

GEOL 1122K: Introductory Geosciences II
Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University
Sections 010, 015, 020, 025, 030
Spring Semester, 2013
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Christy C. Visaggi, Lecturer (“Dr. V.”)

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Meeting Times: TR at 11:00 am-12:15 pm **Location:** Petit Science Center 101

Office Hours: 1:30-3:00 pm MW, or anytime door is open, or by appointment.

Catalog Description: Broad view of the earth emphasizing external processes including sedimentary environments, hydrological cycle, origin of geological environments, geological dating methods, and an overview of the fossil record through geological time. Three lecture and three laboratory hours a week.

Prerequisites: GEOL 1121K.

Objectives: This course is designed to present a body of knowledge regarding the origin, development, and human interaction with materials in and near the surface of the earth. This knowledge will provide important understanding regarding the origin and evolution of the planet, and will give you a useful perspective on environmental issues of our time.

Required Text: Essentials of Geology, S. Marshak. Third Edition.

Communication: Each student must have access to an on-line computer and is responsible for reading all messages sent to his/her university email address, and especially in *Desire2Learn*. Class changes and/or updates may be conveyed via email and/or communicated in *Desire2Learn*, in which case the student is considered to have been informed.

All students are responsible for checking their university email and *Desire2Learn* daily. If you use another email system, set up email forwarding to your phone or an alternative address to stay informed of course updates. To contact me, use messaging options in *Desire2Learn* and reserve communication to my GSU email address for emergencies only. *Desire2Learn* can be accessed via PAWS.

Grading: The final grade earned in this course will be based on results from three exams, plus laboratory work, homework assignments, participation, and professionalism in class as per the following formula:

Exams (#1, #2, #3)	60%
Lab	20%
Homework	10%
Participation	8%
Professionalism	2%
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Total Grade	100%

Attendance, attention, and preparation for class are **critical** to your success in this course.

- Participation will be based on in-class questions and activities done only in class.
- Exams will be based on material covered in class including, but not limited to the readings in your textbook. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions as well as fill-in-the-blank opportunities featuring diagrams. In-class exams will focus on material covered since the last exam; understanding of prior material may be necessary depending on the subject.
- Professionalism will be based on your respectful interaction with your peers and your instructor. Be considerate. Disruptive behavior is strictly prohibited and is grounds for dismissal. This includes ringing cell phones, wearing headphones, sending emails, texting, and surfing the web. If you are caught using electronic devices (laptops, iPads, etc.) for non-classroom activities, you will be prohibited from using them for the remainder of the semester. Refer to the section on disruptive behavior in the undergraduate catalog (1050.30) and be aware that additional consequences can include withdrawing from the course. There is a zero tolerance policy for violence or harassment of any kind.

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. See section 1334 of the catalog at http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html, and click on the appropriate link to read about attendance policy (posted as a .pdf file).

Lecture & Lab: The lecture and lab for this course are operated independently; however, I've attempted to align our course schedule with content covered in lab where possible to aid in your learning of the material. Your performance in lab is 20% of your final grade for this course. Please read the policies provided on the syllabus from your lab instructor regarding attendance and grading and note that 2 unexcused absences in lab results in failure of the lab section.

Final Exam: The final exam will be OPTIONAL, and it will be COMPREHENSIVE, covering the whole semester. If you choose to take the final, it can replace your lowest regular exam grade. If you score lower on the final than your regular exams, your grade for the final will be discarded (in other words, taking the final can't hurt your grade).

Letter grades will be assigned using the following:

>93	A	77-79	C+
90-92	A-	73-76	C
87-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-86	B	61-69	D
80-82	B-	<60	F

Note: Grades will not be distributed by phone or email.

Make-up Exams: The only acceptable reasons for rescheduling an exam are medical emergency, jury summons, or military duty. Explanations must be documented and notice given to the instructor prior to the exam. Make-up exams will not be offered for any other reason. A zero grade for an exam can be made up by substituting the grade received on the final exam.

Exam Procedures:

- 1) Please bring your Panther ID card and a #2 pencil and good eraser to all exams.
- 2) The instructor reserves the right to seat or move students during exams.
- 3) Personal items must remain on the floor (not on the chair next to you).
- 4) No food (unless necessary for a medical condition) is permitted.
- 5) No hats will be worn during the exam.
- 6) ALL electronic devices must be turned off and stowed.

Exams begin promptly at the start of the class. Late students will NOT be allowed to begin an exam once the first completed exam is handed in and that student leaves the classroom.

Academic Honesty: All students are required to be familiar with the Academic Honesty policy of the university and to comply with it. This can be found in section 1380 of the undergraduate catalog. Violations can include plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsification, cheating on exams, and multiple submissions. Offenses will be reported in accordance with GSU policies for appropriate action.

All exams and assignments must represent your own individual, unaided efforts. Use of unauthorized supplementary materials including electronic devices and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. A student who violates university academic honesty rules on an exam or assignment will receive a zero for that exam or assignment, which cannot be dropped as the lowest grade.

Students who are unethical, dishonest, or do not follow these honorable guidelines will be handled in the manner outlined by the faculty handbook for Georgia State University. Violations of academic dishonesty rules – see the GSU’s Policy on Academic Honesty (section 409) – are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course.

Drop/Withdrawal: All students should be familiar with GSU’s course withdrawal procedures found in section 1332 of the undergraduate catalog. The last day to withdraw with the possibility of receiving a ‘W’ is Tuesday, March 5, 2013. If a student withdraws by this date, but is failing the course, he/she will receive a ‘WF.’ All students who withdraw after this deadline will receive a ‘WF.’

Student Accommodations: Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must bring appropriate documentation to 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.

Learning Disabilities: Students with special needs that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services must notify the instructor immediately (first week of class) in order for accommodation to be made in *Desire2Learn* and instruction.

Georgia State University has a wealth of resources for students to aid in their learning. Please explore your campus options including writing labs, language labs, and tutoring. Don't be afraid to utilize office hours to come and see me if you need help or assistance in clarifying concepts covered in class. I am here to help and guide you in your learning.

How to Succeed: Keep up with assigned reading. Take notes. Get a binder to stay organized. Do not skip class. Ask questions, participate, and be prepared and attentive during lectures. Work ahead of time to meet deadlines. Do not submit work late as it may not be accepted. Utilize time during the day between classes for school work. Study for exams early and minimize cramming. Maintain good communication with your fellow students and the instructor. Speak up if you are confused about concepts. Utilize office hours for individual help. Meet these objectives and you will do well (and enjoy!) class. Geology is a fascinating subject and I look forward to sharing the joys of science with you this semester. ☺

This course is lecture-based, but studies have shown that students learn best by doing (active learning) instead of simply listening (passive learning). Furthermore, it is well known that most students learn best when in groups (cooperative/collaborative learning). I will provide multiple opportunities in lecture to promote discussion of the material to enhance your learning. This provides a means for assessment as well so I can catch any concerns early on regarding the material and address or resolve any confusion. We cover a wide range of topics within this class; it will be difficult to catch up if you miss class or come to class unprepared. Make your best effort day in and day out. I will provide you with a list of learning objectives to help you review for the exams. If you prepare to achieve all of the learning objectives, you will perform well. Embrace learning the material and immerse and engage yourself in class!

This course provides a useful component to your education at GSU by giving you a greater understanding of the world around you... not only interesting, but useful and important for our habitation on Earth.

Course Feedback: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State University. 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 that course instruction may continue to improve. There will be an opportunity for mid-semester evaluation as well.



Date	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Jan 15, 17	<i>Course Introduction</i> Review: Rock Types, Rock Cycle, Weathering, Erosion, Sediments, Soils (Interludes A, B, C)	Review: Sedimentary Rocks & Depositional Environments (Ch. 6)
Jan 22, 24	Hydrologic Cycle & Topographic Maps (Interlude F)	Geology of Streams & Floods (Ch. 14)
Jan 29, 31	Geology of Streams & Floods (Ch. 14)	Groundwater & Karst (Ch. 16)
Feb 5, 7	Groundwater & Karst (Ch. 16)	NO CLASS → WRITING ASSIGNMENT <i>Due: February 26 (In Class & D2L)</i>
Feb 12, 14	Catch-up/Review #1	Exam #1
Feb 19, 21	Glaciers & Ice Ages (Ch. 18)	Glaciers & Ice Ages (Ch. 18)
Feb 26, 28	Oceans & Coasts (Ch. 15)	Oceans & Coasts (Ch.15)
Mar 5, 7	Landslides & Mass Movements (Ch. 13)	Geology of Deserts (Ch. 17)
Mar 12, 14	Catch-up/Review #2	Exam #2
Mar 19, 21	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 26, 28	Review: Universe, Solar System, Earth Formation Planetary Surfaces (TBD)	Geologic Time Scale Absolute & Relative Dating Stratigraphy & Correlation (Ch. 10)
Apr 2, 4	Fossils & Evolution (Interlude E)	Fossils & Evolution (Interlude E)
Apr 9, 11	Biography of Earth (Ch. 11)	Biography of Earth (Ch. 11)
Apr 16, 18	Catch-up/Review #3	Exam #3
Apr 23, 25	Global Changes (Ch. 19)	Geology of Georgia <i>Last Day of Class</i>

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 2, 10:45 am

**Deviations in the schedule may be necessary and
therefore is subject to modification throughout the semester.
Timely updates will be provided as needed.**