**GEOL 112: Earth and Life through Time Laboratory**

**Spring 2014**

**Instructor: Lexine Black**

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| **Office hours:** | LO 1224 Tuesdays 1-2pm, **or by appointment** |
| **Phone:** | Office/818-677-2575; Department Office/818-677-3541 |
| **Email:** | Lexine.Black.834@my.csun.edu |
| **Course objectives** | GEOL 112 fulfills one of the two natural science lab requirements of the CSUN General Education program, as well as an introductory lab for the geology major. You will learn how geologists interpret data from rocks and fossils to understand Earth’s history and how they use this knowledge to understand Earth’s present and future. The course meets learning outcomes for the natural sciences by helping students to:  1. Demonstrate understanding of important concepts in Earth history;  2. Use the scientific method to evaluate and interpret scientific data and to reach reasoned conclusions;  3. Recognize the logical foundations and boundaries of geological science;  4. Recognize the contribution that an understanding of Earth history can make to assessing real world issues that affect Earth’s present and future. |
| **Attendance:** | It is essential that you attend all labs and that you arrive on time and stay until your group has completed the lab. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED LABS. If you do not come to class, you will likely fail the course.** If you come late to lab or leave before your group has finished, you will earn only half of the points awarded to your group. **If you miss more than half of the lab, you will not earn any points—you will get a zero for the lab.** |
| **Coming prepared**  **to lab**  **Lab reports and lab groups** | **You are responsible for printing and bringing in the lab each week. They are posted on Moodle, and you should check the class Moodle page often.**  You will usually work in a lab group of four to six people. You should keep your own lab work so that you have it to study for the exams. Each group will turn in one lab report, a blank copy of which you will be given at the start of class and for which you will all get the same grade. If you disagree with any of the group answers, you write your own answer on a separate piece of paper, noting the specific question(s) that you would like me to grade for your score. There will be sufficient time in each lab for group discussion of the work. Everyone must be a contributing member to their group. If there are problems, I will resolve the issue to ensure fairness of grades. |
| **Field trips** | There are 2 extra credit field trips optional field trips. One optional field trip is to the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and tide pools. Transportation will be provided for this trip, but you must pay the entrance fee, which is ~ $5.00 for students. Participation will field will earn a **maximum** of 20 points (equivalent to one lab).  The second one is a self-guided trip to the Page Museum Brea Tar Pits. You are responsible for your own transportation and paying the entrance fees to the museum, as well as parking. Attendance on this extra credit field trip can earn a **maximum** of 10 points.  All extra credit must be turned in by the last day of class. Late work will not be accepted |
| **Lab exams**: | There will be two exams, a midterm and final. **There are no make ups on exams. If you miss an exam, you will need to make up as many points as possible through the extra credit field trips.** |

**Grading:** Each lab report is worth 25 points and each exam is worth 50 points. In addition, the Lab research paper is worth 20 pts. The lowest score earned on ONE lab will be dropped. Take note that this covers both low grades or a missed lab, and is the only accepted leniency on missing a lab due to all personal circumstances, seen or unforeseen. **NO GRADE OF INCOMPLETE WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE.** Grading will be on the +/- CSUN system.

**Last day to drop:** **Through SOLAR: February 7. With hardcopy form with permission of instructor and department chair: February 7, 4 pm. NO DROPS ARE PERMITTED AFTER THIS DATE.**

**THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

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| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| January 20 | **No Class** |
| January 27 | **Introduction to Lab** |
| February 3 | Lab 1. Properties of sediment grains , Part 1 |
| February 10 | Lab 2. Properties of sediment grains, Part 2 |
| February 17 | Lab 3. Detrital sedimentary rocks and depositional environments |
| February 24 | Lab 4. Chemical and biochemical rocks and depositional environments |
| March 3 | **Midterm Exam** |
| March 10 | Lab 5. Geologic Time, Fossil Preservation, Marine Ecosystems  **ONLINE LAB, NO IN CLASS MEETING** |
| March 17 | Lab 6. Major fossil Groups from Marine Realm |
| March 21 | **Optional Field Trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.** Transportation will be provided to those who signed up for trip. |
| March 26 | Lab 7**.** Dinosaurs |
| March 31 | **NO LAB** |
| April 7 | **SPRING BREAK, NO LAB** |
| April 14 | Lab 8. Mammal Skulls Reveal What they Ate |
| April 21 | Lab 9. Becoming Human  **RESEARCH PAPER DUE** |
| April 28 | **Exam 2: Labs 6-11. This is the last class.** |

# CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Cell phones (talking and texting) are a rude distraction during the lab. Please respect me and your classmates and turn them off during lab. During the short lecture intervals, I reserve the right to restrict computer note taking if I observe you playing games, surfing the web, and/or checking email. During group activity time, you are to be engaged in the exercise with your group and not in any other activity. Also, there are to be no rude comments or outbursts during lab; please be respectful at all times and stay focused on the lab work.

# ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Official California State University policy states: “The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system.  Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title 5, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense and diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs.  Such dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.”

I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. I expect that you will uphold the integrity of the academic environment here at CSUN. If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will report such evidence to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and recommend either a letter of admonishment or disciplinary action. This includes cheating or plagiarism. If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will receive a failing grade for the exam and will receive a grade lower for the entire course. Cheating includes copying answers during an exam, facilitating cheating by another student, altering a test grading sheet after the exam, or lying about an excuse for missing the exam. If any plagiarism occurs, you will fail that assignment.