

GEOL 5401 Fundamentals of Earth Science – Syllabus for Fall 2014

Instructors:

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Textbook and Materials

Modified MasteringGeology for Tarbuck, Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology with MasteringGeology, 11/e provided free by Pearson.

Access code: USBTEX-PASHM-FROND-POONA-GIBBY-SOUSE

Follow the instructions on the homepage in Blackboard to register for access to Pearson Mastering and eBook access. The course id in Mastering is: **serpa91515**

You must have access to a computer for this course. Most of the material will be provided online. There are many computer labs on campus so there is no need to go out and buy a computer if you do not have one.

Goals of this course:

To give students, teachers, and future teachers understanding of why it is important to study the earth and to build fundamental knowledge about how the earth has changed in the past and the processes that drive changes so that we have the tools to anticipate future change.

What participants will need to know and be able to do:

- Demonstrate a clear and practical understanding of Earth processes and how they might impact their community
- Understand the role of scientific research in understanding Earth processes

Format of the course:

This course will be presented as a hybrid course with lectures, assignments, tests, and many resources provided online. The class will meet in person for a 3 hour lab each week and we will discuss material covered online, conduct activities, and explore ideas during the lab meetings.

This class is a bit different than a traditional lecture class. You will be required to work outside of a formal classroom most of the time. Our class meetings will be to do activities, take tests, or discuss the material. You must be self-motivated to survive this type of class and you cannot let yourself fall behind. Everything is scheduled and due at fixed times that are clearly given in Blackboard.

Outside of class meetings:

1. Read the assigned materials
2. Identify concepts that are central to understanding the topics to be discussed
3. Prepare a list of questions from the reading for which you need further clarification
4. Check the folder in Blackboard for additional materials you need to read, watch, or otherwise do something with.
5. There will be one or more quizzes in Blackboard that you must complete for a grade during each week. Once the quiz is closed, it will not
 1. be available to you and you will receive a failing grade if you have not completed it.
6. You must participate in the discussions when they are assigned

During each class:

1. Turn off the sound on your cell phone when you enter the classroom and leave it off.
2. Engage in discussions and ask questions but be respectful of your classmates and give them a chance to be heard
3. Participate in activities

Grading:

Weekly Questions:

Each week there will be one or more questions to be discussed relating to the material. Participation in the discussions is required for this class and your contributions must be significant (quality not quantity). Quizzes are designed to encourage you to read the material and prepare for class.

Activity	Percent of final grade
Questions, discussions, quizzes, class participation, etc	25%
Written reports	50%
Final Project	25%

Final grade based on percent earned: 89.5 - 100 = A, 79.5 - 89.4 = B, 69.5 - 79.4 = C, 59.5 - 69.4 = D, 0 - 59.4 = F