Instructor:  Karen Savage  
Phone:  (818) 677-2511  Office: Live oak Hall 1214, Office Hours:  12:30-2:00pm Tu and by appointment  
Email:  karen.savage@csun.edu  
Meeting Time:  TuTh 9:30am-10:45am

Textbook:  Essentials of Geology, 5th edition;  by Marshak  (buy the text and/or ebook).  It is required.

Course Objectives:
Geology of Planet Earth is a general survey course on the science of the Earth. The course is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of your natural surroundings so that you may better enjoy them and make informed decisions about the myriad of problems facing your physical environment. When you have completed this course you will have gained a basic understanding of Earth materials (minerals and rocks) and of Earth processes such as plate tectonic theory. You will have learned about resources derived from the environment (fossil fuels and mineral ores) and hazards inherent in that same environment including earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides. You will understand how Geology applies to you as a resident of southern California and the world. The level of difficulty of the material presented is appropriate for a college freshman who is not a science major, thus anyone in the course should be able to earn a C or better if willing to put in the necessary study time. Most students find that they earn better grades when they participate in study groups and complete extra credit activities.

Geology is experiencing a boom-time growth surge in the areas of engineering geology, environmental geology, and groundwater geology, and there are many jobs available here in southern California and other places. The twin issues of energy and environment are critical to the world and are likely to remain so for many years to come. So if this course interests you, you may want to consider geology for your future career.

Student learning outcomes:
• Comprehend, interpret and analyze written, oral and graphical information in applying the scientific method to problems in natural science.
• Differentiate among the major rock forming minerals through their physical properties
• Identify the three main rock types (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks) and place the processes of their formation in the context of the rock cycle model.
• Evaluate the logic, validity and relevance of information in assessing evidence in plate tectonic theory and the evolution of Earth.

Tentative Schedule:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23, 25</td>
<td>Introduction to Geology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 30, Feb 1</td>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Feb 6, 8</td>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13, 15</td>
<td>Magma and Igneous Rocks</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Feb 20, 22</td>
<td>Volcanic Eruptions</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27, Mar 1</td>
<td>Sedimentary Rocks,  Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 6, 8</td>
<td>Metamorphic Rocks</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 13, 15</td>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 20, 22</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar 27, 29</td>
<td>Geologic Structures</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 3, 5</td>
<td>How old is Old?</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Apr 10, 12</td>
<td>Energy and Mineral Resources,  Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Apr 17, 19</td>
<td>Mass Wasting</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Apr 24, 26</td>
<td>Streams and Flooding</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>May 1, 3</td>
<td>Groundwater</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>May 8, 10</td>
<td>Global Change in the Earth System</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Exam 3 (Final),  (Chapters 12, 13, 14, 16, 19) 8-10am</td>
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I do not accept late work!

The three exams will cover only the 5 chapters that precede them in the schedule. The final is semi-cumulative. They consist of multiple-choice, true-false and fill-in-the-blank questions. (20% for each exam)

Quizzes: Chapter quizzes will be given on Canvas. They will be available for no more than a week. They will help you prepare for the exams. (20%)

Homework: There will be occasions when homework is assigned. You will submit the homework assignments on Canvas by answering some key questions to receive credit for these assignments (15%)

In-class Assignments: There will be some assignments that will take place in class. The only way to get credit for these assignments is to be in class at the time they are assigned. I will give you a warning of the in-class exercises the class before it is assigned. (5%)

Class Attendance is mandatory based on the strong correlations between student grades and GPA in association with class attendance1. This class will primarily be based off lecture and discussions during the semester. There will be an attendance sheet passed around during each class. Please note that it is considered CHEATING if you sign in for someone who is not there. No make-up tests, or graded materials will be granted. If you have an outstanding circumstance that you think is reasonable to forgo this rule that can be documented (e.g. valid doctor’s note or jury summons), come see me.

Exam schedule and breakdown of semester grade:

Exam 1    Mar 1    20%
Exam 2    Apr 12    20%
Exam 3 (Final)    May 15    20%
Quizzes on Canvas    20%
Homework    15%
In-Class exercises    5%

Grading Scale:
100-93.5=A, 93.4-90=A-, 89.4-86.5=B+, 86.4-83.5=B, 83.4-80=B-, 79.4-76.5=C+, 76.4-73.5=C, 73.4-70=C-, 69.4-66.5=D+, 66.4-63.5=D, 63.4-60=D-, ≤59.4=F

Dropping - Read the Schedule of Classes. If you decide that you don’t want to continue with this course, you must drop the class— you will not be automatically dropped if you simply stop doing the work.

Electronic Devices have recently been under scrutiny for optimal learning and fostering or improving learning retention. Unfortunately, electronic devices fail this scrutiny, and as such will not be allowed in the classroom2. If you have a valid reason to forgo this rule, come see me.

Practice exams have been demonstrated to increase retention and learning outcomes along with self-quizzing3,4. As such, I have provided practice exams and questions that can be used to test your current level of knowledge. Be forewarned, however, that each exam I write is customized for each class I have. This means that the questions you get through the practice material may, or may not, end up on an exam or on an in class exercise.

Additional Information- I adhere to CSUN’s policy on academic dishonesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in the assignment of a zero for the exam and notification to the Dean of Students, which may result in disciplinary action. Plagiarism is knowingly representing work done by others as one’s own. See the policy at http://catalog.csun.edu/policies/academic-dishonesty/

Other Key Points– Your grade is non-negotiable. It is your job to do the work assigned on time and to take notes from lectures and study for each exam. You do not receive points for attending class, although regular attendance is necessary for you to make a passing grade. You will get all your work back graded and this will allow you to keep up with your grade during the semester. I give you the percentage that each assignment/exam type is worth with for the semester. It is your job to calculate your grade from the information I have given you in this syllabus. This allows you to know what your grade is at any time during the semester without asking me. If you would like to see me during the semester, that is what my office
hours are for and I will gladly work with you on how to study more effectively to obtain higher grades. By the last few weeks of class, it is too late to consult on changing your grades. I do not give you a grade, you earn it.

It is the responsibility of each student in this course to know and follow all written guidance given by the instructor in this class. These policies and schedules are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

References:

After you have read and understand the requirements set out for this course, Geol 101, please sign the bottom of this page and return to your instructor, as soon as possible.

Cut on the line below:

________________________________________________________________________

I, ___________________________________________ (print your name), have read and understand the syllabus for Geol 101 (#17865). As the syllabus for any class is a contract between the instructor and student, I agree and sign this contract with Karen Savage, stating that I fully understand what is expected of me in order to make a passing grade for this course, spring semester 2018.

Signed _______________________________  Date _______________________________