

GEOL 1000: Introduction to Geology

3 Credit Hours

Bowling Green State University

Summer 2010

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Sheila Roberts

281 Overman Hall

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Virtual office hours: TBA

Text: The Changing Earth: Exploring Geology and Evolution, Fifth Edition, Monroe and Wicander

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The earth; physical and historical geology; including economic, social and environmental aspects. Not open to geology majors and minors. Credit allowed for no more than one: GEOL 1000, GEOL 1010, GEOL 1040. Applicable to the BG Perspective (general education) natural sciences requirement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to introduce the basic principles of physical and historical geology, including the solid earth, surficial processes, evolution, the history of life on Earth, and the role of geology in environmental and societal issues.

► This Course Fulfills the BG Perspectives Requirement in Natural Science ◀

LEARNING OUTCOMES

BG Perspectives Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Communicate effectively by gaining proficiency in reading, writing and presenting
- ❖ Think critically through investigating and creative problem solving
- ❖ Participate effectively and lead through active engagement with diverse groups and teams of individuals

BG Perspectives Learning Outcomes for the Natural Sciences

- ❖ Develop the skills and practice of using quantitative and qualitative approaches to study scientific concepts
- ❖ Learn to understand the nature of scientific evidence, how it is obtained and how it is used in the scientific process
- ❖ Solve problems using the logical approach of science

GEOL 1000 Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Understand the basic principles of physical and historical geology
- ❖ Understand the theory of plate tectonics
- ❖ Understand surficial processes and the impact of human activities on surficial processes
- ❖ Understand the theory of evolution
- ❖ Understand the history of life on Earth

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each module will contain one or more PowerPoint lectures that refer to figures and charts in the textbook, links to websites with pertinent information, and online group and/or class discussion about current events related to geological phenomena.

Module 1: To be completed by Wednesday, July 7, 11:55 AM

Introduction

Plate Tectonics

Minerals

Discussion Board 1: Asbestos (due 7/6/10, 11:55 AM)

Intrusive Igneous Rocks and Volcanism

Weathering, Soil and Sedimentary Rocks

Module Exam 1

Module 2: To be completed by Friday, July 16, 11:55 AM

Metamorphism

Earthquakes and the Earth's Interior

Discussion Board 2: New Madrid Earthquake (due 7/12/10, 11:55 AM)

The Seafloor

Discussion Board 3: Mining the Seafloor (due 7/19/10, 11:55 AM)

Mountain Building and Deformation

Module Exam 2

Module 3: To be completed by Wednesday, July 28, 11:55 AM

Mass Wasting

Hydrogeology: Surface and Ground Water

Coastal Processes

Glaciers and Deserts

Discussion Board 4: Glaciers and water supply (due 7/26/10, 11:55 AM)

Module Exam 3

Module 4: To be completed by Friday, August 6 11, 11:55 AM

Geologic Time

Discussion Board 7: Who owns dinosaur fossils? (due 8/2/10, 11:55 AM)

Evolution

History of life on Earth

Module Exam 4

COURSE DELIVERY

This class is delivered completely online. You are not required to attend class at regular times; however, it is important that you follow attendance/participation guidelines and meet due dates and deadlines for readings, assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams. Communication will be through posted announcements, email, and discussion boards. I will be available to answer your questions during my posted office hours.

Course delivery strategies include: readings from the textbook (pay particular attention to the figures—they are very important!); resources linked to the internet; brief power point lectures, use of the discussion board; use of the internet; and e-mails among students and between individual students and the professor.

QUIZZES, MODULE EXAMS, AND THE FINAL EXAM

Quizzes and module exams will be timed and can be attempted only once. You are not allowed to refer to your textbook or notes while taking the module quizzes and concept exams.

DISCUSSION BOARDS

There will be 5 discussion boards for you to participate in over the course of the semester. Each discussion board must be completed by the deadline listed in the syllabus. In order to receive full credit, you must

1. Make an initial posting to the discussion board the Wednesday before the discussion board is due and
2. Respond to at least 2 other posts by Friday before the discussion board is due

For more details about grading the discussion boards, see the discussion board grading rubric posted on the course website.

COMPUTER SKILL PREREQUISITES

- ❖ using a word processor (changing font, spell check)
- ❖ using email for communication
- ❖ sending an email attachment
- ❖ navigating in BlackBoard
- ❖ navigating the Internet
- ❖ downloading appropriate plugins
- ❖ using an Internet search engine

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The following link will provide you with the computer system specifications that will be required for taking this online class. <http://www.bgsu.edu/its/software/page10725.html#q4>

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- ❖ Access to an Internet connection (**High Speed**)
- ❖ An email BNet account
- ❖ Text: The Changing Earth: Exploring Geology and Evolution, Fifth Edition, Monroe and Wicander, <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bookstore/> or various bookstores.
- ❖ Software: TBA.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Attendance (regular participation in the online classroom) is essential for maintaining the best learning environment. Learning occurs in relationship not only between student and course materials, but, just as importantly, peer to peer, professor to student, and student to professor.

It is your responsibility to actively participate in each discussion board activity. You will be required to post to 1-2 discussion boards in each module and respond to several of your classmates' posts.

You are expected to participate in on-line discussions. Questions will be provided centering on appropriate issues as related to the current unit. You must make at least three postings per unit. For each module, one posting must be in response to a professor's question, and another posting must be in response to a question/comment posted by another student relating to the current unit.

You are expected to log on to the course site at least 2-3 times per week.

This online class demands that the student be self-motivated and self disciplined. You are responsible to keep up with the schedule, assignments, and exams. I will be contacting you throughout the semester by email, and Blackboard is available at all times.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted through the assignment item in its weekly folder in the Assignment section of the Blackboard classroom. Your corrected (graded) assignments will be returned to this same location.

If you are unable to access the Blackboard server to turn in your assignment, please send it by email to sjrober@bgsu.edu. I will only accept assignments by email only during emergency situations.

MAKE-UP AND LATE ASSIGNMENT/EXAM POLICY

All assignments and exams must be submitted by 11:55 AM on the date they are due. You will be allowed to turn in a maximum of one late assignment or exam within one week of the due date without penalty. Additional assignments and exams turned in within one week of the due date will be given half credit. No assignments will be accepted later than one week of the due date. You must inform me that you have a late assignment so I can grade it.

GRADING

Quizzes	20%	A	>90%
Module Exams	50%	B	80-89%
Participation in Discussion Boards	20%	C	70-79%
Homework	10%	D	60-69%
		F	<60%

STUDENT CONDUCT / CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students are expected to display tolerance for others' views on Discussion Board forums and through emails. Converse with others the same way you would in a traditional classroom. Comments and language should be respectful and appropriate for a college community. All comments should also follow acceptable grammar and spelling. You shouldn't wait until the last minute to post your comments on the discussion board; other students in the course will need to respond to your comments and they cannot do so until you post your comments.

As you can see, your participation grade is a significant part of your final grade. You must participate thoughtfully in the online discussion forums if you wish to pass. Meaningful participation means that you are submitting well thought out responses to questions or are asking questions in the forums that show you are grappling with the material at hand.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Announcements will be posted frequently on the Announcement Page or communicated via e-mail (sjrober@bgsu.edu). You should check the Announcement Page and your e-mail regularly in order to access course related announcements.

I will be checking e-mail regularly in order to access communications from students and will typically respond to communications within 24-48 hours. However, any communication sent after 1:30 pm on Friday or on a holiday may not receive a response from me until the following class day. You should use proper grammar and spelling when you send me email.

LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Technology Support Center

The Technology Support Center (TSC) provides a central point of contact for faculty, staff and students for questions, problem reports, service requests and inquiries for University computer systems and communications technologies at BGSU.

email: tsc@bgsu.edu Phone: (419) 372-0999
Open Mon-Thur: 7:30am-12 midnight
Fri: 7:30am-5pm
Sat-Sun: Closed

Student Tech Center

Students looking for more in depth assistance with computer technology needed for a class project or tutoring should contact the Student Technology Center or consult their web page at URL <http://www.bgsu.edu/studenttech>.
email: student-tech@listproc.bgsu.edu Phone: (419) 372-9277
Open Mon-Fri: 8am -8pm
Sat-Sun: 1pm-6pm

Blackboard Self-Help

Student FAQ's Link: <http://www.bgsu.edu/its/software/page10721.html>

My BGSU Portal Self-Help

Link: <http://www.bgsu.edu/its/tsc/self-help/page10888.html>

BGSU Library

Library services are available online: <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/>

BGSU's Office of Distance Education

<http://online.bgsu.edu>

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability which might require modifications in a particular assignment, please contact me at least a week prior to the assignment's due date to assist you with its realignment. The Disability Services for Students Office is to help provide equal access and reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities attending BGSU. Students wishing to discuss their eligibility for such accommodations are encouraged to contact the office at 419/372-8495.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Cheating will not be tolerated. Although I encourage you to work with your classmates on assignments, all work you turn in must be your own (i.e. written in your own words, not copied from a classmate or the internet). If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the assignment or exam in question and will be reported to the Dean of your college. If you are caught cheating a second time, you will receive a WF in the course and will be reported to the Dean of your college. Familiarize yourself with the Academic Honesty Policy, in the Student Handbook (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/studentdiscipline/index.html>) so you know what is considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy.