

Geology 150 – Earth Revealed

Spring Quarter 2010 (10001, SEC 02)
Hours: S 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Room: PS 158
Webpage: www.geophile.net/College

Instructor: Sonjia Leyva
Office: PS 221, 323-343-2149
Office Hours: S 8:00 - 8:30 AM
Email: sleyva@calstatela.edu

Course Description: Origin and nature of earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, the sea floor, deserts, mountains, and beaches. Students may choose either classroom or field trip laboratory. Lecture 3 Hours. Partially satisfies G.E. block B2 requirement (must take concurrently with a laboratory)

Course Objectives: This general geology class is an introduction to minerals, rocks, maps and plate tectonics. Minerals are the basic building blocks of rocks and to geologists rocks are the keys to understanding Earth's history and the rock-forming processes that operate within the Earth and on its surface. At the end of this course students should be able to identify major rock types and minerals, in addition to understanding and identifying natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, mass wasting, etc.

Text & Materials: Visualizing Geology, 2/e by Murck, Skinner & Mackenzie, available in the bookstore. The website for your textbook can be accessed via my website.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	4/3	Lecture: Introduction	1
		Lecture: Minerals	2
2	4/10	Lecture: Volcanoes and Igneous Rocks	6
3	4/17	Lecture: Sedimentary Rocks	8
4	4/24	Lecture: Metamorphic Rocks	10
5	5/1	MIDTERM EXAM	
		Lecture: Geologic Time	3
6	5/8	FURLOUGH DAY – Class cancelled!	
7	5/15	Lecture: Plate Tectonics Project due!	4
8	5/22	Lecture: Earthquakes (Last day to turn in extra credit EQ kits)	5
9	5/29	Lecture: Folds, Faults, and Geologic Maps	9
10	6/5	Lecture: Deserts, Glaciers, and Climate Change (Last day to turn in extra credit)	13
11	6/12	FINAL EXAM - 10:45 am. - 1:15 p.m.	

REQUIREMENTS

Exams - There will be two exams - one midterm and one final. Make-up exams will be given only to those who can verify a valid excuse for missing an exam. The make-up will be given at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the student and myself, but must be arranged prior to the initial exam. **Failure to take the make-up exam within two weeks of the original exam date will result in the missed exam counting in as a zero.** In addition, the exam question sheet must be returned to me after the exam and after the exam review. Failure to do so will result in a ten (10) -point reduction in the student's grade for that exam.

Research Project – The University requires students in General Education classes to demonstrate proficiency in writing, critical thinking, and oral presentation. Therefore, each student will be expected to prepare a research paper on current issues in our National Park System. Guidelines and topics for these presentations are outlined on the attached pages.

Attendance - Students are expected to attend each class session and to arrive on time. It will be difficult to make up missed class sessions. However, if you miss a class session of valid reasons (illness), it will up to you to make arrangements to complete the activity. Students who miss a class due to an unexcused absence will NOT be allowed to make up the work. Make-up exams/assignments will be given **only** to those who can verify a **valid** excuse for missing the assignment. The make-up exam/assignment will be given at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the student and myself. **Failure to take the make-up exam/assignment within one week of the original lab/assignment date OR before the last week of class will result in the missed exam//assignment counting in as a zero.**

Internet Access - Internet access is suggested for this class because much of the course content will be posted on the class web site, www.geophile.net/College. Access at home or work is fine as long as you can view the web pages regularly and have a reasonably fast connection.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Total possible class points will come from the following assignments:

	Points possible	Total Points Possible	% of grade
Exams	2 exams at 100 points each	200	50.0%
Project	100 points	100	25.0%
Lab	100 points	100	25.0%
Total		400	100%

You may do up to 20 points of extra credit work to raise your total points earned. Your grade is based on your percentage score out of 400 points. Grades will be assigned using + and - (i.e., B+, B or B-). **All extra credit with the exception of the EQ kit is due the last day of class - not the day of the final!**

A = > 90%	> 360.0 points
B = 80 - 89%	320.0 - 359.9 points
C = 70 - 79%	280.0 - 319.9 points
D = 60 - 69%	240.0 - 279.9 points
F = < 60%	< 240.0 points

Want to get a good grade? Here=s how:

1. Attend every class & ask questions.
2. Take notes and review them after class and before exams.
3. Read your textbook / do the assignments
4. Turn in all work on time
5. **You are responsible for studying.**

IMPORTANT POLICIES (a.k.a. the “fine print”)

! **Statement of Reasonable Accommodation:**

- " The Department of Geological Sciences faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The members of the faculty will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) who needs and requests accommodation. The faculty may wish to contact the OSD to verify the presence of a disability and confirm that accommodation is necessary. The OSD will arrange and provide for the accommodation.
- " Reasonable accommodation may involve allowing a student to use an interpreter, note taker, or reader; accommodation may be needed during class sessions and for administration of examinations. The intent of the ADA in requiring consideration of reasonable accommodation is not to give a particular student an unfair advantage over other students, but simply to allow a student with disability to have an equal opportunity to be successful.

! **Student Conduct:**

- " Student conduct is viewed as a serious matter by the faculty members of the Department of Geological Sciences. The Department faculty members assume that all students will conduct themselves as mature citizens of the campus community and will conduct themselves in a manner congruent with university policies and regulations. Inappropriate conduct is subject to discipline as provided for in Title 5, California Code of Regulations (see student conduct: rights and responsibilities, and student discipline, CSULA General Catalog). Academic honesty is expected of all students in the Department, in accordance with University policy. There are established university reporting procedures if a student is suspected of committing an academically dishonest act.
- " The University has a clearly defined policy on Academic Honesty. This policy will be enforced in this class. **Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated.** Students caught plagiarizing and/or cheating will be subject to the consequences and set forth in the University Catalog, Appendix D - Academic Honesty. You can access it online at: <http://catalog.calstatela.edu>

- ! **Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will be given only to those who can verify a valid excuse for missing a quiz. The make-up will be given at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the student and myself. **Failure to take the make-up exam within two weeks of the original exam date will result in the missed exam counting in as a zero.**

! **Grading:**

- " University policy allows a grade of incomplete to be given only to those who have been sick, injured, or have a similar valid excuse. A grade of “incomplete” will not be given after poor performance in the course.
- " If you are repeating any Cal State L.A. course in order to remove a D or an F from your transcript, you must file an **academic renewal petition** in Administration 101 no later than the last day to add a class. Instructions for doing this may be found under "**Academic Renewal**" in your Schedule of Classes.
- " University policy requires that all students shall be graded in *exactly* the same fashion. What does this mean? You may not ask for extra assignments or to repeat an exam to improve your grade, or additional assignments after the course is completed.

- ! **Avoid the hassles.** Take the Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE) after you have completed your English Composition and prior to the completion of 135 units in order to avoid a registration hold. The dates for the WPE are published in the Schedule of Classes. Enroll by registering in UNIV 400 and paying the \$15 exam fee. Do it now!!!

Geology Project

Geology is all around us. Many times we travel to various locales and find ourselves admiring the scenery in addition to the cultural landmarks. Our world is filled with natural beauty – and now it's time to explore it a bit.

Your project will be to write a report on one of the following National Parks/Recreation areas. In this report you will explore the story behind the park/recreation area, the dominant geological features of the area, how these features formed, and any issues/challenges the area faces today (over tourism, lack of funds, etc.)

- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Glacier National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Mammoth Cave National Park
- Yosemite National Park
- Death Valley National Monument
- Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area
- If you would like to use a park not listed here, please contact me.

You will be graded on the quality of your research, the quality of your writing, answering as completely as possible the questions posed above, and neatness.

Your project will need to be in the following format:

- Correct Essay Format OR Report Format
 - Introduction
 - Body of report
 - Conclusion
 - Bibliography (in correct format!)
 - Appendices (if needed)
- At the top of the first page: YOUR name and class time only! I know who I am, and I don't need to know the date, etc. You need not include this information on the second page as your paper will be stapled together. All of that extra information takes up valuable space that could be better spent in the writing of your report. Any extra information will count against the 1 ½ - 2 page limit.
- AT LEAST 3 ½ - 5 pages in length, not including pictures, bibliography or appendices
- 1 ½ line spacing
- 10 - 12 point "normal" font
- 1" margins on all sides
- NO REPORT COVERS! AND PLEASE STAPLE YOUR PAGES TOGETHER. Reports submitted without being stapled together will not be read. No exceptions.

Please plan on using at least five (5) difference sources for your research, two of which must be something other than a website (ie, a book, a magazine article, etc.). DO NOT simply copy and paste information from websites or other documents! This is plagiarizing and will not be tolerated. **You may not use your textbook or my lecture notes as resources.**

Note the deadline for this project on the syllabus. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! You may email me your project so long as I get it BEFORE the start of class the day it is due.

Geology Project

Points will be awarded as follows:

points possible

Formatting	
Typing and margin instructions followed	
10 to 12 point Arial or Times Roman (or similar) font	3 points
1 ½ line spacing	
1" margins on all sides	
3 – 5 pages in length	5 points
Spell check / Typos	2 points
Narrative and Writing Style	
Connection of thoughts / Transitions	2 points
Verb & subject agreement / Grammar	2 points
Correct Essay Format	2 points
Punctuation / Run on sentences / Sentence fragments	2 points
Development of ideas	2 points
	20 points

Report	
Introduction	5 points
Body of the Report:	
The story behind the park/recreation area	10 points
The dominant geological features of the area	20 points
How these features formed	20 points
The issues/challenges the area faces today	10 points
Conclusion	5 points
Bibliography	10 points
	80 points

Total points possible 100 points