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# GEOL 1122K

## Introductory Geosciences II

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Spring 2015  
107 Aderhold 12:00 pm-1:15 pm MW

Instructor: Dr. Paulo J. Hidalgo  
E-Mail: use **D2L only**  
Office: 342 Sparks Hall  
Department of Geosciences

Office Hours: MW: 9-11 am or by appointment

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### Overview

Geology 1122k is the second course of a two-course sequence, which is intended to provide an overview of the important external geologic processes occurring within the planet Earth. Geology 1122k focuses on the geologic processes occurring at the Earth's surface. The recent interest in environmental topics and the limited extent of our resources command us to be more knowledgeable about the planet Earth.

### Goals

- to help you to develop an appreciation of how science in general -- and geology in particular -- are conducted to advance knowledge of the natural world.
- To help you develop scientific communication skills
- To help you develop the ability to work with others on group projects. and, perhaps most importantly.....
- To help you become "intentional learners" by helping you understand what learning is and what you can do to improve learning outcomes.

### D2L

We use DESIRE TO LEARN (D2L) – a courseware system – for this class. All communication should be done using this tool.

### 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 D2L site.**

### Materials

- We use the text Essentials of Geology 4<sup>th</sup> edition (by Marshak).

### Milestones

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Jan 12

Class Begins, Interlude B, weathering

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Jan 14

Chapter 6: Sedimentary Rocks

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Jan 19

No class, University holiday

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Jan 19

**Labs Begin Second week of Class**

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Jan 21

Chapter 6: Sedimentary Rocks

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Jan 26

Interlude E: Fossils and Evolution

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Jan 28

Chapter 10: Deep time

## How class is Taught

This class is taught in a hands-on format. Whenever possible we will have sessions with focused, intense, student activity. Homework and reading assignments are frequent. Expect to have a quiz at the before 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 overall quiz 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 reading 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 (Geotours) or quiz associated with them. **The instructor will let you know if there is a homework, and when is the homework due.**

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Feb 01

Chapter 10: Deep time

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Feb 03

Chapter 11: Biography of the Earth

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Feb 09

Chapter 11: Biography of the Earth

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Feb 11

Interlude F

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Feb 16

**EXAM I**

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Feb 18

Slopes and their failure (Ch 13)

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Feb 23

Slopes and their failure (Ch 13)

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Feb 25

Streams and Rivers I (Ch 14)

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March 02

Streams and Rivers I (Ch 14)

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Mar 04

Coastal Environments I (Ch 15)

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Mar 09

Coastal Environments I (Ch 15)

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Mar 16-22

**Spring Break**

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Mar 25

**Exam II**

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Mar 23

Groundwater (Ch 16)

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Mar 30

Ch 16

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## Online book content and Geotours

In order to maximize your investment, we will extensively use the book online material. The structure of the publisher's site uses contemporary pedagogical techniques to help you strengthen your study habits. The website address is indicated in the book links section at the end of this syllabus. The site is organized into 3 parts: **Organize**, **Learn** and **Connect**. **Organize** and **Learn** sections will help you to study and read the chapter effectively as well as providing excellent animations that will clarify complex topics. The **Connect** section will be part of the routine homework that you will have to work on almost every week. In the book links section of this syllabus, you can find instructions on how to install geotours and links on how to send the results and answers of your homework to the instructor. It will be necessary to install first Google Earth.

## Assessment

There will be three in-class exams and no final during the semester.

Exams: 20 % each x 3= 60%

In class Activities (quizzes) and Homework: 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](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.

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Apr 01

Desert and wind Processes (Ch 17)

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Apr 06

Desert and wind Processes (Ch 17)

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Apr 08

Glaciers and climate change (Ch 18)

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Apr 13

Glaciers and climate change (Ch 18)

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Apr 15

Earth Resources and Earth Systems (Ch 12)

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Apr 20

Global Change (Ch 19)

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Apr 22

Global Change (Ch 19)

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Apr 27

LAST EXAM

## 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)

## 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.
- Remove ear buds, headphones or other distractions.
- 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. I 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.

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

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

#### **Book links:**

Online book material: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/egeo3/welcome.aspx>

How to send the results of your first online Home work:  
<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/egeo3/welcome.aspx>

#### **Geotours installation instructions and assignments:**

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/egeo3/GeoTours.aspx>

#### **Smartwork**

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/essgeo4/smartwork.aspx>