GEOL 101: Geology of Planet Earth SPRING 2012 Syllabus

Class meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.
Classroom: Chaparral Hall 5122

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Prof. Robinson Cecil
Office: LO 1230
Office phone: 677-7009
Email: robinson.cecil@csun.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m., or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1) To learn basic geologic concepts and processes that describe the formation and evolution of our planet.
2) To development problem solving skills and an understanding of the scientific method.
3) To learn how geology relates to our understanding of relevant environmental, economic, and political issues.

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

CLASS POLICIES:

1) ***No cell phone use (including texting) in class***! Please be respectful of your instructor and fellow students by turning off / putting away cell phones. If you are found texting, emailing, or talking on your cell phone during class time, you will be asked to leave the room.
2) ***Late work***. No late work will be accepted. No exceptions.
3) ***Missed exams***. No make up exams will be offered. No exceptions.
4) ***Academic dishonesty***. 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!

HELPFUL TIPS FROM ME TO YOU:

Hopefully you've signed up for this class because you have a natural curiosity about the beautiful and ever-changing planet that we live on. If not, hopefully I will convince you that the Earth is a beautiful and intriguing place that you should be curious about and should want to protect. No matter what your reason for taking this course, if you would like to do well in it, I highly recommend that you ***attend lecture***. That is the single best thing you can do to improve your mind and your grade. I also recommend that you make friends with your text. Read it, write in it, draw in it, bring it to class and take notes in it. Get to know it!

Additional tips for your success:

- Read your syllabus – know what is expected of you
- Ask questions in class if you do not understand a topic
- Read ahead and write down questions you have before coming to class. You'll enjoy class more and be more engaged during lecture if you do this.
- If you don't do well on the first exam, come to office hours and ask for help right away.
- Check the final exam schedule for all your classes NOW to avoid conflits

GRADES: How will you be evaluated?
Your final grade will be a function of your performance on midterm exams, homework assignments, and weekly quizzes.

Midterms (3): 50%
Homework (4): 35%
Quizzes (9): 15%

Midterms: 4 midterms will be given during the semester, but your lowest grade will be dropped, so only 3 midterm scores will factor into your final grade. I highly recommend that you take all 4 midterms. Remember that you will not, under any circumstances, be allowed to retake an exam. You never know when you might have to miss one due to illness or car problems, etc., and if you had already skipped one of the tests, you would be out of luck! The final exam is not cumulative and will be treated as a 4th midterm. The scheduled exam dates will not change during the semester.

Homeworks: 5 homework assignments will be given during the semester, but your lowest grade will be dropped, so only 4 homework scores will factor into your final grade. One homework assignment will be a ~ 3 hour field trip offered on Friday morning (3/23) or Saturday morning (3/24). More information about that and sign-ups will be given in lecture. I don't recommend it, but you may choose to turn in only 4 homework assignments. If you do not attend the field trip, you must complete the other 4 assignments. Keep in mind that no late work will be accepted!

Quizzes: There will be a quiz posted on moodle every Thursday* after lecture. You must log on to moodle and take the quiz before 8 a.m. the following Tuesday. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. You will not be allowed to make up a quiz after it closes on Tuesday morning!
*quizzes will not be given following weeks when you have scheduled midterms. For example, there will not be a quiz to complete before lecture on Feb. 21. There will be no quiz the week of spring break.

Letter grades will be assigned using the scale below. Although the cut-offs for each letter grade will not be determined until the end of the semester, they will be no higher than those below. For example, if at the end of the semester your score is a 76%, then the lowest grade you could receive is a C.

A	93	C	73
A-	90	C-	70
B+	87	D+	67
B	83	D	63
B-	80	D-	60
C+	77	F	<60

INCOMPLETE GRADES: Grades of incomplete are extremely rare and can only be given if the student meets all the requirements set forth in University policy, including: 1) a passing grade in the work completed; 2) completion of a substantial portion of the coursework; 3) ability to complete the remaining work independently, with minimal help from the instructor. An Incomplete will not be assigned if the student would be required to attend a significant portion of the class when it is next offered.

GEOL 101: Geology of Planet Earth **Spring 2012 Schedule (*subject to change*!)**

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments*	Reading
1	Jan. 24 Jan. 26	What is Geology? The Making of Planet Earth		Pgs. 1 - 6 Ch. 1
2	Jan. 31 Feb. 2	Continental Drift and Seafloor Spreading Plate Tectonic Theory		p. 34-46 p. 47-67
3	Feb. 7 Feb. 9	Plate Boundaries Minerals: Earth's building blocks	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)* ***HW#1 due Th***	p.47-67 p. 69-75
4	Feb. 14 Feb. 16	Mineral Properties and Classification **MIDTERM #1**	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)*	p.75-91
5	Feb. 21 Feb. 23	Magma and Igneous Rocks Volcanoes		Ch. 4 Ch. 5
6	Feb. 28 Mar. 1	Sedimentary Rocks Depositional Environments	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)* ***HW#2 due Th***	Ch. 6
7	Mar. 6 Mar. 8	Metamorphic Rocks The Rock Cycle	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)*	Ch. 7 p. 194-199
8	Mar. 13 Mar. 15	**MIDTERM #2** Faults and Earthquakes	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)*	p.201-218
9	Mar. 20 Mar. 22	Stress and Strain Deformation and Mountain Building	***HW#3*** ***(wkd field trip)***	p. 219-239 p. 241-254
10	Mar. 27 Mar. 29	Geologic Time and Relative Age Absolute Age and the Timescale	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu)*	p. 254-265 p. 277-287
11	Apr. 3 Apr. 5	**SPRING BREAK (*no classes*)**		
12	Apr. 10 Apr. 12	Energy and Mineral Resources **MIDTERM #3**	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu*	p. 287-295
13	Apr. 17 Apr. 19	Groundwater Landslides and Mass Wasting	***HW#4 due Th***	p. 322-333 p. 362-375
14	Apr. 24 Apr. 26	Fluvial Systems	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu*	p. 379-392 p. 393-401
15	May 1 May 3	Glaciers and Ice Ages	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu* ***HW#5 due Th***	p. 470-490 p. 491-497
16	May 8 May 10	Global Change	*Quiz (by 8 am Tu*	Ch. 19
17	May 17	**MIDTERM #4 (FINAL EXAM)** May 17, 8 – 10 am		