

OXFORD COLLEGE
Geology 141 - Physical Geology
Fall 2006

GOALS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GEOLOGY 141:

Geology 141 (Physical Geology) has been designed for either the geology/environmental studies major or for a student who wants an interesting laboratory science course as part of their liberal arts education. As such, no prior background is assumed or necessary; just a desire to learn and an interest in the natural world. Some of the key elements in the study of geology include the scientific method and observational skills. The course will introduce those early in the semester and continue to reinforce them throughout the rest of the term. At the end of the course students will understand how the scientific method applies to geology. Their observational skills will be considerably improved through the analysis of mineral and rock specimens and landscape features. The study of the Earth brings in a number of the other sciences that have a bearing on geology. Concepts of physics are relevant to plate tectonics, the generation of magma, and metamorphic rocks. Students will see how pressures within the Earth influence these processes. Chemistry is especially useful in the understanding of minerals, rocks, and weathering. Students will gain knowledge of basic chemistry as it is applied to mineral and rock composition and how it relates to weathering. Basic mathematical skills will be mastered in the use and analysis of topographic maps. Physical geology involves the study of the building materials of the Earth. Students will understand minerals and be able to identify some. Students will understand how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks form and be able to identify a suite of them. The course also involves the internal processes of the Earth. As such, students will understand plutonism, volcanism, structural deformation, and earthquakes. Surface processes are also important in physical geology and students will gain knowledge of weathering, stream processes, glaciation, and coastal processes. Finally, it is my hope that at the end of the course, students will have developed a deep appreciation for the planet that we live on through an understanding of its geologic nature.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Instructor:	Dr. Stephen W. Henderson
Office:	106 Pierce Hall
Office Phone:	(770) 784-8345
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00, Tuesday 9:30 – 12:00, and other times by appointment or walk-in's. I'm usually in my office and appreciate the opportunity to meet with you.

Text: Tarbuck and Lutgens, 2002, The Earth, 8th ed.

Lab Manual: Busch (ed.), 2005, Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, 8th ed., (AGI/NAGT).

Organization: The class will meet for lecture three times each week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30. Laboratory meets from 2:30 – 5:30 on Tuesdays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING METHODS:

Attendance: All students are expected to attend all scheduled lecture and laboratory sessions. Attendance will be taken. No cuts are allowed in lab. Students who have an unexcused absence in lab will have their final course grade reduced three points per absence. Lab quizzes cannot be made up. A student who has four or fewer lecture absences for the entire semester will receive the addition of two points to the final course average. There are no excused absences. Students having six or more lecture absences will have their final course grade reduced one point per absence starting with the sixth absence.

Being late to class is rude and distracting. Therefore, three tardies will be considered equal to one absence. If you come in more than 15 minutes tardy, you will be counted absent. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to see me immediately after class to ensure that you are marked tardy and not absent. No adjustments will be made at a later time. If you are continuously tardy, you may be excluded from further classroom attendance. When you are in class, you must be attentive and not disturb others. Leaving a class early, counts as an absence as does sleeping through a class or being generally inattentive.

Class Etiquette: In class, you should be concentrating on learning. Anything that distracts from this is contrary to the educational process. Therefore, cell phones are to be turned off and can not be used in class or lab (including as calculators). Bring a calculator to lab. For the same reason, food and drink are not allowed in class.

Grading System: Geology 141 will use the plus-minus grading system. The distribution of grades is as follows:

A(4.0) 93-100	C+(2.3) 77-79
A-(3.7) 90-92	C(2.0) 73-76
B+(3.3) 87-89	C-(1.7) 70-72
B(3.0) 83-86	D+(1.3) 67-69
B-(2.7) 80-82	D(1.0) 60-66
	F 59 and below

Evaluation: Lecture work will comprise 50% of your final average, laboratory will comprise 45% and class participation in the entire class is 5%. It is broken down as follows:

Highest Two Half-Tests	20%
(Lowest half-test grade is dropped)	
Lecture half-test #1 on 9/18	
Lecture half-test #2 on 10/6	
Lecture half-test #3 on 11/15	

Lecture Test on 10/23	15%
Final Exam 12/19 @ 2:00	15%
Weekly Lab Quizzes (best 7 of 9)	15%
Lab Exam #1 on 10/31	15%
Lab Exam #2 on 12/12	15%
Class Participation	5%

APPLICATION OF HONOR CODE TO GEOLOGY 141:

The Honor Code of Oxford College applies to Geology 141. All quizzes, tests, and exams will be done individually with no non-sanctioned additional materials or help. The laboratory exercises can be done with other students and with the instructor's help. If you are unsure whether or not an action may result in an honor code violation, ask the instructor first. The Honor Code at Oxford College is quite serious.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic for the Week</u>	<u>Text Assignments</u>
W 8/30 F 9/1	Introduction, Basic Principles, and Geologic Time	Chapters 1 & 9
W 9/6 F 9/8	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2
M 9/11 W 9/13 F 9/15		
M 9/18 W 9/20 F 9/22	Lecture Half-Test #1 Minerals	Chapter 3
M 9/25 W 9/27 F 9/29	Igneous Rocks & Plutonic Activity	Chapter 4 & 5
M 10/2 W 10/4 F 10/6	Lecture Half-Test #2	
W 10/11 F 10/13	Volcanic Activity	Chapter 5
M 10/16 W 10/18 F 10/20	Weathering & Soil	Chapter 6
M 10/23 W 10/25 F 10/27	Lecture Test No Class Crustal Deformation	Chapter 10

M 10/30		
W 11/1		
F 11/3	Running Water	Chapter 16
M 11/6		
W 11/8		
F 11/10		
M 11/13	Glaciation	Chapter 18
W 11/15	Lecture Half-Test #3	
F 11/17		
M 11/20		
M 11/27	Shorelines	Chapter 20
W 11/29		
F 12/1		
M 12/4		
W 12/6	Earthquakes	Chapter 11
F 12/8		
M 12/11		

LABORATORY SCHEDULE FOR GEOLOGY 141:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Tue.</u>	<u>Exercises</u>	<u>Quiz at end of Lab?</u>
1	9/5	Observations and Scientific Method	No
2	9/12	#2 Plate Tectonics	Yes
3	9/19	#3 Minerals	Yes
4	9/26	#5, 6, 7 Rocks	Yes (on #5)
5	10/3	#5, 6, 7 Rocks	Yes (on # 6 & 7)
6	10/17	#9 Topo Maps	Yes
7	10/31	Lab Exam #1	
8	11/7	#10 Geologic Structures	Yes
9	11/14	#11 Stream Processes	Yes
10	11/28	#15 Coastal Processes	Yes
11	12/5	#16 Earthquakes	Yes
12	12/12	Lab Exam #2	