GEOL 107/107L Syllabus
Fall 2018: Sections 20386 & 20388

Instructor Jenna Fleck for Lecture (jenna.fleck@csun.edu) Virtual office hours: M/Th 7:30-8:30pm through email or Canvas conference (if needed)

Instructor Massis Agop for Lab Activities and Assignments Office hours: By appointment W/F in LO 1229.

Course Objectives
Geology Goes Hollywood will explore in depth issues of Earth science that impact society, particularly ones that important to the residents of southern California. The course will examine how these issues are viewed the lens of movies and television and this can enhance or distort an understanding of the science that underlies these issues. This course is designed to allow you to: 1) apply and strengthen critical thinking skills by analyzing information and ideas carefully and logically from multiple perspectives to develop reasoned conclusions, 2) apply the scientific method to be an effective problem solver, 3) connect concepts of earth science to their impact on local and global environments and human society, and 4) distinguish science from pseudoscience. In sum, this course will help you to make informed decisions about the myriad of problems facing your physical environment. You will understand how earth science applies to you as a resident of southern California and the world.

Deadlines
Staying on-time is always a challenge in an online course. During every week of the semester, we have one to two deadlines. Most assignments will be due: **Sunday at 10 pm**
With an occasional mid-week (usually Wed by 10pm) due date because of group work and needing answers for the next assignment.
The course page on Canvas is divided up into sections for each week. Within each week there is a header for each deadline. You must complete all the items listed on Canvas beneath each deadline by 10 pm on the day shown. For some items, you can work up to several weeks ahead. But for others that involve discussion and team collaboration, you won’t be able to get too far ahead and may need to devote time after one 10 pm deadline but before the next one.
*Make sure to be using the "Modules" link on the left side of our CANVAS home page when looking for assignment due dates.

Time Investment
This is a 3 unit lecture + 1 unit lab combined course. In a traditional face-to-face class, we would schedule to have you in class for 5.25 hours per week plus
assign an additional 4+ hours of homework per week. You should expect your
time investment in this online course to match that time commitment.

Late Assignments
Late assignments are not accepted. In this online course, you will need to be
very diligent about meeting each and every deadline. All deadlines are listed on
Canvas.

Grades
Because the lecture and lab components of the course are intertwined, you will
be assigned one grade for the single online experience of GEOL 107 and GEOL
107/L. The grades on your transcript for the two classes will be identical. During
the semester, we encourage you to think of the two courses as a single ‘class.’

Types of Assignments
There are four main categories of assignments:

1) Movie Quizzes
   
   **Motivation:** To ensure that you see some of the key details in the movies.
   **Process:** There will be a 5-15 question multiple choice quiz on Canvas.
   Different students will receive different questions drawn from a
   random pool. Some of the questions are very specific, so you may
   open the quiz and view the questions before you begin watching
   the movie. Before the deadline, you can open and close the quiz
   questions as many times as you like without submitting.
   **Grading:** There are about 12 movie quizzes during the semester that are
   auto-scored by Canvas. We drop the one lowest movie quiz score.
   You can review the questions you answered correctly and the
   questions you answered wrong AFTER the quiz closing deadline.

2) Activities
   
   **Motivation:** Activity assignments engage you in actual data analysis and
   interpretations along with your teammates.
   **Process:** There will be approximately one online activity assignment every
   week. Each activity is different, but they usually involve analyzing a
   data set individually, submitting your work either to Canvas or
   using Google Docs, and then either collaboratively discussing the
   results with your team or critically evaluating the work of your
   peers.
   **Grading:** Each activity assignment will include specific grading criteria.
   We drop the one lowest lab activity score.
3) Participation in online discussions

Motivation: Students succeed best when they feel a part of a community of learners. We strive to create that community even in this online course.

Process: We utilize a variety of online tools to enable collaboration, including Canvas discussion forums, an amazing service called VoiceThread, and collaborative online documents through Google Drive. See the separate section below about online access requirements. Nearly every deadline has a requirement for participation in the online discussions.

Grading: Each deadline, we specify the details of the minimum involvement. Meet those and you will get full credit. We will drop the two lowest participation scores (out of about 20 of them).

4) End of Unit Quizzes

Motivation: To ensure that you are retaining key ideas and able to perform the course objectives, we have a quiz at the end of each topic.

Process: There are five total units in the course, so expect an End-of-Unit quiz due at the end of each unit (about every three weeks). Quizzes will be “open world” (the online, modern equivalent of open-book where you can use any published internet resource you want to answer questions – consulting with other people in the class or outside it, or accessing materials specifically designed for cheating in this course are violations of this policy). They will also be timed to minimize cheating.

Grading: Most questions will be auto-scored by Canvas, though essay questions will require individual grading. Those questions will show up as a zero score until the instructor assigns a grade to them, so please be patient!

Grading Scales and Weights
We will calculate your grade using the categories in the table below. Numbers in parentheses indicate what portion of that category is based on your individual score versus team scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movie quizzes (approximately weekly)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-Unit Quizzes (5 per semester)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in online discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plus-minus grading will be utilized for this course based on converting the course average to grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>0.0</th>
<th>0.0</th>
<th>0.0</th>
<th>0.0</th>
<th>0.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>87.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.0</td>
<td>77.0</td>
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<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>73.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rounding: Canvas tracks grades to 5 decimal places and will assign letter grades based on those values. No further rounding will occur.

**No Extra credit.** Extra credit is not a part of this course design and there will be no extra credit projects or assignments. Your task as students is to take full advantage of the formal requirements in the course to score as high as possible. There is one exception to this rule -- we will give extra credit for assembling an earthquake kit!

**Final Exam**
There is no final exam in this course. A culminating project is assigned during the finals week.

**Principles of Sustainability (PS) GE Pathway**
GE Pathways were developed at CSUN to give students a common theme to their general education courses. This course is part of the Principles of Sustainability Pathway. Sustainability is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report, 1987). The goal of this pathway is to broadly expose students about the fundamental concepts of sustainability including economic, environmental, and social aspects. It is designed to supplement education in other disciplines and to provide knowledge of the considerations necessary to make decisions in a world where resources are limited. To learn more about the GE Paths go to the website [http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/ge-paths/courses-and-faculty-path](http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/ge-paths/courses-and-faculty-path)

If you are interested in pursuing sustainability beyond the GE level, you can also learn about a minor in Sustainability or the Sustainability track of the General Studies option of the Liberal Studies major. Talk to Professor d’Alessio directly if you want to learn more!
**Academic dishonesty, copying, cheating**

*Be very mindful of your academic integrity! In the past, I have typically referred several cases to the VP of Student affairs each semester. Please help me and you avoid that process...*

I expect high standards of academic integrity from future teachers so there is a **zero-tolerance rule** for academic dishonesty in this class. I will refer all cases of academic dishonesty (including copying, allowing others to copy your work, plagiarism, failing to cite your source, copying/pasting text from the internet even with modifications, misrepresentation of others’ work as your own, etc.) to the VP of Student Affairs' office for arbitration and possible disciplinary action. The first offense will result in, *at minimum*, the reduction of your final grade by one partial letter grade (A- becomes B+), the second offense will result in an F for the class. It is not worth the risk to cheat or let someone copy your work in this class.

"Incomplete", Withdrawal from the Course, Change Of Grade, Dropping

Faculty in our department adhere to the "incomplete" and "withdrawal" policies and deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. Grades of Incomplete are almost never given for this course. They can only if be given if the student meets ALL the requirements set forth in University policy for Incompletes, including that the student:

- Has a passing grade in the work completed
- Has completed a substantial portion of the work in the course
- Is able to complete the remaining work independently, with minimal assistance from the instructor.

**Required online access**

Throughout the semester, please use your @my.csun.edu email address whenever we ask you to enter your email. This will ensure that we can import things into the gradebook quicker so you can stay up-to-date on your score. All course announcements and email are sent to the @my.csun.edu account, so please make sure to check it often.

You will need access to the following online services:

- **Canvas**: Reading, tutorials, quizzes, videos
- **Google Drive**: Work together with teams on documents & presentations
- **VoiceThread**: Online discussions
- **iTunes, Amazon, OR NetFlix**: Rent or purchase movies

 CSUN account
 @my.csun.edu account
 Link directly from Canvas
 Separate **paid** account required
Required Materials
There is no textbook required in this course, so we hope that the modest cost associated with renting some of these movies is reasonable. This chart shows which movies we’ll watch, the date you should have finished watching them, and places you can find them. Our Moodle page has this same information with direct links to each movie. Watching the films is required. A quiz follows each movie and some questions are very specific. You’ll want to take notes!