

**Fall 2007**  
**PHS 180 - Evolution of the Earth Lecture**  
**Kirkwood Community College**  
**Iowa City Campus**

**Instructor:** John Dawson

**Office:** Room 210 Iowa City Campus

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**OFFICE HOURS:** M & F 1:00 – 2:00 pm,

T 1:00-2:00 pm,

T & Th 9:00 – 10:00 am;

**I'm always willing to meet with students outside of class. That's what I'm here for! Feel free to drop by to see me or you can always arrange a time to meet with me**

**Lecture:** 9:00-9:50 AM MWF, 3 credit hours.

**Room:** 158 Iowa City Campus

**Synonym & Section Number:** 051916 PHS-180-ICF01

**Text:** Earth System History, 2005, 2nd ed. – Stanley.

**Course Materials and Updates are in CE6:** <http://www.kirkwood.edu/elearning/>

**Course Description:**

Considers interdisciplinary principles, techniques and methods essential to the interpretation of the geological history of the earth. The development of plate tectonics and continental drift through geological time and the progression and evolution of life from Pre-Cambrian time to present time are also examined.

**General Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Learn about science:
  - i) Gain knowledge of basic science principles and theories.
  - ii) Develop a scientific vocabulary.
  - iii) Become comfortable with science and dealing with science issues.
- 2) Practice scientific skills:
  - i) Know how to identify key variables, develop models, and carry-out solutions
  - ii) Practice logical thinking skills.
  - iii) Use scientific reasoning to evaluate real world issues.
- 3) Practice college level study skills:
  - i) Be able to take usable notes from a lecture setting.
  - ii) Know how you best learn new material, and use that to your advantage.
  - iii) Identify your weak areas, and develop strategies to strengthen them.

**Lab:** You are not required to take both the lecture and laboratory portions of this course. However, it is suggested that you take the lab also, since you will have a chance to re-enforce concepts with hands on activities.

**Student Success at Kirkwood:**

The best suggestions for success are: 1) attend class, 2) do homework and reading assignments, 3) take and use notes, and 4) ask questions.

**General Attendance Policy:**

I expect you to attend every class. You will be responsible for all of the material covered, so if you miss a class you better get a copy of the notes from one of your peers. In my experience, poor attendance

generally means poor performance. Some assignments require your attendance in order to get credit for them – please see the make-up policy below.

### **General Learning environment Expectations:**

Please try to be on time and plan on being in class the entire time. Reading should be done ahead of each class so that we can have fruitful discussions about the daily topics. I WILL RANDOMLY CALL ON STUDENTS – be prepared to answer my questions. Please respect those students sitting around you in class – WHEN I AM LECTURING, YOU SHOULD NOT BE TALKING. I will dismiss students from class that are disruptive. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must be turned off (no texting!). No food or drink in the environmental science lab. Do not turn on the computers in the lab, unless I have given you permission.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Course evaluation will be based on quizzes, homework assignments, short in-class essays, and exams. +/- grading will be used. Final grades will be based on the total points obtained at the end of the semester out of the total available points. A grading curve will be applied if **absolutely** necessary and only at the end of the semester.

**Homework:** Homework is designed to help you learn the material outside of class and at your own pace. The majority of the homework assignments will be online through CE6. Additional homework assignments may be assigned randomly during the semester.

### **In-Class Essays:**

There are two in-class essays in this course. For these essays you will be asked to answer a question in 2 to 3 pages during the class period. You will be graded on having a well formulated and thorough argument that uses the correct geologic terms and concepts while answering the questions. I will give you more information about the essays in class. See schedule below for dates of essays.

### **Daily In-Class Activities:**

In-class activities could be the form of short quizzes, movie worksheets, group work, exam review activity, or some other graded activity. These activities will serve as an opportunity for you to get immediate feedback from your instructor to identify areas of strength and weakness with the material. This will also serve as a way to break up the boring lecture routine.

### **Exams:**

Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exam dates are listed on the syllabus. I will only apply grading curves to the exams at the end of the semester if necessary.

### **Make-ups:**

- Exams: Make-ups for exams will be allowed for reasonable and verifiable excuses. Examples of reasonable excuses are: medical emergency, family death, illness that requires doctor's care. I will not allow a make-up for any unreasonable excuse. You will be given 2 class periods to make up the exam and you must take the exam in the Test Center. I reserve the right not to allow a student a make-up for an exam if they have already been granted a make-up exam during the semester.
- Daily In-Class Activities: Make-up will NOT be allowed for in-class activities. However, only 80% of them will count as part of your grade. The last 20% of the total possible points will be used as extra credit.
- In-Class Essays: You will be allowed to make-up **one** of the two essays in the test center for a reasonable and verifiable excuse. I reserve the right to refuse you a make-up for both essays.
- Homework: Homework assignments will not be accepted late unless there is some issue that is out of the control of the student (such as CE6 crashing).

**Grade Breakdown:**

In-Class Activities: approximately 200 points total.

Homework: approximately 200 points total.

In-Class Essays: 50 points each (100 points total)

Exams 1 & 2: 150 pts each (300 total)

Final Exam: 200 pts

**Total Possible Points: approximately 1000 pts.**

**Note:** Your final grade will be based on the total points you obtain out of the total points possible. This is only an estimate of the number of points possible.

**Grade distribution:**

A = 100-93%, A- = 92-90%; B+ = 89-87%; B = 86-83%; B- = 82-80%; C+ = 79-77%;

C = 76-73%; C- = 72-70%; D+ = 69-67%; D = 66-63%; D- = 62-60%; F = < 60%.

**Kirkwood's Class Attendance Policy and College Sponsored Activities:**

**Class Attendance Policy:** Learning is central to our work at Kirkwood Community College. Faculty design educational experiences to facilitate learning and students learn by engaging in those experiences. Attendance and engagement in all scheduled classes is regarded as integral to learning and is expected of all students.

Kirkwood faculty members identify expectations for learning and attendance in their course syllabi. Students are accountable for the learning outcomes for each session, including those sessions that have been missed. Assessments of learning that occur during an absence may or may not be made up, depending on the policies of the instructor and the nature of the absence. Absences that result from participation in college sponsored activities\* will be accommodated, subject to the guidelines listed below. For all other absences, authorization of an excuse is the province of the individual faculty member and subject to the standard appeal process.

***College Sponsored Activities:***

Students involved in activities where they are required to represent the college, i.e. college-sponsored activities, must give written notice to the faculty member at least one week in advance of the absence unless last minute schedule changes make this notice impossible. If regular season athletic schedules have been developed, student participants must present written notice of anticipated absences within the first week of the semester. Failure to provide timely written notice may result in loss of this opportunity.

**Faculty** shall accord students the opportunity to independently make up course work or work of equal value, for the day(s) the event was scheduled and to take a scheduled exam at an alternate time. The faculty member shall determine alternate exam times and due dates for missed coursework. These assigned dates may be prior to the date of the absence.

**Organizers** (coaches, faculty and staff) of college sponsored activities shall 1) assist students in planning class schedules to minimize the number of absences; 2) inform students of their responsibilities as described above; and 3) provide written communications to faculty announcing and verifying the need for student class absences. Written notices should be provided at the beginning of the semester if the schedule is known, or as soon as possible after the need for a student absence is determined.

\* College sponsored activities (excluding practices) include such events as athletic competitions, student academic competitions and conferences, musical and drama performances, and class field trips. Questions on whether an activity is a college-sponsored event for purposes of this policy should be directed to the Vice-President of Instruction. If anticipated absences for a semester appear to be extraordinarily numerous or difficult to accommodate, a faculty member may appeal the need for the full accommodation to the VP of Instruction.

**Kirkwood's View on a Productive Classroom Learning Environment:**

We believe that the best learning takes place in an environment where faculty and students exhibit trust and mutual respect.

Students promote trust by preparing honest and thoughtful work, and by expecting evaluation based on performance. Faculty promote trust by setting clear guidelines for assignments and evaluations, honest feedback, and by assigning bias-free grades.

Students show respect by being prepared and attending class on time, by paying attention, contributing to discussions, listening respectfully to others' points of view, meeting deadlines, and by striving for their best performance. Faculty show respect by their timeliness and preparedness, by taking students seriously, by valuing their goals and aspirations, and by providing honest feedback.

In a productive learning environment, faculty and students work cooperatively, recognize and respect differences, model the values of character and citizenship, and become lifelong learners.

### **Plagiarism Policy:**

According to Webster, to plagiarize is to "steal or pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own... to use created productions without crediting the source... to commit literary theft... to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source."

Kirkwood Students are responsible for authenticating any assignment submitted to an instructor. If asked, you must be able to produce proof that the assignment you submit is actually your own work. Therefore, we recommend that you engage in a verifiable working process on assignments. Keep copies of all drafts of your work, make photocopies of research materials, write summaries of research materials, hang onto Writing Center receipts, keep logs or journals of your work on assignments or papers, learn to save drafts or versions of assignments under individual file names on computer or diskette, etc.

The inability to authenticate your work, should an instructor request it, is a sufficient ground for failing the assignment.

In addition to requiring a student to authenticate his/her work, Kirkwood Community College instructors may employ various other means of ascertaining authenticity – such as engaging in Internet searches, creating quizzes based on student work, requiring students to explain their work and/or process orally, etc.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Students with disabilities who need accommodations to achieve course objectives should file an accommodation application with Student Services and provide a written plan of accommodation to your instructor prior to the accommodation being provided.

### **School Cancellations:**

When Kirkwood classes are cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather, all classes at all locations are cancelled. The announcements will indicate whether the cancellations apply to day or evening classes. The following broadcasters will be notified:

KZIA-FM Z102.9 (Cedar Rapids)  
WMT-AM 600  
KFMW-FM 107.9 (Waterloo)  
KCKK-FM 88.3  
KXIC-AM 800 (Iowa City)  
**KGAN-TV2**  
KCJJ-AM 1630 (Iowa City)  
**KCRG-TV9**  
KSUI-FM 91.7 (Iowa City)

**KWWL-TV7**  
KUNI-FM 90.9 (Cedar Falls)  
KHAK-FM 98.1  
KDAT-FM 104.5  
KCH (Washington)  
KRNA-FM 94.1 (Iowa City)  
KMRY-AM 1450  
KOKZ-FM 105.7 (Waterloo)

**Note:** If we have inclement weather for the final exam, the make-up will be **December 17** unless another arrangement can be made with the instructor.

**Important Dates:**

- In-Class Essays: October 5 and November 16.
- Exams: September 21, October 26, and December 14 (Final Exam).
- November 13: Last day to drop a class from Kirkwood.
- December 7: Last day for complete withdrawal of classes from Kirkwood.
- Final Exam Week: December 10 (Monday) – December 14 (Friday).

**Course Lecture Schedule**

*This is a tentative schedule. The lecture topics may change, but the exam dates will not change. In addition, I may have you read parts of chapters 4, 9, and 10 if needed. I'll keep you updated.*

Week	Lecture Topic	Readings
August 20 (first class is Aug. 22)	Introduction Earth as a System	Ch. 1
August 27	Rocks & Minerals	Ch. 2
September 3	<b>No Class on Monday – College Holiday</b> Diversity of Life	Ch. 3
September 10	Sedimentary Environments	Ch. 5
September 17	Geologic Time Scale and Dating the Rock Record <b>Exam # 1 (Friday, September 21)</b>	Ch. 6
September 24	Evolution and the Fossil Record	Ch. 7
October 1	Plate Tectonics <b>In-Class Essay # 1 (Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Ch. 8
October 8	Early Earth and Life	Ch. 11 & 12
October 15	Early Paleozoic	Ch. 13
October 22	Middle Paleozoic <b>Exam # 2 (Friday, October 26)</b>	Ch. 14
October 29	Late Paleozoic	Ch. 15
November 5	Early Mesozoic	Ch. 16
November 12	Cretaceous World <b>In-Class Essay # 2 (Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Ch. 17
November 19	Early Cenozoic <b>No Class Wednesday &amp; Friday – College Holiday</b>	Ch. 18
November 26	Early Cenozoic	Ch. 18 & 19
December 3	Holocene	Ch. 20
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>(Monday 9-10:50 in our usual room)</b>	