INTRODUCTION and LEARNING OBJECTIVES

GEOL 101 is a 3 credit course with two 75 minute lectures per week. It fills WVU General Education Curriculum Objective 2B: Basic Mathematical Skills and Scientific Inquiry or Objective 4: Contemporary Society. Taken with GEOL 102, GEOL 101 meets WVU Lab Science requirements. A student may not get credit for both GEOL 101 and GEOL/GEOG 110: Geology & the Environment.

The focus of Geology 101 is to characterize the earth and explore processes acting on and within our unique planet. The course examines natural phenomena that influence humankind (floods, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes) and natural resources that societies require to function in their current form.

After successfully completing the requirements of this course, you will be able to apply basic math, graphic, and analytical skills to explain the earth and solve geologic problems that impact individuals and society. Problem solving in Geology differs somewhat from other scientific inquiries because of the enormity of geologic time and the use of multiple working hypotheses in geoscientists’ application of the scientific method. By the end of the semester, you will command an introductory-level vocabulary that will allow you to communicate about geosciences issues. You will be able to identify the origins of common minerals, rocks, and landforms, to place geologic features in the context of prevailing theories in the discipline. You will be able to come up with your own solutions on how to best sustain the planet and our resource-dependent lifestyles. Most importantly, you will understand that science is a self-correcting, critical-thinking process, not a collection of facts to accept or a secular canon to obey.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

The textbook will be an important resource in this section of GEOL 101. We will be using a new textbook in the Spring 2010 semester:


LOOK FOR THIS COVER -

The book is brand new, so there will not be much, if any, used book market to buy from. It will be available in two formats in order to help you reduce your textbook costs:

1. Traditional textbook, which bookstores may buy back at the end of the semester until their buy-back quota is filled. The special ISBN number of this book at WVU (007-801351-8) will not be available through outside sources, and local stores may be selling below on-line purchase costs.

2. E-book at 55% of list price, which will "go away" after 180 days. This option is available directly through McGraw Hill - [http://www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com). Read carefully and completely before you buy an e-book. There is no resale value, and there are different formats it might take... including one-time download to your hard drive or online reading.
Consider resale and ultimate costs and compare prices before you buy your book! The textbook will be used at WVU in Fall 2010, so there should be a used book resale market for a set number of copies at the end of the semester.

I do NOT recommend purchasing the 1st edition; it is different and I have not taught from it in the past, so I have not prepared alternate reading assignments and exercises.

"Connect" software will be shrink wrapped with the book as a package at no cost. The "Connect" system for this book is under development and will not be operational until several weeks into the Spring 2010 semester. Consider the "Connect" software optional if you are buying Exploring Geology through sources outside the local bookstores or McGraw Hill. Since I have not seen this "Connect" software, I am not sure how much it may help you with your studies.

TEACHING WEB SITE
My teaching web page, www.geo.wvu.edu/~kite/teaching.html, will be used heavily. Some of the materials will be posted as "pdf" files, which require Adobe software (http://get.adobe.com/reader/) to read. I will be transforming my web site this semester, so check the current version of this document to insure the web address has not changed for technical reasons beyond my control. Alternative web pages may be developed on eCampus later this semester; more information will be provided in class.

TESTS, EXAMS, & QUIZZES
Final grades will be determined by four out of five different scores: three tests, one final exam, and an overall quiz score. I will drop the lowest of these five scores, to provide some cushion if you have a bad test day or are forced by circumstances to miss a significant number of class quizzes.

Three scheduled computer-based tests will be given in the Geology & Geography Department computer labs on the 4th floor of Brooks Hall (rooms 415, 416, 419, or 420) on Thursday and Friday afternoons. See my current on-line GEOL 101 schedule for times. Each of these three tests will be made up of 33 multiple-choice questions, taken only from the most recent test unit material.

The final exam will also be given in the Geology & Geography Department 4th floor computer labs at the time published on the WVU exam schedule. The final exam will be made up of 33 multiple-choice questions, approximately half taken from the last test unit material and half taken from previous test units.

How to take a test or exam in the 4th floor Brooks computer labs:
1. You MUST know how to log on to eCampus before taking the exam.
2. Bring your WVU STUDENT ID. Test proctors do NOT accept other forms of ID.
3. Report to the hallway outside rooms 415 & 419 during the scheduled test period to check in with the proctors. Arrive at least a half hour before the end of the test period when the test software shuts down. If you arrive at a high volume time, you may need to wait for an available computer.
4. Tell the proctors you are in Kite's GEOL 101. (Other classes will be testing at the same time.)
5. You may NOT have any materials (including papers, notes, textbooks, memory sticks/cards, cell phones, PDAs, or other electronic devices, etc.) with you at the computer. If any of these items are found with you at the computer, we will assume you are attempting to cheat and we will treat this infraction as academic dishonesty. You may leave these items with your coat or backpack on the floor around the perimeter of the room, as instructed by the proctors.
6. Do NOT open up any other computer program while testing. The computers are locked down to prevent other programs from opening and there is monitoring software installed on the computers.

If you miss a test for any reason, a make-up test will be allowed. Make-up tests will cover the same material and have the same multiple-choice format as the test you missed. All make-up tests will be given in the 4th floor Brooks Hall testing center, either during the next scheduled computer testing period.
or during the regularly scheduled final exam period in exam week. Note that you may have to take two tests in the same day in order to make up a missed test.

**Ten or more quizzes will be given throughout the semester.** The quizzes are given to encourage class attendance and participation. Some of these quizzes will entail take-home activities that may require you to find information on internet web sites.

The lenient grading policy that allows you to drop the lowest of the five different scores (3 tests, final exam, and overall quiz score) removes any need for "make-up quizzes" and **make-up quizzes will not be given**. Giving make-up quizzes would defeat the attendance incentive that quizzes provide, and in a large class, would be a tremendous amount of additional work for your friendly over-worked GEOL 101 TAs and me. While the TAs and I are deeply concerned over problems that prevent you from being in class and taking quizzes, there is no need to contact me or a TA about a make-up quiz when you can’t be there.

I encourage you to attend class whenever possible in order to avoid a poor grade, especially if an unexpected illness or recurring problem causes you to miss multiple quizzes later this semester. Past experience, some of it from my own freshman year, has shown that the easiest ticket to a poor grade is absence, especially if you miss tests and quizzes. The moral of this story is "build" your grade in this class from the beginning of the semester, show up for class, don't miss the last two quizzes, and don't count on the final exam helping your grade without a change in work habits or circumstances.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS**

It is your responsibility to insure that your electronic devices, including cell phones, do not disturb others in class. Theses devices should be turned off or operated in silent mode, and disruption of class through holding a conversation through an electronic device may lead to a grade of zero for one or more quiz scores.

**GRADING SCALE**

It is my intention to adhere to a traditional 10 point scale this semester. Beware this scale differs from my grading in previous semesters, so old class materials may be misleading for this class. I reserve the right to curve test scores upward if warranted by the difficulty of tests or other factors.

I give “+” and “-” grades, even though they are not figured into the WVU GPA; they may be factored into a recalculated GPA at other schools if you transfer or apply to graduate school elsewhere. Grades of “I” = "Incomplete" are not given, except in truly exceptional circumstances beyond a student's control.

**EXTRA CREDIT**

Generally extra credit must be student-designed, student-directed projects dealing with aspects of geology. Book reports and the like are not appropriate for extra credit in this course. All extra-credit work will be averaged into the rest of the class grade, rather than added on. Thus, extra-credit work must be of superior quality to improve your grade. Students who want to do extra credit work must submit a formal typed 100-200 word proposal describing the project no later than the 2nd Tuesday in April. The proposal will be approved or denied within 1 week of receipt. Historically, most extra credit projects do not actually improve the student's letter grade in this course, but many make a “+” and “-” difference.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND ETHICS**

**EVERYONE in this class is required to read and adhere to this pledge when taking tests:**

I adhere to all of the guidelines regarding academic dishonesty (cheating) in the WVU University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities ([http://studentlife.wvu.edu/studentconductcode.html](http://studentlife.wvu.edu/studentconductcode.html)). I have read and understand these guidelines. I have not given or received help from anyone (besides procedural assistance from proctors, teaching assistants, or instructors) during this test. I have not used a cheat sheet,
crib note, textbook, study guide, cell phone, PDA, radio, dictionary, or other aid while taking this test. I have not copied answers from another student's test or quiz, nor will I knowingly allow another student to copy from my test or quiz.

I do not know of any other student who has given or received help during this test. I will report as soon as possible any suspicious, dishonest, or unethical conduct related to this test to a proctor, a teaching assistant, Dr. Kite, or the head of the Department of Geology and Geography. I understand that this class has "zero-tolerance" of academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will be fully pursued by the staff and members the department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and WVU. Penalties may include assignment of a grade of "unforgivable F", or worse. Theft of tests or unauthorized intrusion into computer accounts or files may be pursued through criminal codes. Your completion of an electronic or paper test shows that you agree to follow this code.

The policy for quizzes requires that anyone turning in a quiz must turn in the results of their own work. Some quizzes require class attendance, and turning in a quiz bearing the name of someone who is not in the class is fraudulent and dishonest conduct. Some quizzes allow collaboration with other students or friends; in these cases, each student is held to a standard in which each individual must significantly and meaningfully participate in group efforts that yield answers to the quiz questions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. The Department of Geology and Geography supports that commitment and strives to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

DISABILITY

If you have a disability and anticipate any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me or one of the TAs early in the semester, and make arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

URL for this page: www.geo.wvu.edu/~kite/Geol101Description.pdf