Class Description/Objective:
Physical Geology (GOL 105) is an introductory course in geology meant for students of all backgrounds. Physical Geology is also the first half of the GOL 105/106 science series to fulfill a science requirement.

Physical Geology focuses on a review of the fundamental geological processes and forces acting on Earth. The beginning of the course is devoted to a review of some of the basic history and concepts important to the development of geology as a science as well as a brief overview of the various natural systems acting on Earth. The course focuses next on an introduction to the major mineral and rock groups, including their physical properties and environments of formation. The remainder of the course will describe the fundamental processes acting to generate, modify, destroy, or redistribute the rocks and minerals that make up the Earth, including wind, glaciers, running water and gravity. Additionally, we will consider how these processes interrelate and how susceptibility they are to both short and long term perturbations.

Required Textbooks:
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Lecture Tests</td>
<td>50% (12.5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Lab Quizzes</td>
<td>30% (7.5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip Report/Smithsonian Lab</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (optional)</td>
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*Can replace one of your lecture exam grades*

Final grades will be based on the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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(Note: All final grades are rounded to the nearest whole number)

If you would like an estimate of your grade in the class at any point in the semester, please make an appointment with me to go over the grades in my office. Any grade estimate that I give you is based on the assumption that you will complete all required work in the class and receive an average grade on all work not yet handed in. This estimate may not accurately reflect your final grade in the class if the assumptions prove to be inaccurate.

Attendance/Class notes:

Attendance is not mandatory for this class. However, attendance will be taken in both lab and lecture for strictly administrative purposes. If you do not show up to lecture for the first four classes or miss the first two labs, you likely will be withdrawn from the course. You are responsible for all material presented in lecture and lab regardless of whether you attend the lecture/lab. If you miss a lecture/lab, please make arrangements with another classmate or check with me about what was covered. I will not provide you with notes (a good reason to check in with a classmate), but will be able to give you any handouts that you may have missed.

Lecture Exams:

Four lecture exams will be given during the course of the semester. Exams may include short answer, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, true/false, multiple choice, and/or short essay questions. Each exam will count for 12.5% of your final grade. The dates of the exams and quizzes are provided on the syllabus and represent “best guess” dates. These dates are subject to change and may be updated as the semester progresses. Any changes will be announced in class at least one week prior to the anticipated change. Completion of all exams and quizzes is required. If you know you will miss an exam or quiz, you must notify me at least 24 hours prior to the day of the exam/quiz to make other arrangements. E-mails and messages on my answering machine will not qualify as notification. You must speak to me in person or receive a reply from me stating I received your notification. I will only consider scheduling a make-up for documented emergency situations. I’m actually a pretty understanding person. If you have a conflict with the dates of the exams, come see me. If you are late for an exam, you will only be allowed to enter the room and take the exam until the first person finishes and leaves the room. After that time you will not be allowed to take the exam and will be considered to have missed the exam. If you miss an exam and fail to notify me ahead of time, you will receive no credit for that exam. Any make-up exams or quizzes at that point will only be offered at my own personal discretion. Make-up exams (if offered) will likely consist of 4 – 5 essay questions. If you are caught cheating on any exam or lab quiz, you will be given a zero on that exam and may be given a failing grade for the entire course. Additional disciplinary actions may also be initiated with the school. Cheating is defined as the “giving, receiving, or soliciting of information and the unauthorized use of notes or other material during the examination or quiz.” (NVCC Student Handbook). If you are caught cheating on any exam or lab quiz, you will be given a zero on that exam and may be given a failing grade for the entire course. Additional disciplinary actions may also be initiated with the school.

Laboratory:

Laboratory:

This class includes a mandatory laboratory. All labs will be held in Bisdorf 391. Each lab will have an assigned handout to be completed over the course of the lab. These handouts are available on my website. It is your responsibility to print out a copy of the lab assignment each week and bring it to laboratory with you. I will not grade these lab assignments but instead will provide an answer key for you to check your results. I will be available to answer questions or check your work during the lab. The AGI Laboratory Manual contains much of the background information required for most of the labs we will do this semester and is a valuable resource for studying lab material outside the lab. Four quizzes will be given in the
Each quiz will count for 7.5% of your final grade. The quizzes will be directly related to the lab material and will consist of either identification of mineral or rock samples or follow a similar format as outlined for the lecture exams.

A short safety review will be given in lab prior to the first lab. A safety form has been posted on Blackboard. Please print out this form and bring it with you to the first lab. You need to read and sign this form and hand it in to the instructor BEFORE you are allowed to participate in the laboratory exercise. Some safety precautions should be obvious and will be enforced. You must wear shoes that cover your entire foot. **No sandals will be allowed in the lab.** If you wear sandals, you will not be allowed to enter the lab. You cannot eat or drink anything in the lab. Do not throw objects, put anything in your mouth, run with scissors, etc...

**Field Trip:**

There is a required field trip, most likely to Great Falls, Virginia. The field trip will be offered on an as yet to be determined Saturday and will last approximately 5-6 hours. If you cannot attend the field trip for any reason, you can opt to complete a self-guided Smithsonian Lab. Both the Great Falls Field Trip and the Smithsonian Lab will require a write-up consisting of answering several questions and writing 1 – 2 essays. If you use any outside sources when writing up the field trip report or Smithsonian Lab (including web material, books, publications, etc), you must properly cite the source of the information. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero on the assignment.

**Plagiarism,** as defined in the 1995 *Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary*, is the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work."[1] Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure, up to and including expulsion.[2]

References

2. Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia

Field Trip reports and Smithsonian Labs will be due on **Friday December 1, 2017**.

**Homework:**

There will be a few short homework assignments during the course of the semester. These are relatively painless assignments meant to get you to look into a topic in a bit more detail outside of class and are help you understand material we are going over in lecture. All class discussions in the Blackboard Discussion Board will count towards your homework grade. Grading of reading/discussion assignments will be based on your posted responses. One-half credit (50%) will be allocated for your posted comments about the assigned reading and the remaining half-credit (50%) will be allocated for your posted response/comments on another students comment thread (see Blackboard section below for proper etiquette). Homework submitted by the assigned deadline will be given full credit. Any assignment handed in within one week after the deadline will incur a 10% penalty in the grade. Any assignment handed in more than one week after the deadline will incur a 50% penalty in the grade.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam for this class is scheduled for **Tuesday December 12, 9:30 am – 11:10 am** (section 02) or **Tuesday December 12, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm** (section 03) in room AA438. This exam is completely optional. The grade on your final (if you choose to take it) will be used to replace your lowest lecture exam grade even if it is lower than any of your lecture exam grades. The final exam will be cumulative and may cover any material from the text, any assigned readings or material presented in lectures. The exam is closed book.

**Add/Drop:**

The last day to drop this course with a full tuition reimbursement is **Thursday September 7, 2017**. The last day to drop the course without a grade penalty is **Tuesday October 31, 2017**. If you need to withdraw from the class after this deadline, you will need to provide me with formal documentation explaining the circumstances for your withdrawal. This will also include a typed, dated and signed, written excuse explaining why you are requesting a withdrawal after the deadline as well as official documentation for your requested withdrawal. Any withdrawals after the deadline are subject to my approval, the approval of the dean of MSE, and the approval of the provost and are by no means guaranteed. It is **very** difficult to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline.
Extra Credit

I do not offer any extra credit in this class.

Electronic Devices

The in-class use of any electronic devices is strictly regulated. Computer/electronic device use in class is welcome for note taking or class related activities. If you are found to be using a computer or electronic device during class for anything other than class related purposes you will not be allowed to use the device again during the class for the rest of the semester. All cell phones should be turned off and stored off the desk top before class begins. If you use a blue-tooth ear attachment, please remove it during the class period. If you need to keep your phone accessible for emergency purposes, please notify me at the beginning of class. If you do receive an emergency phone call, please leave the room and complete the call elsewhere. Texting is absolutely prohibited. You are not allowed to use your cell phone’s calculator during in class exams or laboratory quizzes.

Special Needs:

Students with special needs as determined by the campus Counseling Center need to make arrangements with me regarding accommodations to any of these policies as soon as possible in the beginning of the semester (preferable), or prior to any test or exam being given. Please come see me, or a counselor, regarding any of these issues if you are unsure about anything.

Blackboard:

We will be using Blackboard in this class to post notices, documents, assignments, quizzes and discussions. Please familiarize yourself with the Blackboard site for this class and make sure you can sign onto it. I have opened a discussion forum labeled “Introductions”. Please post a short message in this forum room introducing yourself to the rest of the class. I will check to make sure everyone has posted an introduction and you will receive 1 point towards your homework grade for posting an introduction. I have also created a forum labeled “Open Forum” for general use by the class. Feel free to post questions to me or to the class in general. You can also respond to other people’s postings for clarification on class topics or general questions about dates of exams or quizzes or any other class related topic. I will periodically monitor this site and answer any questions that arise, but I also encourage you to use this discussion room as a means of posting comments or queries to your classmates.

I will also post articles on the Blackboard site and ask that you read and post your comments on the article. I will open a new Forum in the Discussion Board for each new paper assigned. For these postings you can receive one (1) point for posting a comment about an assigned paper and an additional point (2 points total) for posting a response to someone else’s posted entry. You can only receive one additional point for a response. If you respond to more than one person’s entry, you will still only receive one additional point.

General rules for discussion section:

1) Do not use profanity in the chat room
2) Only refer to other people in the chat room by their preferred name
3) Do not criticize someone’s opinions without offering a constructive alternative opinion
4) Refrain from making *ad hominem* arguments (do not criticize the person, criticize the idea)
5) Always show respect for others beliefs

If I deem any posting to be inappropriate, I will delete the posting and e-mail you a copy highlighting the areas I thought were inappropriate and advising you how to alter it to repost it if possible.

*In case of a school emergency that prohibits us from meeting on campus, I will post instructions and messages on the Blackboard site and may conduct class from that site.*

Disclaimer: *Any information on this policy may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances. Any changes to these policies will be announced in lecture prior to its inception.*