PHYSICAL GEOLOGY - GEOL 101

Instructors: Simon Kattenhorn and Kenneth Sprenke
Summer Semester 2007: MTWRF 10.30 - 1.20 p.m., TLC 023

Course Objectives

Each of you depends on the Earth to survive. Each and every day, we rely on its water, its mineral resources, and its soil to grow our food. But do you know how the Earth works? Have you ever looked at a mountain or a lake or the rocks under your feet and wondered how they formed or why they are there? Have you ever stood by a flowing river and wondered how it formed the valley it flows through or why it takes such a winding path down to the ocean? Have you ever wondered where underground water comes from? What about the gas we put in our cars? Or the metal from which the car is made? Where does it all come from? Have you ever wondered why we have earthquakes? How tsunamis are produced? Why volcanoes erupt? How does the Earth impact on our lives? How do we impact on the Earth?

Our planet is full of mysteries, wonder, contradictions, and beauty. As citizens of this planet, it is our responsibility to understand what makes the Earth tick, consider how our planet initially formed, how it subsequently changed, and how it may continue to change. Also, a basic knowledge of geology is sure to help you throughout your life. For example, buying a home may be one of the most important things you ever do. So where is a safe place to buy a house? On a river flood plain where the land is fertile? At the top of a sea cliff with a beautiful view? Along the San Andreas Fault, with its associated rugged scenery? Next to a beautiful beach at the foot of a Hawaiian volcano? How can you assess these things without knowing anything about geology and the potential natural hazards it presents?

This course will help you develop an understanding of the processes that shape our planet and will hopefully give you a renewed appreciation for our natural wonders. You will learn about issues that will affect us all in times to come, including geologic hazards, global warming, and planetary exploration.

Course Logistics

Instructors: Simon Kattenhorn (Email: simkat@uidaho.edu; Office: McClure 303D; Phone: 885-5063). Ken Sprenke (Email: ksprenke@uidaho.edu; Office: McClure 403C; Phone: 885-5791). McClure is directly opposite the Mines Building on 7th St. It is wheelchair accessible from all entrances and has two elevators (NW and SW corners).

Office hours: Due to the large amount of in-class time, there are no office hours during the week. Please talk to the instructor after class if you have questions.

Course Website: http://www.uidaho.edu/~simkat/geol101summer.html. Use the course website to access lecture notes, the lecture schedule, exam answer keys, exam grades, and any information relevant to this class. Exam grades are posted on WebCT, a link to which is posted on the course website. Please note that Prof. Kattenhorn's lecture notes are fill-in-the-blank style, which means you MUST come to lectures to receive all the information you need for the exams and you MUST print out the lecture notes before each lecture. Prof. Sprenke will use the notes in his lectures for review purposes only.

Required textbooks:

Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology, 8th Ed. (Tarbuck & Lutgens) – required for lectures
Physical Geology Exercises, 2nd ed. (Hinds) – required for labs
Exams

There will be 3 exams during the course. Exam dates are shown below:

**EXAM 1:** Friday, May 18th (in class from 10.30 – 11.20 am) - proctored by Sprenke/Kattenhorn  
**EXAM 2:** Thursday, May 24th (in class from 10.30 – 11.20 am) - proctored by Kattenhorn  
**EXAM 3:** Friday, June 1st (in class from 10.30 – 11.20 am) - proctored by Sprenke

All exams will be held in our usual lecture hall- TLC 023. All 3 exams will only cover the lecture material that was not covered in earlier exams (i.e., no comprehensive exams!!).

All exams use a multiple choice format. You must arrive on time for each exam or risk not being admitted to take the exam. Answer keys will be posted on the course website as soon as possible after the exam.

**Missing Exams:** We have one word of advice about missing exams. **DON'T!** You will NOT be permitted to take a missed exam without a really good excuse (e.g., doctor’s note; missing leg; psychotraumatic amnesia). If you miss an exam and have a valid excuse, contact either of us within 1 day after the exam you missed. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to take an exam on a scheduled day, contact one of us as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements (assuming you have a valid excuse).

Grading

Each exam will be worth one-third of your total grade.

The following grade scale will be used for each exam: A: ≥89%; B: 79-88%; C: 68-78%; D: 50-67%; F: ≤50%. Please speak to the professor if you do not fully understand the grading policies for this course.

Grades for each exam are posted on the WebCT website for this course (see [http://webct.uidaho.edu](http://webct.uidaho.edu)), preserving your student confidentiality. Log into WebCT using your UI computer account login name and password.

Labs

The lab portion of this course (Geol 101L) is mandatory if you are taking this course to meet a science core or geology major requirement. You do not need to take the lab if you have previously passed the lab or if you are not taking the course for a core requirement. The lab grade is separate from the course grade and you must enroll in Geol 101L as a separate course. You MUST attend each lab with no exceptions. Note that there are four labs a week, from Monday to Thursday from 2.30 – 4.20 pm. Professors Kattenhorn and Sprenke will also teach the labs.

Field Trip

There will be one full-day field trip in week two of the course (Friday, May 25th). Attendance is mandatory and there will be exam questions based on the trip. More details about the field trip will be supplied at the start of week 2.

Disability Statement

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify us during the first week of class regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons, Room 306. Phone: 885-6307. Email: dss@uidaho.edu. Website: www.access.uidaho.edu.