

Introductory Geology: Exploring Planet Earth
TR 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM, Room 102 LFG

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Snelson
LFG 204
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 – 10:00 am and Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:00 pm. I also maintain an “open-door” policy in which you may stop in at any time to discuss any issues with the course. If you wish you may request an appointment. If students do not use the office hours, then I assume there are no problems, you understand the material, and are prepared for the exams.

Course Format: Lecture twice a week
Lab once a week

Required Textbooks: **Lecture:** *How Does Earth Work?* By Smith and Pun ISBN: 0-13-034129-0.
Another option for those who are interested is the online version of this textbook from <http://www.safarix.com/0130341290>

Lab: Exploring Planet Earth by Hanson and Rees, 2nd edition

Purpose of this Class:

This class is designed as an introduction to the physical characteristics and processes of the Earth. Through class participation, we will discuss the inter-relationship of people, society and the Earth in order to understand better our dependence on the finite resources of the planet and how we may live better with an awareness of Earth processes. This class will also convey an understanding of how Earth scientists utilize scientific principles to gain knowledge of the Earth.

Grading policy:

Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

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Final grades will be computed as follows:

Three exams	15% each
Final Exam (comprehensive)	20%
Laboratory	25% (see note below)
Participation	10% (WebCampus quizzes, in-class exercises)

- Notes:**
1. You **MUST** pass the laboratory in order to pass the course. An F in lab will earn an F for the entire course.
 2. No extra credit will be given.
 3. No make-up exams, make-up quizzes or make-up exercises will be given. All such items have been scheduled so plan to attend class.

Logistics and Policies

1. Participation

I expect that students will come to this class with very different backgrounds and levels of educational training. As a result, you may find some material difficult, feel that you are already familiar with some of the concepts, or have personal experiences that can inform us all. Whatever your situation, please share your position with us through class participation. Most importantly, however, if you are confused about a concept, **please ask questions** in class for clarification and further explanation. You will not be alone in your confusion. There are a variety of learning styles and I will attempt to present the material in ways that will be effective for all of you. If you do not feel comfortable asking questions in class, please see me after class, during office hours, via e-mail, or post a message in the anonymous section of the WebCampus course site. From time to time I will be having you break into small groups during class. The purpose of this is to foster dialogue and critical thinking about many of the topics we will cover. I urge you to make the most of these group exercises to get to know your classmates and to gain the perspective of others on the issues we will be discussing.

2. Laboratory

Concurrent enrollment in a lab section is required. You must enroll for a section of GEOL 101D, for zero credit hours. The lab is 25% of your final grade, **but if you fail the lab, then you will fail the entire course.** Also, **if you miss three lab sessions or fail to turn in three lab assignments or some combination of the two you will fail the lab.** Required field trips will be held during your lab meeting. If you are enrolled in a night lab the field trips will be held on Saturdays or Sundays. Talk to your lab instructors about these and plan accordingly. **If your regularly scheduled lab session falls on a holiday, you must attend a different lab section that week.** You will be working in small groups in the lab, and it is a great place to make friends and find people to form a study group.

3. WebCampus

In this class I will be utilizing WebCampus (<https://webcampus.nevada.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct>) to provide online access to lecture notes, quizzes, exercises, exam reviews and also your grades. You will find WebCampus to be an essential complement to the course; however it is not a substitute for regular class attendance. **Some exercises will be required to be completed on WebCampus, so I you need to regularly access the course site and see the resources that are available.** It is YOUR responsibility to verify that online quizzes have been completed and properly submitted. Otherwise there will not be a grade for that assignment and you may not receive full credit.

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4. Attendance

It is important that you attend class daily because we cover a lot of material, and I will provide guidance for reading assignments and exam questions regularly. You are responsible for all material covered in lectures no matter what causes your absence. If you miss a lecture the notes can be retrieved from WebCampus. **Neither make-up lectures nor make-up exams will be given** except as specified below. Topics covered may vary from the schedule somewhat, but the exam dates, quiz dates and dates where exercises have been scheduled remain fixed. If you are absent from a scheduled exam in either lecture or lab without a written medical, military, or university excuse, you will receive a zero for that exam or exercise. If a make-up exam is required due to the excuses listed above, the make-up exam is made up entirely of short answer questions. The final exam is required of all students.

5. Privacy

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) your quiz, exam and final grades are confidential unless you have specified, in writing, that others are granted access to such information. **I do not give out grades via telephone or e-mail.** In addition please do not ask to collect any graded material for any of your classmates.

6. Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. (Fall 2006 – Spring 2008). Those policies are outlined in the section on Student Academic Misconduct (p. 63-66). In the hopes of deterring incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism this class employs a "zero tolerance" policy meaning that if a student commits cheating or plagiarism they receive a grade of F for the class and a notation may be added to your transcript to indicate academic misconduct. In addition, I will initiate a disciplinary review under procedures described in the University and Community College System of Nevada document Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Members of the University Community.

7. Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>. If the DRC contacts me regarding any accommodations you may need I assure you that confidentiality will be maintained.

8. Religious Holidays

As a general rule, a student missing a class or lab assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. You must notify me by September 8, 2006 if this pertains to you and a clear deadline will be set for completion of work.

9. Nondiscrimination

The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

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10. Official Extracurricular Activity

All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide official written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

11. Learning Environment

The classroom is intended to be a place of learning. As such, and as specified in the UNLV Undergraduate Catalog under Classroom Conduct (p. 67), I ask that no pagers, cell phones, or other potentially disruptive devices are to be used during lecture. These devices should be turned off or turned to the “silent mode”. Any other activities which disrupt the class or interfere with the learning experience of others will not be tolerated. If these guidelines are not followed I may, as outlined in the University Catalog, initiate an administrative drop.

12. Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>

13. Succeeding!

- a. Observe the world around you. (Hint: Television and the internet don't count)
- b. Show up (The ones that do the best in the class are those that attend regularly)
- b. Show up on time (Not 30 minutes late)
- d. Show up prepared (Showing up to an exam without a pencil is an example of not being prepared.)
- e. Turn off or silence your cell-phone/pager/other noisy device (It is annoying).
- f. Pay attention (No chit-chat with your neighbor about weekend exploits. Those around you don't care)
- g. Ask questions and participate
- h. Review/compare notes
- i. Utilize web resources
- j. Do your own work
- k. Use office hours (Not just before the final exam).

Changes to Syllabus:

The following schedule is tentative; adjustments to the schedule of topics and reading assignments may be made in accordance with the rate of progress in the classroom. The instructor also reserves the right to change a lecture topic to reflect world events. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary. **Keep in mind that ANYTHING in the chapters is fair game for exam questions, not just what I present in lecture. It is in your best interest to actually read the assignments and use WebCampus.**

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Lab Topic	
Week 1		Meet & Greet/Scientific Method/Video	
Aug. 29	Why Study the Earth?		Ch. 1
Aug. 31	Plate Tectonics		Ch. 12
Week 2		Topographic Maps 1	
Sept. 5	Plate Tectonics		Ch. 12
Sept. 7	Minerals		Ch. 2
Week 3		Topographic Maps 2	
Sept. 12	The Rock Cycle		Ch. 3
Sept. 14	Igneous Rocks		Ch. 4
Week 4		Minerals	
Sept. 19	Igneous Rocks/Volcanism		Ch. 4
Sept. 21	Sedimentary Rocks		Ch. 5
Week 5		Igneous Rocks	
Sept. 26	Review, Formation of Sediment		Ch. 5
Sept. 28	Exam 1		Ch. 1, 12, 2-4 & Lecture
Week 6		Sedimentary Rocks	
Oct. 3	Metamorphic Rocks		Ch. 6
Oct. 5	Deformation of Rocks		Ch. 11
Week 7		Metamorphic Rocks	
Oct. 10	Geologic Time (Relative Dating)		Ch. 7
Oct. 12	Geologic Time (Absolute Dating)		Ch. 7
Week 8		Rock Exam	
Oct. 17	Sequence of Events in class exercise		
Oct. 19	Surficial Processes – Groundwater		Ch. 17
Week 9		Frenchman Mountain Field Trip #1	
Oct. 24	Exam 2		Ch. 5-6, 11, 7 & Lecture
Oct. 26	Rafting Through the Grand Canyon Video		
Week 10		Groundwater	
Oct. 31	Surficial Processes – Rivers		Ch. 16
Nov. 2	Surficial Processes – Winds & Deserts		Ch. 20
Week 11		Structure Lab	
Nov. 7	Surficial Processes – Glaciers (ELECTION DAY !!!)		Ch. 18
Nov. 9	Surficial Processes – Soils		Ch. 14
Week 12		Geologic Maps	
Nov. 14	Climate Change/Earthquake Video		
Nov. 16	Earthquakes		Ch. 8
Week 13		Bright Angel Quad	
Nov. 21	Exam 3		Ch. 14, 16-18 & Lecture
Nov. 23	<i>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</i>		
Week 14		Frenchman Mountain Field Trip #2	
Nov. 28	Earth's Interior		Ch. 8
Nov. 30	Paleomagnetism		Ch. 10
Week 15		Clark County Map Reading & Interpretation	
Dec. 5	Magnetic Storm Video		
Dec. 7	Plate Tectonics		Ch. 13
Week 16	FINAL EXAM	TUESDAY DECEMBER 12 3:10 PM	Comprehensive