GEOL 107 Course Policies

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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 three deadlines:

Monday at 10 pm       Wednesday at 10 pm       Friday at 10 pm

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.

**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:

- Movie Quizzes
- Participation in Discussion
- Activities
- End-Of-Unit Quizzes
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.

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>Weight</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>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0-85.99999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0-75.99999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-69.99999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</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

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!