

Principles of Geology Section 1 Fall 2005

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Course WebCT site:
<https://courses.missouri.edu/>
DOWNLOAD SYLLABUS FROM THIS SITE



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Lecture 1: Introduction

- Syllabus
- Exams and grading
- How to succeed in this and other classes
- Course objectives
- What is Geology?
- Volcano video



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Your Professor

- Dr. Alan Whittington
- 312 Geology
- email: whittingtona@missouri.edu
- Phone: 884-7625
- Office hours: Mon 1 pm to 3 pm
and by appointment (email me)



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Course materials

- **Earth: Portrait of a Planet** 2nd ed
by S. Marshak (W.W. Norton, 2005)
- Includes CD-ROM and website:
<http://www.wwnorton.com/earth/>
- Learning objectives and assigned readings for
each topic will be posted on the class WebCT
page: <https://courses.missouri.edu>
- **Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology** 7th ed
by Busch and Tasa (Prentice Hall, 2005)



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Lectures & Labs

- Lectures are 12:00 to 12:50 pm MWF
Keller Auditorium, Geology building
- Come to lectures.
Take notes beyond those posted on WebCT.
Bring paper for small writing assignments
- Labs are 2 hours, Tues & Thurs
- Identify your TA
- Rock Bridge field trip - dress for November weather

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Important Dates

- First day of classes Monday Aug. 22nd
- Last day to register, add or change sections Tuesday Aug. 30th
- **First midterm** **Wednesday Sept. 21st**
- Last day to drop a course without a grade Monday Sept. 26th
- Last day to withdraw from a course Monday Oct. 31st
- **Second midterm** **Friday Oct. 21st**
- Last lecture Friday Dec. 9th
- **Final exam** **Friday Dec. 16th 1 p.m.**

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Exams and Grading

Lab*	25%	
Online quizzes	15%	3 sets of 5
Midterm 1	15%	Wed. Sept 21 st
Midterm 2	15%	Fri. Oct. 21 st
Final (comprehensive)	30%	Fri. Dec. 16th

* Lab scores are 3 quizzes (5% each) and one final (10%)

Grades are provisionally ≥85% A, ≥75% B, ≥65% C, etc.
but these are not rigid.

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Exam format

- Midterms in regular class hours
- Multiple choice, graded by computer
- Will cover anything covered in lecture and assigned reading, consistent with learning objectives for each topic
- NOT simply recall of "facts"
- Honor statement (please, no cheating!)
NO phones, PDA's, calculators, books, notes, etc

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missed exams

- **If you miss a lecture exam or lab quiz:** the final will be weighted more (e.g. miss one lab quiz, the final is worth 15% instead of 10%; miss one lecture exam and the final is worth 45%).
- **No make-up credit will be allowed without documentation and advance notice**
 - call the department office on (573) 882-6785 to leave a message during the exam if necessary (e.g. your vehicle has broken down).
- The same policy applies to lab quizzes - in this case inform your lab instructor.

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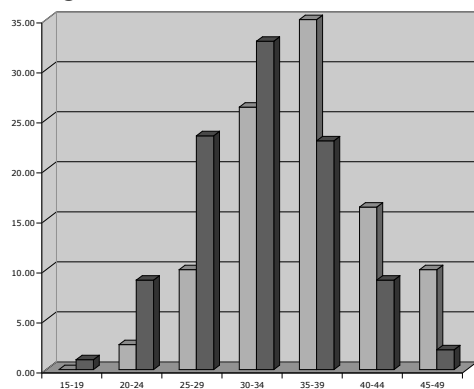
How to succeed in college courses

- Expectation is 2 hours work outside the classroom for every credit hour taken
- Manage your time carefully; budget time for things other than work as well. Get enough sleep.
- Studying a little and often is *much* better than all night before an exam.
- Attend all lectures and labs, and use that time for thinking. Ask your instructors questions.
- Take *notes* in class; do not copy everything down.
- Read the textbook; online quizzes are 15%.

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Regular class attendance = better scores



Fall 2002:

Average scores of students in class: **72.4%**

Average scores of students not in class: **63.8%**

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Exam technique

Midterm 1: **24 missed questions**

14 answers were left blank

E was bubbled in 9 times

Midterm 2: **27 missed questions**

19 answers were left blank

E was bubbled in 7 times

Check your answers before leaving the exam room!

Multiple choice - the answer is in front of you, so start by eliminating answers you know are wrong

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Introduction: what is geology?

- American Geological Institute definition:

“The study of the planet Earth, including the materials of which it is made, the processes that act on these materials, the products formed, and the history of the planet and its life forms since its origin”



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Introduction: what is geology?

- AGI definition continues:

“The knowledge thus obtained is placed in the service of society – to aid in discovery of minerals and fuels of value in the Earth’s crust, to identify geologically stable sites for major structures, and to provide foreknowledge of some of the dangers associated with the mobile forces of a dynamic Earth”



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Earth Systems Science

- The subject of Geology has grown in scope
- Change in human view of the planet - Earth is a dynamic system
- Change triggered by technology, especially space flight and computing / remote sensing capability
- Scientific revolution in geology in 1960’s: development of the Plate Tectonic Paradigm



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Course objectives

- Learn about Earth processes*
- Develop “systems” view of Earth
- See how geology relates to you
- See how science works (scientific method) - what is “science” ?
- Encourage critical thinking (i.e. be able to solve problems rather than just recall information)

* e.g. volcanoes... now watch Mt. St. Helens video



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