PHYSICAL GEOLOGY, GEOL1100
Fall 2007, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:15 AM

Instructor:
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117 Petrie Hall (844-4881); also the main office at 210 Petrie Hall (844-4282)
Office hours: TWH 1:30-2:30 PM and by appointment.
Texts: Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology, 9th Edition, by Tarbuck and
Lutgens, Pearson-Prentice Hall Publishers;
AGI Laboratory manual (for use in lab).

What will this class be about?
This course will introduce you to the broad field of geology and to increase your
understanding of the major physical processes associated with Earth. Can you imagine any
science course broader than this? These physical processes range from the behavior of water at
Earth’s surface to the physics of mineral behavior in Earth’s core — with time scales vary
from the age and origin of the solar system to the first milliseconds of a meteorite impact. We
start this class by discussing the nature of basic scientific concepts (chapter 1). We’ll then
consider the two most controversial and revolutionary concepts in the study of the Earth:
plate tectonics and ‘deep’ geologic time (Chapters 1 and 2). The class then progresses through
a consideration of Earth’s materials, natural processes and history. There are pressing
questions that call for answers, and you will likely be able to provide the answers in your
lifetime: How will the activities of humankind change Earth in the twenty-first century? How
many people can enjoy a high standard of living on Earth? Your answers to these questions
will come, in part, from your direct observations of Earth in your lifetime; the rest of the
answer will come from an understanding of Earth materials, natural systems, and history.
There is no single type of information about Earth that will prove the most significant or
important to answering such questions, but every aspect of Earth’s geology is part of the
answer.

Read the fine print carefully: Course Strategy, Rules, and Grading.
There will be three tests in class, and a cumulative final exam. The percentages these will
constitute for the final grade are listed below. Lecture tests and the final exam will consist of
multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions. Exam questions will
generally come from the text, but may also be drawn from handouts or web-based materials
that can be assigned during class lecture periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basis for assigning grades:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three scheduled lecture tests (each 20% of grade)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Average</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative, Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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All students must take the cumulative, final exam. The final exam and three tests will
constitute 75% of your course grade, with the remaining 25% as your lab average. No "extra
credit" assignments will be given. Come to class, keep up with readings, study reasonably, do
not miss lab assignments, and you will be just fine. Students will receive a grade of zero for
tests that are missed due to an unexcused absence. The make up policy for missed tests or
other assignments is discussed below.
Make up policy:

As a student in this class, you are personally responsible for information given in class, regardless of whether or not you are present when material is covered or an announcement is made. The university policy on class attendance and missed assignments, written for both faculty and students, is described in the current Tiger Cub. If feasible, you must notify me prior to an absence so that arrangements for a test can be made. For example, if you know that you have a university-approved excuse for missing class on a test day, then you may arrange to take the test on the afternoon of the day before the scheduled test day. Since we will review graded test material after the test, you will generally not be permitted to ‘make up’ tests after they are given.

However, if you miss a test and have a university-approved excuse, and make timely arrangements, you may be permitted to take an alternative test that I prepare that covers the same material. ‘Timely’ arrangements for a missed test generally means within 48 hours of the test and before the class meeting that follows it. If a make-up version of a test is approved, it may be in an essay or other format.

To emphasize the importance of the make-up policy: if you miss a test and wish to take a make-up version, you must contact me before the test — if possible — or you should make every effort to contact me within 48 hours of the test. You may contact me by phone, e-mail, and through the main Geology and Geography office in room 210 of Petrie Hall.

Laboratory:

You must register for a lab section in order to receive credit for this course. Your lab grade will be determined as described in your lab syllabus; this grade will be reported to me at the end of the quarter, and averaged in as 25% of your grade for the course (see basis for assigning grades). A separate laboratory syllabus will be provided by the graduate teaching assistants. You will need a Lab Manual and a Lab Kit (Containing a magnet, nail, streak plate, glass plate, etc.) — these are available at the AU Book Store. Your lab T.A. will provide you with a syllabus that covers her/his attendance policy and grading. You must have an average of 60% or higher in lab in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

Notes about the ‘Course Calendar’

A tentative outline of lectures — a ‘calendar’ for this course — is handed out on the first day of class. This calendar presents the working plan for the topics this class will cover, associated readings in the text, and the approximate dates of tests during the term. This calendar is a tool for you to use in organizing your time and in understanding the requirements of the class. You will note that this class will move at a fairly steady pace, and there are no ‘review days’ scheduled in the term.

The time and day of the final examination is fixed by university policy. All of the dates I have scheduled for the class — the day to cover a given topic and the days for tests — are subject to change at my discretion. Any possible changes to a scheduled test date would be announced in class prior to the scheduled test date.
Reality Check:
Now that you’ve read the obligatory rules of the class, that are part of the University rules specified in the Tiger Cub and undergraduate bulletin, there are a few points that I want you to consider as we begin this class:

1. The first and most important step to a good grade in this class is to attend it every day. The second step is to take good notes on what we cover, then study that material in the text daily. The third step is to complete all of your lab assignments when they are due. The surest way to make an unsatisfactory grade in this class is to routinely be absent and put-off reading and lab assignments. We will cover a large amount of material quickly, and your attendance in the lecture and lab classes is essential to your grade.

2. We will have lectures that cover many of the chapters in the text. You will need to keep up with the course material by reading an average of about 30-40 pages of the text per week, and then carefully reviewing the points covered in class. I will also distribute some materials via email attachments (or refer you to a web site) to supplement some material in the text.

3. Geology is a science. Geology is a science based on and drawing from all disciplines of physical sciences, life sciences, and mathematics. You should expect this class to be intellectually challenging — through the lectures, readings, assignments, and tests — as you would for any science elective.

4. I take this class seriously, but I don’t take myself too seriously. I do enjoy my profession, and I am committed to teaching this course well and grading fairly. If you find that you don’t share my enthusiastic outlook about geology and science, that’s OK. However, I still want you to do well in this course, and I will expect you to consider the points covered in this syllabus and act accordingly in order to get a good grade. You are free to talk to me, call, or email me to discuss anything about this course.