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

**Fall 2011**

**Instructor: Martha Peggye Ahlstrom**

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| **Office hours:** | LO 1224 on Mondays: 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Other times available by appointment. |
| **Phone:** | Office/818-677-2039; Department office/818-677-3541 |
| **Email:** | martha.ahlstrom.50@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 five 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. Several of the labs require your group moving from station to station; this is part of the lab group participation. 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 two optional extra-credit field trips. One 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 about $5.00 for students. The other is 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 a field trip can earn a **maximum** of 20 points. |
| **Lab exams**: | There will be two exams. Each is worth 50 points. **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 20 points. In addition, the Lab 7 paper is worth 20 pts. The attendance and participation in Lab 7 is worth 20 pts. If you miss Lab 7, you are still responsible for the writing assignment and posting your written assignment on time. Quizzes are worth 10 points each.

**NO GRADE OF INCOMPLETE WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE.**

**Adding or Dropping: Weeks 1-3.**

**Adding a class:** Students can add a class from August 29-September 16 through SOLAR if they have been issued a permission number for the class.

**Dropping a class:** Students can drop a class from August 29-September 16 through SOLAR. No permission number is needed.

**THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Unforeseen circumstances during the semester might require changes to the syllabus. In this event, a revised syllabus will be posted to Moodle at least one week in advance of the implementation of the change. The original syllabus will remain and the revised syllabus will identified by the date of the revision as part of the file name. Dates of examinations will never be moved forward.

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| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| August 29 and 30 | Introduction and review of syllabus |
| Sept. 5 and 6 | Labor Day – **No Class** |
| Sept. 12 and 13 | Lab 1. Properties of sediment grains, Part 1 |
| Sept. 19 and 20 | Lab 2. Properties of sediment grains, Part 2 |
| **September 23**  **4 pm** | **LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES. NO DROPS WILL BE PERMITTED AFTER THIS DATE UNLESS DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED OF A SERIOUS REASON THAT CAME ABOUT AFTER September 23** |
| Sept. 26 and 27 | Lab 3. Sedimentary rocks, Part 1: Detrital sedimentary rocks and depositional environments |
| October 3 and 4 | Lab 4. Sedimentary rocks, Part 2: Chemical and biochemical rocks and depositional environments  ***You will receive your assignment to prepare for Lab 7.*** |
| October 10 and 11 | Lab 5. Sea level change in the Los Angeles Area  **Sign up for** **optional field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium field trip.** |
| October 17 and 18 | **Exam 1. Concepts from Labs 1-5.**  Lab 6. The Nature of the Fossil Record: Preservation potential and ecological communities**. This lab will be posted on Moodle at the start of the semester and the quiz can be completed anytime before October 30.**  **Deadline to sign up for field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.** |
| October 22, Saturday **Optional field trip** | **Field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.** Transportation will be provided to those who signed up for trip. |
| October 24 and 25 | Lab 7. Earth and life through geologic time. ***Individual written assignments are due and must be posted on Moodle.*** |
| Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 | Lab 8. Major Invertebrate Fossil Groups |
| November 7 and 8 | Lab 9: Dinosaurs |
| November 14 and 15 | Lab 10: Mammal skulls |
| November 21 and 22 | Thanksgiving Break - **No Class** |
| November 28 and 29 | Lab 11: Hominoid skulls |
| December 5 and 6 | **Exam 2 on Labs 6 through 11. This is the last class.** |

# CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Cell phones (talking and texting) and pagers 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.

**Lab will begin promptly at the start of the designated class time. Problems with campus parking and/or traffic situations are not valid excuses for chronic tardiness. As noted above, lateness will result in lost points on lab reports.**

# 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.