
GEOL 1121k

Introductory Geosciences I

Fall 2015

[MW: 1:30-2:45 pm] Petit Science Center
255

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Office Hours: Friday 9-noon or by
appointment

Overview

Earth is a dynamic planet. The processes that cause change within or on the Earth are the focus of this course. Processes discussed include rock formation, volcanism, folding and faulting, earthquakes, and plate tectonics. The concept of **scale** is a key theme of this course. Even though some of the geologic processes presented occur on a global scale, evidence for each can be found (in many cases) in outcrop or hand sample scale.

In this course, you will learn how to identify the effects of geologic processes. Some geologic processes can't be readily observed while in progress, but have an expression that confirms their existence (again a matter of scale). You'll be taught how to use surface expressions to infer the processes that created them.

Goal

- to help you to develop an appreciation of how science in general -- and geology in particular -- these sciences are conducted to advance knowledge of the natural world.

We use Brightspace -- a courseware system -- for this class. So, to see all class slides with all assignment due-dates, you must register and go to the class web page. To do this, simply go to <https://gsu.view.usg.edu> -- you will find instructions on how to register and access the class page.

Topics Covered and Tentative dates

The right side panel of this syllabus provides the topics covered each week as well as the tentative dates when we will cover them and the reading assignments in parentheses. You should use the calendar provided on this syllabus only as a guide. **It is your responsibility to consult the updated syllabus versions that will be posted regularly in the BrightSpace site.**

Materials

- We use the text *Essentials of Geology* 4th edition (by Marshak).

Milestones

Aug 24

Class Begins. Prelude (textbook).
In-class Handouts

Aug 26

Interlude D (textbook) and Ch 1.
In-class Handouts

Aug 31

Labs Start this week. NO CLASS

Sept 02

Ch. 1
In-class Handouts

Sept 7

LABOR DAY, NO CLASS

Sept 9

Interlude A. (textbook).
And Ch. 3
In-class Handouts

Sept 14

Ch. 3
In-class Handouts

How class is Taught

This class is taught in a lecture format. However, whenever possible we will have sessions with focused, intense, student activity. Reading assignments are frequent. Expect to have quizzes every lesson. In some instances, I may decide to show a short film about the topic that we are covering that week. This film will be associated with a series of questions that you must handout at the end of the class lecture. You will not get these questions back, however **they will be added to your quiz and in-class work grade.**

Why Teach This Way?

Many studies have shown that students learn best by doing things (active learning) instead of just listening (passive learning). This is the reason why numerous quizzes, exercises and homework are extensively used in my class.

Spiral Learning

This class also involves spiral learning. That means we will cover topics more than once, returning to them several times and in different contexts. The basic order of topics follows the textbook but we will discuss the key principles many times.

Reading Assignments

In addition to the text for this course, the instructor will provide many handouts and supplemental information pertinent to specific class activities. You are expected to read them on your own. **The instructor will NOT give lectures that just repeat what is in the books.** Instead, I will talk about things that you identify as being areas of confusion.

All reading assignments will have homework or quiz associated with them. **The instructor will let you know if there is homework, and when is the homework due.**

Sept 16
Ch. 3
EXAM I

Sept 21
Ch.2
In-class Handouts

Sept 23
Ch.2
In-class Handouts

Sept 28
Ch. 4
In-class Handouts

Sept 30
Ch.4
In-class Handouts

Oct 5
Interlude B (textbook).
In-class Handouts

Oct 7
EXAM II

Oct 12
Ch. 7
In-class Handouts

Assessment

There will be four in class exams, however, the grade on the lowest one will be dropped if it is higher than 50%.

Exams: 60 %

In class Activities, Homework and Participation: 20%

Lab: 20%

Grade boundaries will be drawn as follows:

>96=A+, 94.0 – 96 =A, 90.0-93.9=A-, 86-89.9=B+, 82.0 - 85.9=B, 80 - 81.9=B-, 76 -79.9= C+, 72.0 – 75.9.=C, 70 – 71.9=C-, 60.0-69.9=D, <60=F

Attendance and class activities

According to the Georgia State University undergraduate catalog, class attendance is expected; failure to attend classes regularly may result in poor course performance. The university requires instructors to verify attendance early in the term. Failure to attend classes may result in you not appearing on the *Verification Roll* and being dropped from the class. Please see section 1334 of the catalog at http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html, and click on the appropriate catalog link to read about attendance policy (posted as a .pdf file).

The in-class activities and participation portion of the grade requires that: (1) students attend ALL class sessions and arrive on time. Please do your best to attend regularly and get notes from a friend for missed lectures. We will tend to cover quite a bit of material each day. (2) Additionally, we will frequently conduct in-class exercises, for which you will receive credit. (3) Students are asked to participate during lecture as much as possible.

Make up Exams

The only acceptable reasons for rescheduling an exam are having a conflicting exam, medical emergency, jury summons, or military duty. No make-up exams will be offered for any other reason. It is impossible to create an equivalent experience without placing the student at either an advantaged or disadvantaged status. You must inform your instructors in advance, if you will be unable to take an exam at the scheduled date and time. All excuses must be documented.

For ANY reason, **you must contact the instructors ahead of the exam.** No accommodations will be made after an exam is missed regardless of the reason, if no communication occurs ahead of time.

Incomplete: A student who, due to exceptional circumstances (e.g., a death in the immediate family or hospitalization), has a passing grade (C or better) and cannot complete the course (all but ONE deliverable) may qualify to receive a grade of “I” (see General Catalogue for additional detail).

Oct 14

Ch. 7

In-class Handouts

Oct 19

Ch. 5

In-class Handouts

Oct 21

Ch. 5

In-class Handouts

Oct 26

Ch. 9

In-class Handouts

Oct 28

Ch.9

In-class Handouts

Nov 2

EXAM III

Nov 4

Ch 8.

In-class Handouts

Nov 9

Ch 8.

In-class Handouts

Nov 11

Ch.10

In class handouts

Nov 16

Ch.10

In class handouts

Nov 18

Ch.19

In class handouts

Some other Rules

- Turn your cell phones to silent mode during class and keep them off the desk. **Text messaging is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.**
- Food is prohibited in class and drinks are allowed only on appropriate closed containers.

Learning Disabilities: Students with special needs that have been certified by the Disability Services office must **notify the instructors immediately** (week 1 of class) in order for accommodation to be made in ULearn and instruction.

Students with Disabilities: Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services, located in Suite 230 of the New Student Center. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Academic Honesty: As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The university assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. Both the ideals of scholarship and the need for fairness require that all dishonest work be rejected as a basis for academic credit. They also require that students refrain from any and all forms of dishonorable or unethical conduct related to their academic work.

Students who do not follow these honorable guidelines will be handled in a manner explained in the Georgia State University catalog. Please read the Section 409: Policy on Academic Honesty, and be honest in your submissions for this course.

All students are required to be familiar with the Academic Honesty policy of the university and to comply with the policy. This can be found in section 1380 of the undergraduate catalog.

Course Feedback: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. We welcome comments or questions regarding the course material and presentation at any time. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation so the course instruction may continue to improve.

Nov 23

Thanks Giving

Nov 25

Thanksgiving

Nov 30

EXAM IV

Nov 30

LAST DAY

Labs (All labs held in Kell Hall Rm. 300):

Your laboratory grade will count 20% of the final course grade. Students must take all laboratory examinations and must attain an average of at least 50% on all laboratory work to pass the course.

A Few Useful links

<http://www.academictips.org/acad/literature/notetaking.html>

<http://www.collegetips.com/college-classes/study-tips.php>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/09/08/study-tips-for-college-n_709096.html#s136119