

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 Thursday, 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: Marshak, Essentials of Geology (4th 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 conflicts.

ONLINE WORK: You'll notice that there are 4 days scheduled as "online" in the course schedule. ***We will not meet in the classroom on those days!*** Instead, you will be given an online assignment to complete and required to take a related quiz. We will review online assignments in class during the following lecture period.

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: 50%

Homework: 35%

Quizzes: 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 Saturday (3/23). 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: You will be required to take 9 quizzes over the course of the semester (see schedule). These quizzes will be posted semi-regularly on SmartWork; due dates and times will be clearly posted. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes that are highlighted in the schedule pertain to the online assignment for that day.

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.

| Date | Topic | Assignments | Reading |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| Jan.22 | Introduction to GEOL101 | | |
| Jan.24 | Earth's interior / Plate tectonics intro | | 1.6 – 1.7 |
| Jan.29 | Continental drift and seafloor spreading | <i>Quiz #1</i> | 2.1 – 2.5 |
| Jan.31 | Plate tectonic theory | | 2.6 – 2.12 |
| Feb.5 | Plate boundaries | <i>Quiz #2</i> | 2.6 – 2.12 |
| Feb.7 | Minerals: Earth's building blocks | HW#1 due | 3.1 – 3.3 |
| Feb.12 | Mineral properties and classification | <i>Quiz #3</i> | 3.4 – 3.5 |
| Feb.14 | MIDTERM #1 | | |
| Feb.19 | Magma and igneous rocks | | Ch. 4 |
| Feb.21 | Volcanoes <i>*online*</i> | <i>Quiz #4</i> | 5.1 – 5.4 |
| Feb.26 | Sedimentary rocks | | 6.1 – 6.3 |
| Feb.28 | Depositional environments | <i>Quiz #5</i> | 6.4 – 6.5 |
| Mar.5 | Metamorphic rocks | HW#2 due | Ch. 7 |
| Mar.7 | The rock cycle | | Interlude C |
| Mar.12 | MIDTERM #2 | | |
| Mar.14 | Faults | | 8.1 – 8.2 |
| Mar.19 | Earthquakes <i>*online*</i> | <i>Quiz #6</i> | 8.3 – 8.6 |
| Mar.21 | Stress and strain | HW#3 (3/23 trip) | |
| Mar.26 | Deformation and mountain building | | Ch. 9 |
| Mar.28 | Geologic time and relative age | <i>Quiz #7</i> | 10.1 – 10.6 |
| Apr.2 | Absolute age and the timescale | | 10.7 – 10.8 |
| Apr.4 | MIDTERM #3 | | |
| Apr.9 | SPRING BREAK | | |
| Apr.11 | SPRING BREAK | | |
| Apr.16 | Energy resources | | 12.1 – 12.4 |
| Apr.18 | Landslides and mass wasting | HW#4 due | Ch. 13 |
| Apr.23 | Groundwater | | 16.1 – 16.4 |
| Apr.25 | <i>Fluvial systems *online*</i> | <i>Quiz #8</i> | Ch. 14 |
| Apr.30 | Colorado River | | |
| May 2 | Global change <i>*online*</i> | HW#5 due | 19.1 – 19.4 |
| May 7 | Global change | <i>Quiz #9</i> | 19.5 – 19.6 |
| May 9 | LAST DAY OF CLASS | | |
| May 16 | MIDTERM #4 (FINAL EXAM) | 8 – 10 am CH 5122 | |

