

CSUN Geol101: Geology of Planet Earth Syllabus, Fall 2012

Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15 AM, Chaparral Hall Room 5122

Prof. Richard Heermance

-Office LO1212, email: richard.heermance@csun.edu, phone 677-4357

-office hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 PM or by appointment

-class webpage: "moodle" page at moodle.csun.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) introduce you to basic geologic concepts and how they are applied
- 2) learn to use the **scientific method**
- 3) understand the geology and geologic history of southern California
- 4) apply your geologic knowledge to understanding different environmental, geologic, and political issues

COURSE TEXT: Marshak, Essentials of Geology (3rd edition; 3-Hole Punch)

You may also access the following website for additional information pertinent to the class: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/egeo3/welcome.aspx>

CLASS LECTURE AND TEXTBOOK ADVICE

The most important concepts from each chapter will be highlighted during class, as well as other key concepts & quiz answers. To prepare for exams and study for class, you should go over your in-class notes, read each chapter outline, and the chapter summary. This will give you an overview of the chapter and allow you to focus on the key concepts. Pay careful attention to figures. Finish the chapter by asking yourself if you can define the "Terms to remember" at the end.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Please feel free to ASK QUESTIONS at any time during the class. This will hopefully make the material clearer and make class more interesting.

Syllabus subject to change.....

GEOLOGY DEFINITION: geo + ology = "earth" + "the study of"

GRADING

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) Problem Sets (4 @ 11.25% each) | 45% |
| 2) Exams (3 @ 15% each) | 45% |
| 3) Quizzes/Class Participation/Attendance | 10% |

Your overall grade is NOT CURVED, although individual assignments or exams may be curved at the professors' discretion. At a minimum, the following percentages will correspond to each grade.

93-100 %	A	72-78%	C
90-93 %	A-	70-72%	C-
88-90%	B+	67-70%	D+
82-88%	B	63-67%	D
80-82%	B-	60-63%	D-
78-80%	C+	<60%	F

Grades of Incomplete are extremely rare and can only if be given if the student meets ALL the requirements set forth in University policy for Incompletes, including 1) has a passing grade in the work completed, 2) has completed a substantial portion of the work in the course, and 3) is able to complete the remaining work independently, with minimal assistance from the instructor. An Incomplete shall not be assigned when a student would be required to attend a major portion of the class when it is next offered.

CLASS RULES

- A. Turn OFF all cell-phones and other electronic equipment while in-class. This means NO TEXTING, TALKING, EMAILING, ETC IN CLASS! I will confiscate any equipment used for personal use during class time.
- B. Group work and discussion is encouraged. All written assignments and exams, however, must be done entirely by each student unless otherwise instructed.
- C. Honor code violations will result in automatic NO CREDIT. Academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, fabrication; please review student conduct in the current schedule of classes and in the university catalog) will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Students Affairs. Bottom line: pay attention, study, learn, and do your own work!

Geology 101 Syllabus, Fall 2011

Week	Dates	important dates	Topic	Chapter(s)
1	Aug 28 Aug 30		Introduction to the Geology Atoms, Elements and Minerals	prelude, 1
2	Sep 4 Sep 6		The Way the Earth Works: Plate Tectonics	2
3	Sep 11 Sep 13	PS#1 DUE	Patterns in Nature: Minerals	3, 4
4	Sep 18 Sep 20		The Rock Cycle, Magma and Igneous Rocks & Volcanic Eruptions	4, 5
5	Sep 25 Sep 27	EXAM #1 TU	Exam Chapters 1-5 Metamorphic Rocks	7
6	Oct 2 Oct 4		Metamorphic Rocks cont. Sedimentary Rocks	7 6
7	Oct 9 Oct 11	PS #2 DUE TH	Landslides, Geology of Streams and Floods, & Groundwater	13, 14, 16
8	Oct 16 Oct 18 Sat, Oct 20		Oct 16, 18: Earthquakes Oct 20: Field Trip to Lakeview Terrace	8
9	Oct 23 Oct 25		Crustal Deformation and Mountain Building	9
10	Oct 30 Nov 1	EXAM #2 TU	Exam Chapters 6-9, 13, 14, 16 Geologic Time	10
11	Nov 6 Nov 8	PS#3 DUE TH	Earth History	11
12	Nov 13 Nov 15		Glaciers and Ice Ages,	18
13	Nov 20 no class Th		Global Change in the Earth System	19
14	Nov 27 Nov 29	EXAM #3 TH	Global Climate Change cont.... Exam Chapters 10-12, 18-19	19
15	Dec 4 Dec 6	PS#4 DUE TH	Energy and Mineral Resources	12
16	Dec 13	FINAL (cumulative)	Final Exam 8-10 AM (cumulative)	

PROBLEM SETS

The Problem Sets are designed to encourage critical thinking and expose you to various geologic data. I will post instructions for each problem set every few weeks on MOODLE. You will have at least 3 weeks to complete each problem set. I will give you instructions and “pre-questions.” After you have completed the problem set, you will need to log into MOODLE and take the online exam based on the problem set “pre-questions.” The exam must be taken PRIOR to the 5 PM deadline for each problem set posted in the syllabus. NO EXCEPTIONS! Problem sets will be graded on a 25 point scale. The following list shows the problem sets that will be covered in this course:

- 1) Plate Tectonics Lab
- 2) Using Google Earth to solve geologic problems
- 3) Los Angeles Against the Mountains by John McPhee
- 4) The Climatic Rollercoaster

FIELD TRIP (8:30-11:30 AM, Saturday, October 20). The class will visit Little Tujunga Wash near Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center. Transportation will be provided by CSUN, or you may drive yourself if you fill out the proper permission forms. Please meet at 8:15 AM in Parking Lot G3 near the corner of Prairie and Zelzah on the eastern edge of campus. More information will be provided in class. Although this trip is optional, you will complete a worksheet in the field and may substitute your worksheet grade for ONE of the problem set grades (or use it to make up a missed problem set).

EXAMS (Please bring SCANTRON FORM 19641 to class on exam days.)

This class will have 4 exams (including the final exam). You will be allowed to DROP ONE EXAM score. However, NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION. This means that make-up exams will not be permitted even in the case of emergency. Any missed exam will be given a 0, but may be dropped. Therefore, you should not miss the first exam and plan on taking the on the final three exams in case of an unintended emergency (eg. illness, wind-storm, etc.) occurs that prevents you from attending class on exam day. Midterms will focus on recent material from the text, lecture, and problem sets. The final exam will be cumulative. All exams will be scantron and you must bring your own scantron card to each exam.