

GEOL 1: The Earth, Section 5450

Spring 2019 Course Syllabus

Instructor Contact Information

Rebecca Perloth

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Office Hours: held in Lark 2021

M: 10:30-12, 2-3 & 6-6:30; W: 10:30-11:30 & 4:30-5; Additional hours available most days by appointment

I typically respond to email and voicemail messages within 24 hours (may be longer on weekends or holidays).

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to rocks, minerals, landforms and the dynamic processes that shape the Earth. Course includes the study of plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, and surface processes such as deserts, shorelines and glaciers.

While not required, there is an optional lab component to this course, GEOL 1L. Together these two courses fulfill the GE science requirement with lab. The lab is a hands-on companion to the lecture, and delves more deeply into many of the topics. Taken concurrently, they can enhance one another, though you may opt to enroll in the lab in a future semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Apply scientific methodologies and principles to answer scientific questions.
2. Describe and identify Earth materials and landforms.
3. Identify and explain processes that formed and continue to shape the landscape.
4. Recognize the complex interplay between humans and the environment.

Important Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Meeting Time | Mon & Wed, 12-1:30 pm |
| Meeting Location | Lark 2042 |
| Class Begins | January 14 |
| Day Class Ends | May 15 |
| Last Day to Add w/o instructor's approval | January 20 |
| Last Day to Drop with refund | January 27 |
| Last Day to Add with instructor's approval | February 3 |
| Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol | February 3 |
| Last Day to Opt for Pass/No Pass | February 24 |
| Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol | April 21 |
| Final Exam | May 22, 10am-12:45pm |
| Holidays (no class – see schedule for more info) | January 21 (MLK Jr Day) February 18 (Prez Day) |

Course Web Site

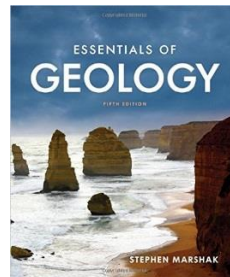
Students will utilize Canvas to complete assignments, take quizzes, keep tabs on the class via the Modules pages, and view grades. Canvas is accessible via your SRJC Student Portal (your cubby), your online class schedule, or via the SRJC website. You do not need to do anything special to register on the site - since you're enrolled, you automatically have a profile on Canvas.

Textbook

Essentials of Geology, by Marshak, 5th edition. You may use the print or online version. You can locate and order textbooks online via the [SRJC Bookstore \(Links to an external site\)](#). The bookstore carries both bound, soft cover copies and unbound loose-leaf options; either is acceptable.

ISBN-13: 978-0393263398; ISBN-10: 0393263398

You are not required to bring the textbook to class.



Dropping the Class

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact the instructor to avoid being dropped from the class.

Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first class meeting may be dropped by the instructor. Please let the instructor know if you will not be able to attend class the first week. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester in order to monitor progress.

Evaluation and Grading

You will be evaluated by exams, homework assignments, and participation during the semester. There are 500 points possible in this class; points are distributed as follows:

- Midterm exams: 70 points each (x3 = 210 pts)
- Cumulative final exam: 90 points
- Homework assignments: worth 20 points each unit (x10 units = 200 pts)
- Extra Credit: earn extra points as opportunities come available

Homework Assignments: Assignments are available via the Canvas system. You will complete various assignments that include objective questions, problem solving, written questions, and labelling of diagrams. The total points for each unit's worth of assignment is 20 points. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you copy from another source, including the textbook and other students, you will not receive credit. **It is your responsibility to keep track of and complete the assignments by the due dates.** Assignments are worth 40% of your final score, **therefore you cannot pass the course if you do not successfully complete the majority of the online assignments.** All assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted without prior arrangement.

Exams: We'll be doing 2-part exams in this course. The first part will be taken individually, and will comprise objective questions completed in 35 minutes. After a short passing period, the second part will be taken in small group format, and will comprise 35 more minutes of objective questions and written answers. The group portion of the exam will constitute 20% of your total exam score. The point is to get you working with and reasoning through the exam questions with your classmates. Many students' grades will improve with the addition of the group score; the caveat is that if your individual score is higher than the group score, you will not be penalized, and your score will reflect only your individual score. There will be three such mid-term exams during the semester, worth 70 points each.

The final exam will be cumulative and worth 90 points, and will be taken in the same 2-part format.

Any arrangements for make-up exams must be made *in advance*, and make-ups will not be allowed after the class has taken the exam. You will not have the opportunity to do the 2-part exam if you do not take the exam with the class, and your score will be based solely on your own individual portion.

Important notes on exams:

- You must provide your own #2 pencil and a 100 question Scantron form for all exams.
- If you leave the room during an exam, I will assume you're finished, and you will not be allowed to return and keep working. You may not leave between the two sections of the 2-part exam.
- Arriving late on exam day is not recommended as you will cut into the time you have to take the exam.
- Cheating is not tolerated at any time, and will result in no credit for the exam.

Extra Credit: It is highly recommended that you take advantage of these opportunities as they arise. They will add to your score, and will help you prepare for upcoming assignments and exams.

Grades

Click the "Grades" link in Canvas to keep track of your grades. As grades come in, I will post them, along with comments as needed in the Canvas gradebook.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 90+%

B: 80-89%

C: 65-79%

D: 55-64%

F: less than 55%

Notes: D and F are not passing grades. If taking Pass/No Pass you need to earn at least 65% of the total class points in order to pass. The deadline to opt for Pass/No Pass is stated in the Important Dates section above.

Standards of Conduct

Students who register in SRJC classes are required to abide by the SRJC Student Conduct Standards. Violation of the Standards is basis for referral to the Vice President of Student Services or dismissal from class or from the College. See the [Rights and Responsibilities](#) (links to external site).

Copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. Students are encouraged to share information and ideas, but not their work. See these links on Plagiarism:

[SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism \(Links to an external site\)](#)

[Rights and Responsibilities Page at SRJC \(links to external site\)](#)

Suggestions for Success

- Devote the time necessary to succeed in this course - do the assigned reading, review and recopy lecture notes, take advantage of online and textbook resources, study for exams, complete the required assignments. **Everyone** can succeed in this class, so set high expectations and then work hard to meet them.
- Stay on top of the material the entire semester. You may be expected to spend up to 6 hours per week outside of class to complete the required reading, studying, and assignments.
- Pay attention. Limited talking is acceptable if it pertains to the class. Talking about other subjects, such as your weekend plans or material from other classes, can be distracting to your instructor AND your classmates. Please refrain from disturbing you classmates and your instructor, or you may be asked to leave.
- Do not ever hesitate to ask questions (in a respectful manner). Class participation is encouraged. Get to know your instructor and your classmates.
- Please leave cell phones outside the classroom or be sure to turn them off during class.

Special Needs

Every effort is made to conform to accessibility standards for all instructor-created materials. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if they find that they cannot access any course materials. If you need disability related accommodations for this class, please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. If you have not received authorization from DRD, please contact them directly. DRD is located in Analy Village on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

Safety/Emergency information

Please note the location of the Emergency Preparedness Handbook in the classroom. In an emergency situation, immediately contact Campus Police at 527-1000 or dial 1000 from any campus phone. In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation from the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading |
|------|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 1/14 | Introduction to GEOL 1 and Geology | Prelude and Ch 1 |
| | 1/16 | How we study the Earth | Ch 1 |
| 2 | 1/21 | NO CLASSES - MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr HOLIDAY | |
| | 1/23 | Plate Tectonics | Ch 2, and Ch 9.5-9.6 (313-321) |
| 3 | 1/28 | Plate Tectonics | Ch 2 |
| | 1/30 | Make up and Review | |
| 4 | 2/4 | Exam #1: covering Ch 1 and 2 | |
| | 2/6 | Earth Materials and Matter | Ch 3 |
| 5 | 2/11 | The Rock Cycle: It's All Connected | Interlude C |
| | 2/13 | Igneous Compositions and Textures | Ch 4 |
| 6 | 2/18 | NO CLASSES - PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY | |
| | 2/20 | Igneous Compositions and Textures | Ch 4 |
| 7 | 2/25 | Magmatic Differentiation | Ch 4 (focus Box 4.1) |
| | 2/27 | Volcanic Landforms and Processes | Ch 5 |
| 8 | 3/4 | Volcanic Landforms and Processes | Ch 5 |
| | 3/6 | Volcanic Hazards: Death and Destruction! | Ch 5 |
| 9 | 3/11 | Make up and Review | |
| | 3/13 | Exam #2: covering Ch 3 - 5 and Interlude C | |
| | 3/18-3/22 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 10 | 3/25 | Weathering and Erosion; Sedimentary Rocks | Interlude B, and Ch 6 |
| | 3/27 | Sedimentary Environments | Ch 6 |
| 11 | 4/1 | Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks | Ch 7 |
| | 4/3 | Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks | Ch 7 |
| 12 | 4/8 | Structural Geology | Ch 9 (focus 9.1-9.5) |
| | 4/10 | Earthquakes | Ch 8 |
| 13 | 4/15 | Earthquake Location and Measurement Scales | Ch 8 (focus 8.4-8.5) |
| | 4/17 | Earthquake Hazards: Death and Destruction! | Ch 8 |
| 14 | 4/22 | Make up and Review | |
| | 4/24 | Exam #3: covering Ch 6 - 9 and Interlude B | |
| 15 | 4/29 | Geologic Time, Dating Methods | Ch 10 |
| | 5/1 | Geologic Time, Dating Methods | Ch 10 |
| 16 | 5/6 | Shaping Earth's Surface: Coastlines | Ch 15 |
| | 5/8 | Shaping Earth's Surface: Deserts | Ch 17 |
| 17 | 5/13 | Global Climate Change and Glaciers | Ch 18 |
| | 5/15 | Make up and Review | |
| 18 | 5/20-5/24 | FINALS WEEK | |
| | | Exam #4: Cumulative final exam, stressing material since Exam #3 | |