

GEOL 1030-1 INTRO TO EARTH SCIENCE-LECTURE

--- BASIC INFO ---

LECTURE TIMES AND LOCATION: MWF 9:10a-10:05a in 452 KOM.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (based on Earth Science Literacy Initiative "Big Ideas"):

1. Students use repeatable observations and testable ideas to understand and explain our planet.
2. Students demonstrate knowledge that the Earth is 4.6 billion years old.
3. Students describe the Earth as a complex system of interacting rock, water, air, and life.
4. Students describe the Earth as continuously changing.
5. Students describe the pervasive role of water in Earth processes.
6. Students describe the evolution of life on Earth and the impact of life on the Earth.
7. Students demonstrate knowledge of Earth resources.
8. Students demonstrate knowledge of natural hazards.
9. Students describe human-induced changes to the Earth.
10. Students are aware of opportunities for career development and further study in the Earth Sciences – both at MTSU and in the world at large.

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Abolins, Ph.D. **Office:** KOM (Kirksey Old Main) 322D.

Office hours: Office hours: MWF 10:20a-11:20a; TuTh 11:20a-11:50a.

Contacting me:

- Call my cell (615-594-4210). Do not call my MTSU landline.
- E-mail address: Mark.Abolins@mtsu.edu. *E-mail is the best way to contact me.* If I don't respond to your e-mail within 24 hours, call 594-4210 (because I didn't receive your e-mail or you didn't receive my reply).
- *I communicate extensively through mass e-mails. Check your campus e-mail daily.*
- *Course e-mails will NOT appear in D2L, and I will not send messages through MasteringGeology. Do not attempt to communicate with me through D2L because I will not receive your message.*

"REQUIRED" TEXT: Earth Science by Tarbuck, Lutgens, and Tasa, 14th ed., Prentice Hall. The 14th edition of Tarbuck, Lutgens, and Tasa "Earth science" is officially required department-wide. However, nothing in my section requires that you actually have the textbook. Note, though, that many students likely find that the textbook helps them perform well. Note that most students will obtain access to the e-text when they purchase MasteringGeology (see below).

REQUIRED MATERIALS (BRING TO EVERY CLASS MTNG):

- i>clicker app, i>clicker2, or another i>clicker product (e.g., i>clicker+).
- All course materials (notes, etc.) obtained during lecture and through D2L and e-mail.
- Paper (that you can turn in) and a pen or pencil.

DISABLED STUDENTS
AND VISUALLY-IMPAIRED STUDENTS
(OFFICIALLY REGISTERED WITH DSS)

**TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED
BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH**

**PUT IT IN WRITING AND (A) E-MAIL
IT TO Mark.Abolins@mtsu.edu,
(B) HAND IT TO ME,
OR (C) PUT IT IN MY MAILBOX
IN 325 KOM.**

Getting started

- Obtain access to MasteringGeology. For many students, the preferred option is to simply go to the website (<http://www.masteringgeology.com/>) and purchase access. You will need (1) the MTSU zipcode (37132), (2) the course ID (**fall16abolins**), (3) your MTSU e-mail address, and (4) your “GeolNum.” Find your “GeolNum” in the D2L gradebook.
- Complete the first assignment in MasteringGeology. It’s the introductory assignment due on 8/26 at 9:10am.
- Acquire the i>clicker app, an i>clicker2, or another i>clicker product (e.g., i>clicker+).
- Go to <http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/> and register your clicker if you are using a physical clicker. To register, you will need (a) your GeolNum (it’s in the D2L grade book) and (b) the clicker itself.
- During 8/18-8/26, go into D2L content, download course materials, and hardcopy the materials. Punch holes in these materials, place these materials in a 3-ring binder, and bring the materials to every class meeting starting with class on 8/26.
- Beginning on 8/29, bring your clicker (i.e., a physical remote or a device that has the app) to every class meeting and bring all hardcopy materials to every class meeting.

Questions?

Dr. Mark Abolins:

Mark.Abolins@mtsu.edu

or 615-594-4210

NO USE OF GEOSCIENCES PHOTOCOPIER: Geol 1030 students cannot use the Geosciences photocopier.

WHEN IS MY FIRST LAB? Labs meet for the first time during the week of 8/22-8/26.

LAB AND LECTURE GRADES: Lab and lecture are separate courses. Grades are not combined and I don't generally know what's happening in lab or have any influence over what happens. Contact your lab instructor with all lab questions.

HOW OFTEN DOES GEOL 1030 MEET AND FOR HOW LONG? If at all possible, I use every day of the semester and every minute of every lecture period to prepare you for the exams and final.

FIELD TRIPS: There will be a required field trip during the regularly scheduled class time on 10/24, 10/26, and 10/28. On one of those days, you will be required to travel on your own to Evergreen Cemetery (to examine different kinds of rocks and the way they weather) during the regularly scheduled class time. Evergreen Cemetery is on Greenland Drive a relatively short distance from campus. On the other two days, you will be on campus picking up litter while also pondering environmental policies, regulations, and solutions. (You'll see how this works when you do it.)

TWO PAGE PAPER: A required two-page mock sustainability grant proposal or mock undergraduate research assistantship proposal will be due on 4/15. You will receive more information about this at a later date.

FINAL EXAM: W 12/7 10a-noon in 452 KOM. You must take the Final exam with the rest of the class on that day and at that time, and the score cannot "drop."

--- POLICIES ---

WITHDRAWALS AND INCOMPLETES: I almost never assign I's, and they will not be given to students who have performed poorly and are suspected of seeking an I solely to avoid a F. Extensive medical documentation is required for an I. Students can drop without a grade through 9/4. The last day to drop with a grade of "W" is 10/26. After 10/26, the only way out (without a F or an I) is to withdraw from the university (withdraw from all classes). The last day you can withdraw from the university is 11/30. BEFORE YOU DROP OR WITHDRAW, CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF YOUR DECISION ON YOUR ACADEMIC SITUATION INCLUDING FINANCIAL AID.

PARTICIPATION: Lecture participation is mandatory and you must be present for the entire lecture period (even on exam days). Participation will be monitored through clicker use. Work-related absences, weather-related absences, weddings, funerals, and other personal/family absences are expressly not excused but note that you get to drop one exam and two homework assignments, and you can be absent from six clicker sessions without penalty. If you miss a lecture, obtain notes and/or handouts from a student who was there. Absences for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics and forensics), medical reasons, court dates, immigration appointments, and military commitments (e.g., National Guard drills) are excused but only if I receive documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) which I can keep.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE NOTE: If you miss an exam and your absence is NOT excused, you should still complete the exam although you will not receive any credit. You should still complete the exam, so you can check your knowledge and also become better-acquainted with course assessments.

EXAM ATTENDANCE NOTE: You MUST arrive on time for exams. Your score on the exam may not "count" if you arrive after some students have left the room.

GRADING: *Course grade – Your course grade is based on your percentage in the course as a whole.* Generally, students who earn a course grade of A have percentages exceeding 89% and students earning a course grade of B have percentages exceeding 79%. I use +/- grading. It is possible to earn a D or F and approx. 10% of students generally do.

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS:

I will go to extraordinary lengths to help students learn Earth Science, and I will spend large amounts of time with students who need help. If you don't understand something, send e-mail or call, and we'll get to the bottom of the problem.

*However, I do not adjust grades on an individual basis or accommodate individual needs (except for disabilities or in very extreme/unusual situations). For example, if you need to earn a certain grade in this course to keep a scholarship, then you will have to earn that grade through your performance. * Your work schedule is not an excuse for poor course performance. * No makeup exams or quizzes will be given unless the absence was excused (see ATTENDANCE above). Simply missing an exam or quiz is not an adequate reason for a makeup. **

LOTTERY STATEMENT: Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you will not be able to regain eligibility at a later time. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form (<http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/forms/LOTFEV.pdf>) or contact your MT One Stop Enrollment Coordinator (<http://www.mtsu.edu/one-stop/counselor.php>).

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu.

*****I TRY VERY HARD TO STICK TO THIS OUTLINE BUT EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*****

WHAT YOU ACTUALLY DO IN THIS COURSE

- THREE EXAMS (see “LECTURE SCHEDULE”).
 - Description
 - Collectively 50% of course grade;
 - Lowest exam score drops;
 - 35-50 questions each;
 - Largely or entirely multiple choice and true/false;
 - Highly restrictive make up policy (see **ATTENDANCE**).
 - Content
 - Everything that came out of my mouth during lecture;
 - Lecture notes (available in D2L or mass e-mailed to you);
 - Additional notes taken by you and based on videos, etc.;
 - Commonly-missed pre-class assignment questions;
 - Content derives solely from lectures post-dating the previous exam.
- FINAL (see “LECTURE SCHEDULE”).
 - Description
 - 25% of course grade;
 - 100 questions total;
 - approx. 40 questions related to content post-dating Exam 3;
 - approx. 10 general questions (e.g., label the inner core and mantle on a diagram);
 - approx. 50 commonly-missed pre-class assignment questions and exam questions.
 - You cannot drop your final exam score.
- CLICKER QUESTIONS (ANSWERED DURING LECTURE PERIOD)
 - Description
 - Collectively 15% of course grade;
 - You can be absent from four clicker sessions without penalty.
 - Content
 - Pre-class reading. (See reading schedule.)
 - Lecture.
- PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (PROBLEMS) AND HOMEWORK
 - Description
 - Collectively 10% of course grade;
 - Complete in MasteringGeology;
 - No credit for completion after the due date;
 - See additional info about grading policy in MasteringGeology;
 - Lowest score drops.
 - Content
 - See “PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE.”
- EXTRA CREDIT AND TUTORING
 - Good for the addition of up to 5 percentage points to your course grade.
 - For a few students who are performing extremely poorly, a final course grade of “C-“ or better can be earned through successful completion of a large amount of closely-monitored regular coursework, extra credit, and tutoring. This is NOT the easy way to earn a “C-.” Students become one of the aforementioned “few students” at my discretion.