



**Instructor:** DR. BERAKI WOLDEHAIMANOT

**Office:** MSB-226

**Office hours:** By appointment only

**Phone:** (310) 287-4524

**Email:** Woldehb@wlac.edu

**WINTER 2014 (1/6– 2/9, 2014)**

**Section # 1176**

**Location - MSA-307**

**M, Tu, W, Th 8:00 - 10:35 am**

PHYSICAL GEOLOGY – GEOLOGY 1  
Course Schedule (Tentative)

TOPICS	TEXTBOOK READING
1. INTRODUCTION TO GEOLOGY <i>Assignment about the Universe</i>	Pages 1-39; 815-851
2. PLATE TECTONICS	Pages 41-79
3. CRUSTAL DEFORMATION & MOUNTAIN BUILDING	Pages 335-359; 459-485
4. EARTHQUAKES & EARTH'S INTERIOR <i>Assignment on Earthquakes</i>	Pages 361-421
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> MID-TERM EXAM (TOPICS 1-4)</b>	
5. MINERALS	Pages 81-115
6. IGNEOUS ROCKS <i>Assignment on volcanic activity</i>	Pages 117-195
7. SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	Pages 197-267; 489-513
8. METAMORPHIC ROCKS	Pages 269-301
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> MID-TERM EXAM (TOPICS 5-8)</b>	
9. GEOLOGIC TIME	Pages 303-333
10. RUNNING WATER AND GROUND WATER	Pages 515-589
11. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	Pages 779-813
12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FOSSIL FUELS & MINING ACTIVITIES <i>Assign on Env impact of fossil fuels and mining activities</i>	Pages 703-739
<b>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM FEB 6, 2014</b>	

**TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED)**

Tarbuck, E.J., Lutgens, F.K., and Tasa, D. (2014). *Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology* 11<sup>th</sup> edition; Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers; ISBN: 9780321814067

**TRANSFER:** CSU, UC

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

Physical Geology 1 is a 3 unit course that deals with materials that compose our planet Earth and forces and processes that affect it. The course includes a survey of minerals & rocks, a study of plate tectonics, the forces & processes that create volcanoes & earthquakes, a study of surface features created by streams, groundwater & landslides; concepts behind the formation of petroleum, coal & other mineral deposit such as gold, diamond, aluminum, copper, etc.; and the environmental impact of energy and mineral resources.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the origin of the planet Earth and cite evidence for its age; explain the role of plate tectonics in configuring the continents and oceans of our Planet; describe the principles of relative and absolute dating as applied to the study of Earth's history.
2. Describe processes of rock formation; identify the common minerals & rock types, and interpret the origin of rocks and their structures through observable facts.
3. Explain the global and local distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes, and examine how plate tectonics is related to earthquakes.
4. Discuss the processes of formation and distribution of energy, mineral, and water resources in global and local context.
5. Discuss the impact of mining activities, mineral refining, and burning of fossil fuels on the environment.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE, IN-CLASS USE OF LAPTOPS, TABLETS (IPAD ETC.), VOICE RECORDERS & CAMERAS**

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken at the beginning and/or end of classes. The instructor may drop a student from the course if he/she were absent for 3 or more classes; or if the student arrived late in class &/or left class early for 6 or more days, or a combination of both. Arriving late or leaving early for two class sessions is equivalent to being absent for one full class session. If a student did not take up his/her seat in the class during the first 10 minutes of the official start time of the class, he/she will be considered *late*. If a student leaves the classroom before the instructor dismisses the class, he/she will be considered *late* for purposes of attendance. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom 15 minutes after the start of the class. **Students who regularly come to class (up to 2 absences are ok) will earn 10 points in extra credit.**

Students who want to use laptops and tablets (such as iPad etc.) while class is in session can use them under the following conditions: (1) the laptops and tablets can only be used to read lecture notes from Etudes, or to take notes. Unless explicitly announced, no web browsing or electronic communication is allowed! (2) the student sits in the front row of seats. If the Instructor suspects that a student may be doing other activities with the computer other than those described above, the instructor reserves the right to see what the student is doing and can prohibit the student from using the computer.

Voice or video recording of lectures using a recording device may be allowed if in the instructor's judgment there is a need for a student to do so. However, students should seek prior approval from their instructor.

Taking pictures or screen shots of PowerPoint presentations or other lecture items from the white board or projector screen are NOT allowed. The reason is simple: they destruct the smooth flow of the teaching-learning process. Thus, unless explicitly approved by the instructor, students cannot use their cell phones or other devices to take pictures during lecture hours.

Students are responsible for all academic-related material, assignment, or information missed when absent. These include lectures, handouts, class activities, assignments, or any course-related information.

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Assessment will include two mid-term exams, a comprehensive final exam, and assignments. Questions will be any combinations of multiple choices, matching, fill-in-the blank and essay type. Any materials covered by lectures, video shows, and as reading assignments from textbooks may be included in the exams.

All exams are closed-book and closed-note. During examinations any printed or hand-written papers, related or unrelated to the exam are NOT allowed. If any of these are found in your possession during an exam, these will be considered as cheating and will be reported to College authorities for appropriate action.

During exams use of electronic media (e.g. cell phone, laptop, tablet, including listening to music from iPod etc.) will not be allowed. All electronic media should remain switched off for the entire duration of the exam. If there is a need for their use, this must be first approved by the instructor; use of such media without instructor's

approval, will constitute cheating and will be reported to college authorities.

The course includes four assignments. Most of the assignments are in-class. Students who were absent on a day when assignment was given will score zero for that assignment and NO alternative assignments will be given.

In addition to the above, there will be an opportunity for optional extra credit work where interested students could choose and visit a museum in Los Angeles, submit a two-page report and earn up to 15 points. Detailed instructions will be given later in the semester.

Students who want to visit a museum other than those suggested by the instructor or have alternative suggestions are encouraged to speak with their instructor. If in the instructor's judgment the alternative suggestions are instructional, the student may be allowed to visit those suggested places or institutions and submit reports for their visit.

Students must bring SCANTRON (882 E), a pencil and an eraser for each exam.

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

1 <sup>st</sup> Mid-term Exam	100 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	160 points
Assignments	40 points
Optional Extra credit	[15 points]
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400 points</b>

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<b>A:</b>	≥360 points (≥90%)
<b>B:</b>	320-359 points (80-89%)
<b>C:</b>	280-319 points (70-79%)
<b>D:</b>	240-279 points (60-69%)
<b>F:</b>	<240 points (< 60%)

Once graded examination papers are returned to students and reviewed, they will have to be given back to the instructor.

Final grades for the course will be posted on the College's "Student Information System" within 10 days after the final exam. To log on to the site open the college's webpage ([www.wlac.edu](http://www.wlac.edu)) and click the button titled "Student Information System (SIS)".

### **WANT TO RECEIVE HONOR'S CREDIT?**

Do you plan to transfer to UC/CSU? Do you want to receive Honors Credit for Geology 1, which is a transferrable general education course? If yes, your instructor is willing and encourages you to go for it. Please contact your instructor on the first day of classes. Otherwise, you may not be considered for the program.

To be eligible for the Honor's Credit, students must first be accepted into the Transfer Honors Program. Transfer Honors Application can be obtained from the Counseling Office. For More Information please contact Helen Young, Program Director phone (310) 287-4289 or email her at [transferhonors@wlac.edu](mailto:transferhonors@wlac.edu), or talk to Andrea Frederic, Transfer Honors Program Counselor at (310) 287-4260. To learn more visit <http://www.wlac.edu/transfer/index.html#honors>. Once accepted by the Program, the student will be given a contract that the student and the instructor must complete.

Students who want to be part of this program must be prepared to do extra work and ensure that they can earn "A" or "B" grade. Examples of extra work include additional assignments and problems, a project, and participation in class discussions. Due to the extra work, the grading scheme shall be different from the grading scheme for the regular class. For more information about the extra work and the grading scheme, please speak with the instructor.

### **POLICY ON EXAM MAKE-UPS**

Students should take exams on the scheduled dates; otherwise they will score zero points for that exam. There will be NO make-up exams except for valid and verifiable reasons (for example, if you were ill, you must submit a doctor's note). If you have a problem on the day of the exam you, your relatives or friends must e-mail or call your instructor before the scheduled exam time. Make-up exams, when approved, will take place on a date determined by your instructor.

### **POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY & CONDUCT IN CLASS**

Pursuant to West Los Angeles College's [WLAC] policy on student conduct, all forms of disruptive behaviors such as private talking, use of cell phones and texting while class is in session, as well as going out of class to answer or make a call etc. will not be allowed. These behaviors detract from the learning experience of others in the class. Students should make certain that cell phones are turned off before entering the class. In addition, eating &/or drinking beverages (except water) in the classroom, as well as chewing gum are prohibited. These and other college policies on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism) will be strictly enforced. Students should read WLAC's publication on all aspects of student conduct outlined in the most recent College Catalog or by logging onto the College website at [http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC\\_12-14Catalog\\_FRONT.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_12-14Catalog_FRONT.pdf).

Consequences of Misconduct: Violators of College regulations and rules are subject to disciplinary action under Board Rule 9803.15 of the Los Angeles Community College District. Depending upon the seriousness of the conduct, disciplinary procedures may range from a warning to removal from the class with a referral to the Vice President of the College.

### **DEADLINES**

Students should adhere to Add/Drop policies & deadlines of the College. It is the student's responsibility to officially drop out of the course, when he/she stops attending. Otherwise, grades other than a "W" may be assigned.

*Remember, if you decide to withdraw from the course, you must file appropriate papers in the Admissions Office.*

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

If a student has disability (with special physical, communication or learning needs) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) located on the first floor of the Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC). DSPS' phone number is (310) 287-4450.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

#### Last day to:

Add a class without a fee: Jan 5 (online); Jan 8 (in person)

Drop a class without a fee: Jan 8

Drop a class without a "W": Jan 8

Drop a class with a "W": Jan 31

#### College is closed:

Martin Luther King Day: Jan 20

*This syllabus may be modified in order to better meet student needs or in the event of an emergent matter.*