

**Week 9 – Mar 17 Early Paleozoic Events Ch. 10**

**Mar 19 Late Paleozoic Events Ch. 11**

**Week 10 – Mar 24 Life of the Paleozoic Ch. 12**

**Mar 26 Life of the Paleozoic Ch. 12**

**Week 11 – Mar 31 No class - Chavez Holiday**

**Apr 2 Permian Extinction Handout**

**Week 12 – Apr 7 & 9 Spring Break**

**Week 13 – Apr 14 Midterm 3 Ch. (10, 11, 12, Handout)**

**Apr 16 Mesozoic Events Ch. 13**

**Week 14 – Apr 21 Life of the Mesozoic Ch. 14**

**Apr 23 Life of the Mesozoic Ch. 14**

**Week 15 – Apr 28 Cenozoic Events Ch. 15**

**Apr 30 Life of the Cenozoic Ch. 16**

**Week 16 – May 5 Life of the Cenozoic Ch. 16**

**May 7 Human Origins Ch. 17**

**Week 17 – May 12 Final 12:45 – 2:45am, Room LO 1219 (Ch. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Geologic Time Scale)**

**With the exception of the “Final Date and Time,”**

**I reserve the right to modify this outline as conditions warrant .**