

GEOLOGY 1602 Section 1
2020 Spring Syllabus (for the rest of this semester)
Lab Room: E208 Howe-Russell
10:30am – 01:20pm

Instructors (Teaching Assistants)

Eric (Zelong Zhang)
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Course Coordinator for Geology 1602:

Dr. Amy Luther
aluther@lsu.edu
Office hours: By appointment only

* Dr. Luther is the course coordinator only. The instructor listed above does all teaching, grading, and decision making related to the functioning of this course. Dr. Luther should be contacted only in the case of issues that cannot be resolved between the student and instructor. The signature of Dr. Luther will be required on all Add/Drop forms and other paperwork related to this course.

If emailing the instructor questions or concerns addressed in the syllabus or posted on Moodle, do not expect a response. If the email inquiry is regarding course materials or an upcoming lab, please expect a response before the lab meeting time. If the email inquiry is regarding an excused absence, please expect a response within a week from the sent email date.

Required Materials

Custom Lab Manual: *Historical Geology GEOL 1602 Louisiana State University*, McGraw Hill, 2013. ISBN-10: 1121744559 ISBN-13: 97881121744554.

NOTE: Used manuals are NOT acceptable.

Note on Course Prerequisites

Enrollees in this course are assumed to satisfy the prerequisites for Geology 1602 as stated in the *LSU General Catalog*: “credit in GEOL1601; credit in, or current enrollment in GEOL 1003.”

Note on course credit and expected workload

LSU policy grants one semester hour of credit for every hour of (weekly) meeting time for *lecture* courses, and one hour of credit for *labs* meeting for three hours or less per week. As a general rule, students are expected to spend two to three hours per credit working outside of class. Work outside of this class will consist of pre-lab reading as well as studying for quizzes/tests.

Lab work

All lab work must be completed by the end of the day of the corresponding lab (Tuesday 11:59PM CST). Each overdue will be penalized by 1-point reduction on your final grade per day.

Final project consists of a term paper, a presentation, and a video (optional, extra credit).

Extra credit

Produce a one-minute mini-video about a concept relevant to the topic of your presentation. It needs to be original and will be posted as public domain.

Attendance, late work, and makeup work

Lectures have been pre-recorded. Zoom meetings will be held regularly during class hours for Q&A. Attending the meeting is encouraged but NOT mandatory. Each lecture video will be posted at least 3 calendar days in advance of the lab due date.

Makeup for lab work and test is available ONLY if student inform instructor his/her absence ahead of time, as well as have valid excuse. In order to make-up labs appropriate documentation of an approved absence must be provided. If you are

unable to attend the designated make-up lab, the work cannot be made up. If you miss an exam, you must coordinate with the instructor or seek approval to make-up the exam during the designated make-up dates (identified in the course schedule). The course instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons. Valid reasons for absences as defined by LSU (PS-22) are as follows:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances. See the interfaith calendar website (www.interfaithcalendar.org) for an updated calendar of holidays and primary holy days of the various religions. Faculty members are expected to be sensitive to the different religious traditions represented in the LSU community, and to assist students in making up examinations or other assigned work that may be missed due to absences required by religious observances.
8. Participation in varsity athletic competitions or university musical events

Disability

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to the Office of Disability Services and the course coordinator (Dr. Amy Luther), as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. See PS-26. Information on auxiliary aids and services provided for registered ODS students are available through ODS: 112 Johnston Hall; 225-578-5919; <http://ap1003.lsu.edu/slas/ods.nsf/index>.

Academic Integrity

Working on lab assignments in pairs (and sometimes small groups) is the norm in this class, but you are still expected to do your own work. Some questions may require a numerical or brief answer that will, by design, be the same for everyone, but most require some explanation and interpretation. Discuss answers and write them in your own words; do not simply copy your partner's answers verbatim. All quizzes and tests are individual efforts. Incidences of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic misconduct is outlined in Sec. 8.1 of the LSU Code of Student Conduct <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm>.

Grading

<u>Quizzes:</u> Five in-class quizzes have been given at the beginning of each lab period.	5 quizzes at 2 points each = 10 points 10% of your total grade
<u>Lab Assignments:</u> Labs will be collected at the end of the day. Without proper cause, overdue will result penalty.	10 labs at 4 points each = 40 points 40% of your total grade
<u>Exams:</u> One midterm has been given. The final exam will consist of one term paper, one presentation, and a video (extra credit).	1 midterm exam = 16 1 presentation = 16 Anonymous feedback = 2 1 term paper = 16 50% of your total grade 1 optional video as extra credit = 8

Guideline and Grading for Term Paper and Presentation

Below is the table of time periods assigned by random number generator.

Last Name	Assigned Geologic Period
Dakroub	Cambrian
Dunton	Ordovician and Silurian
Hoppe	Devonian and Carboniferous
Stewart	Permian
Adams	Triassic
Berggren	Jurassic
Allen	Cretaceous
Rapp	Paleogene
Stein	Neogene

Term paper, the groundwork, should be 4 - 6 pages of letter size using normal margin, double space, and 12-point Times New Roman Font. Each of you will be assigned to a period of geologic time (detail see below). Please list all citation in the reference section including paper, presentation, and video. Reference should be formatted in **APA style**. Please submit your term paper by **May 2 11:59PM**. You can use citation management software such as Zotero. <https://guides.lib.lsu.edu/c.php?g=279388&p=1862196>

Please address the following **10 questions** in your paper.

- (1) What period are you researching?
- (2) What Era? Is it a part of Cenozoic, Mesozoic, or Paleozoic?
- (3) How long is the period you are studying?
- (4) What were the major living species on land and in the sea? And which species are the dominate on land and in the sea?
- (5) Is the period you are studying bound by a mass extinction (Does it begin or end with one or does it both begin and end with one? If there is a mass extinction, what are the probable causes?)
- (6) What was the climate during this period? (Focus on the abundance of carbon dioxide and oxygen levels)
- (7) Were the polar ice caps present during this time? What was sea level during this time?
- (8) Were there any supercontinents present during the time? If so, which one?
- (9) Can you give a brief discussion on the timeline of this period?
- (10) Is there any record of magnetic anomalies recorded for the period? If not, why?

Grading metrics of the term paper (total 16 points)

- ☐ less than 10 pages of letter size 8.5*11 (0.5 point)
 - ☐ Normal Margin (0.5 point)
 - ☐ Double-spaced (0.5 point)
 - ☐ 12-point Times New Roman Font (0.5 point)
 - ☐ Is this paper narrated smoothly (1 point)
 - ☐ Written as third person? Avoid using "I", "My", and "We". (1 point)
 - ☐ Fully addressed the ten questions in proper American English? (1 point each question, 10 points)
 - ☐ Are your claims supported by evidence? (1 point)
 - ☐ Use reference properly in APA style? (1 point)
 - ☐ Used Turnitin (a tool for detecting plagiarism) on Moodle to check your paper?
- (Warning: a plagiarized full sentence without proper quotation will nuke the whole term paper.)

Presentation, a scientific argument, will focus on a specific topic pertinent to your term paper.

Planning (The Craft of Research, 4th edition, by Wayne C. Booth)

- “1. Find a topic specific enough to let you master a reasonable amount of information on it in the time you have.”
- “2. Question that topic until you find questions that catch your interest.”
- “3. Determine the kinds of evidence your readers will expect you to offer in support of your answer.”
- “4. Determine whether you can find the evidence. There’s no point researching a topic unless you have a good chance of finding the right kind of evidence.”

Making Good Arguments (See Chapter 7 of The Craft of Research)

- “1. **Claim**: What do you want me to believe? What’s your point?”
- “2. **Reasons**: Why do you say that? Why should I agree?”
- “3. **Evidence**: How do you know? Can you back it up?”
- “4. **Acknowledgment and Response**: But what about ...?”
- “5. **Warrant**: How does that follow? What’s your logic? Can you explain your reasoning?”

Structure of your presentation

Cover page (course name, your title, your name),
introduction,
claim,
evidence,
acknowledgment and response,
and bibliography or reference (APA style).

Delivery

10 MINUTES talk through Zoom meeting on **April 28 during class hours**.

Alternatively, student can submit pre-recorded lectures and slides by **April 28 11:59PM**.

Presentations on Zoom will be recorded and shared in the class for feedback.

Grading metrics of the presentation (16 points)

- ☐ Structural integrity 4 pts
- ☐ Logical coherence 4 pts
- ☐ Verbal clarity 4 pts
- ☐ Visually acceptable 4 pts

Anonymous feedback (2 points)

Each student will evaluate others’ presentations and submit evaluation form to **Moodle** by **May 2 11:59PM**.
The feedback will be collected and given back to each speaker without disclosing reviewers’ identity.

Please include your name, speaker’s name, talk title, and answers for the following two questions:

- (1) What is your favorite part of this talk?
- (2) If you were the speaker, is there anything you would have done differently?

Mini video (Extra Credit, 8 points)

1 minute. Must be original, audible, and readable with necessary credit and reference. Please submit your video to **Moodle** in 1080P format (1080P: 1920x1080 resolution). All videos will enter public domain (e.g. on YouTube as public listing).

Guideline for video

- ☐ Articulated (3 points)
- ☐ Neat visual (3 points)
- ☐ One-minute (1 point)
- ☐ 1080P (1 point)
- ☐ Funny and creative. (4 points)
- ☐ Bottomline: explain one concept pertinent to your given topic. This concept can a historical event (mass extinction), a famous rock formation, a type of fossil, etc. Otherwise, extra credit will not be counted.

Letter grades will be assigned from the final numerical score according to the scale below:

Letter	Min%	Max%
A+	97	100
A	93	96.99
A-	90	92.99
B+	87	89.99
B	83	86.99
B-	80	82.99
C+	77	79.99
C	73	76.99
C-	70	72.99
D+	67	69.99
D	63	66.99
D-	60	62.99
F	0	59.99

This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.

Lab Schedule and Deadlines

You must read the “pre-lab reading” assignment *prior* to the lab each week. You will have a quiz at the start of each lab period consisting of materials from the pre-lab reading and the previous lab (except week 1). Your lab assignments will consist of materials from the lab manual as well as occasional handouts from your instructor.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the class and schedule during the semester as necessary for the smooth functioning of the class.

Due Date	Lab	Lab Topic(s)	Pages
March 31	7	Fossil Indicators of Age, Environment, and Correlation	
April 7	8	Sea-Floor Spreading and Plate Tectonics Igneous Rocks	181-200
April 14	9	A Brief Survey of the Vertebrates	165-180
April 21	10	Synthesis: Global Climate Change & Mass Extinctions	
April 28		Presentation	
May 2		Anonymous feedback, Term Paper, and mini-video (extra credit)	

Make-up exam schedule: The student must provide the appropriate documentation of an excused absence and is responsible for coordinating the make-up exam date/time with the instructor.