

GEOLGY 100: PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY

Syllabus Fall 2011

Lecture MTWR 1:10 – 2:00 AM in UH 143

Lab section 1 M 11:00 - 12:30

Lab section 2 T 11:00 - 12:30

Lab section 3 W 11:00 - 12:30

Lab make-up session: Fridays 12:00-1:00 with Heather

All labs meet in UH 060

Instructor: Dr. Prajukti (juk) Bhattacharyya

Undergraduate teaching assistants: Cat, Nicole, Brittany, Casey, and Heather, plus Rhi and Adric

Office: UH 119

Phone: 472-5257

E-mail (works best!): bhatacj@uww.edu

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:30; Thursday, 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment. Please call or email me if you want to set up a meeting time.

Web site: <http://facstaff.uww.edu/bhatacj/geology.html> and the D2L site
I will post a day-to-day course blog as well as important course information, homework assignments etc. on this web site so please check this site often.

Textbook: *Exploring Geology*, 1st Edition. By: Reynolds and others (Rent this book from Textbook rentals)

Lab Manual: [Download free from the course web site/D2L](#)

Course description and objectives

An introduction to the concepts which describe the origin and evolution of the earth. Special emphasis will be placed on 1) the internal and external earth processes, 2) material composition of the earth, 3) the scientific method as applied to the study of the earth, and 4) the evolution of earth through time.

Upon completion of this course students will be able to identify the relevance of geology in their everyday lives.

Course policies

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course. You plagiarize if you present someone else's ideas and works as your own without giving credit to the original source. Your work **MUST** be your own to receive credit in this course and this includes any homework, lab assignment and tests. **If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment.** Please talk to me if you need further clarification on what constitutes cheating and/or plagiarism.

Please turn off your cell phones and behave in a non-disruptive manner during class

Tests and lab assignments

There will be four short tests including the final for this course. Each one of these tests will be worth **12.5% of your total grade**. The first three tests (**NOT THE FINAL**) will be scheduled twice (on Monday and Thursday) during the test week. You can chose to take each test twice if you want. The higher of your two scores will be counted towards your overall grade. The final test will be scheduled **ONLY ONCE** on Monday, December 19, 1:00 – 3:00 (the date and time specified by the university). There will be no make up for the final test. The test format will be multiple choice questions only. The dates for all four tests are listed on the course schedule below.

There will be one on-line assignment on D2L worth 10% of your total grade during the time I will be out of town (Oct. 6-12). **The Due date for that assignment is Thursday, October 13.**

There will be 12 pre-lab and lab assignments for each lab, worth 4% of your total grade during the semester.

Make-ups

As mentioned before, three of your four tests will be scheduled twice during the test week, so if you miss the first test date, you can always make it up during the second test date. You **CANNOT MAKE UP A TEST AFTER THE TEST WEEK** unless you provide written documentation (for example doctor's note or other documentation) to show why you missed both test dates. If you provide satisfactory documentation, you will be allowed to take the test ONLY ONCE.

Acceptable excuses include medical emergency (with doctor's note), university activities (with documentation) and family emergency (with written and signed note). You will receive a grade of zero (0) for an exam that is not made up.

The lab room can comfortably accommodate only 24 students during the lab activities so please show up during the lab section you signed up for. If you have to miss a lab you must make it up during the make-up session during that week. You **CANNOT MAKE UP A LAB ON THE FOLLOWING WEEK**, but you will drop two lab grades out of 12. If you miss a lab, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for that lab. **You will not receive a lab grade unless you complete the pre-lab assignment before coming to the lab.**

YOUR LABS MUST BE DONE IN PENCIL ONLY. USING ANY OTHER WRITING IMPLEMENTS WILL RESULT IN A GRADE REDUCTION

Grade calculation: The total grade breakdown is as follows:

# Exams and assignments	<i>Each worth</i>	Total grade
Four 30-minute tests including the final	12.5%	50%
12 lab assignments, drop 2 out of 12	4%	40%
1 take-home assignment on D2L	10%	10%

A grade calculator sheet is attached with this syllabus for you to keep track of your own grades throughout the semester.

Assignment of final letter grades

Your letter grade will be calculated based on the percentage of the total possible points for the semester weighed as shown above.

Percentage	Letter grade	What it means
96% and above	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent quality work • You submitted ALL assignments and tests and got 92% or better
92-96%	A-	
88-92%	B+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good comprehension of course material (superior) • You submitted ALL assignments and got 80% or better on all of them • You attended almost all classes and participated in in-class activities unless you had a really compelling reason
84-88%	B	
80-84%	B-	
76-80%	C+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and satisfactory comprehension of course material. A sincere effort made towards learning the material. • You submitted most/all assignments and got 68% or above on most of them • You attended almost all classes and participated in in-class activities unless you had a really compelling reason
72-76%	C	
68-72%	C-	
64-68%	D+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsatisfactory but indicates some minimal command of the course materials. No apparent effort made towards learning the course material. • You did not submit all assignments or got below 68% on the ones you turned in • You missed quite a few classes and/or did not participate in the in-class activities
60-64%	D	
56-60%	D-	
Below 56%	F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsatisfactory and unworthy of course credit

NOTE: to get a SATISFACTORY grade, you HAVE to receive the equivalent of a “C” or above in this course. Even though a letter grade of “C-” is considered a passing grade, it does not count as “satisfactory” and will go on your transcript as NC.

Attendance:

Attendance in class and during the labs is mandatory, even though I will not take attendance. It is very difficult to receive a good grade in this course if you consistently miss class. The exams will be based on topics discussed in class so just reading the book will not be enough. If you miss class **you** are responsible for getting the information covered in class from other students. I do not post my lectures on-line. You will get credit for labs only if you are present during the lab sessions or the make-up session.

Your instructor and the university have a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity. You, as a student, are (1) responsible for the honest completion and representation of your work, (2) expected to present accurate citation of sources of information used in papers, reports, tests, etc., (3) expected to respect the academic endeavors of others. Students who violate these standards will be penalized under UWS Chapter 14.

The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Academic Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodations, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events (for details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures (UWS Chapter 14); and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” (UWS Chapter 17).

The UW System standard for work required per credit is that students are expected to invest at least 3 hours of combined in-class and out-of-class work per week for each academic unit (credit) of coursework; thus, a 3-credit course will typically require a minimum of 9 hours of work per week (144 hrs./semester)

(Source: <http://acadaff.uww.edu/On-lineSyllabiMandinfo.html>)

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR

Tentative schedule (Subject to change depending on circumstances)

Wk	Topic	
1	Introduction: The big picture	Earth science, earth system and scientific enquiry Earth's layered structure and how we know about it, properties of the different layers.
2	Earthquakes	Types of earthquake waves, locating earthquake epicenters, size of an earthquake
3	Plate tectonics	Test I on Monday, Sept. 19 Continental drift and Plate tectonics, types of plate boundaries Test I repeated on Thursday, Sept. 22
4	Plate tectonics contd.	Evidence of plate tectonics, driving mechanisms of plate tectonics
5	Tectonics forces	Geologic structures and mountain building
I will be out of town Oct. 6 – 12 for GSA Annual meeting		
TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE BY THURSDAY, October 13		
7	Effects of plate tectonics	Volcanoes and plate tectonics
8	Introduction to minerals	Test II on Monday, Oct. 24 Common rock forming minerals Test II repeated on Thursday, Oct. 27
9	Rocks and rock cycle	Rock cycle, igneous rocks
10	Rocks contd.	Sedimentary rocks, mass wasting
11	Rocks contd.	Test III on Monday, Nov. 14 Metamorphic rocks Test III repeated on Thursday, Nov. 17
12	Geologic time	Relative dating and correlation
Thanksgiving break November 24-27		
13	Geologic time contd.	Numeric dating
14	Surface processes	Glaciers and ice ages
15	Surface processes contd.	Glaciers and ice ages contd.
Final Exam (Test IV) on Monday, December 19, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. (Official time)		

Grade calculation chart

Lab #	Weekly assignment and test points		Total points to date	
	Maximum	You got	Maximum	Your points
1 (wk 3)	40		40	
Wk 3	Test I points (use the higher score)		165	
Mon 9/19	125			
Thurs 9/22	125			
2 (wk 4)	40		205	
3 (wk 5)	40		245	
No lab on Wk 6 (10/6 – 10/12). Do your take-home assignment (due 10/13)				
Due 10/13	Take-Home assignment		345	
	100			
4 (wk 7)	40		385	
5 (wk 8)	40		425	
Wk 8	Test II points (use the higher score)		550	
Mon 10/24	125			
Thurs 10/27	125			
6 (wk 9)	40		590	
7 (wk 10)	40		630	
8 (wk 11)	40		670	
Wk 11	Test III points (use the higher score)		795	
Mon 11/14	125			
Thurs 11/17	125			
9 (wk 12)	40		835	
Thanksgiving break November 24-27. No make-up lab this week				
10 (wk 13)	40		875	
11 (wk 14)	40		915	
12 (wk 15)	40		955	
Mon, 12/19 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Test IV (Final exam) points		1080	
	125			

Add up ALL your points to date (the column called YOUR POINTS) to get your total points any time during the semester. To calculate your percentage at any time during the semester, **divide your total points (last column)** by the **maximum points possible (next to last column)** and multiply the result by 100. This will give you an idea of your current letter grade. Your two lowest lab grades (not the test grades) will be dropped to calculate your final grade out of 1000 points.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR GRADES DURING THE SEMESTER. I WILL NOT ANSWER EMAILS REGARDING YOUR CURRENT LETTER GRADE FOR THIS COURSE OR CALCULATE YOUR GRADES FOR YOU.