

Geology 100
Spring 2011
1:00 – 2:15PM T/Th, 106 Bently Hall

Instructor: Penny Nicely, nicelyp@wnc.edu

Office hours: Douglas, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 5:00PM 102 Bently Hall

Contact instructor: Via email at the address above, or call and leave a message at the Douglas Campus (782-2413). E-mails will be answered when received. Please reference the course number (i.e. Geology 100) in the subject line. Phone messages will be picked up T-Th only – phone messages left Friday will not be received until the following Tuesday.

Text: *Physical Geology: Earth Revealed*, Carlson, Plummer, McGearly any Edition (7th or 8th preferred)

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course investigates the dynamic earth; natural hazards and catastrophes and the geology of natural resources. It meets three credits for Science Group A requirement for a WNC AA or AS Degree and the 3 credit Science requirement for the AGS Degree. It is a program elective for the Geoscience Emphasis. It may be transferred. Additional information may be found through the course listing in the WNC online catalog.

Course Objectives: Students will have the opportunity to learn factual information (terminology, classifications, methods, trends), fundamental principles and generalized theories about the earth – specifically, earthquakes, volcanoes, natural disasters, and geologic resources.

Reading Assignments/Lecture

Note: Chapters are to be read **before** coming to class.

Date	Topic	
January 25	Course introduction and Chapter 1	
27	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	
February 1	Chapter 3- 4	Plate Tectonics
3	Chapter 4 cont	
8	Lab Exercise 1.	
10	Chapter 6	Tectonic Forces
15	Chapter 7	Earthquakes
17	Earthquake Profiles	
22	Chapter 9	Minerals & Rocks
24	Lab Exercise 2	
March 1	Exam 1	
3	Chapter 10 -11	Igneous activity
8	Chapter 11 cont.	
10	Volcano Profiles	
15	Lab Exercise 3	
17	Chapters 12-13	Mass Wasting/Landslides
21/25	Spring Break	
29	Chapter 20	Coastal Erosion
31	Exam 2	

April	5	Mass Wasting Profiles	
	7	Chapter 16	Streams and Floods
	12	Chapter 16 cont.	Lab Exercise 4
	14	Chapter 17	Groundwater/Sinkholes
	19	Flood/Sinkhole Profiles	
	21	Chapter 21	Geologic Resources
	26	Work on Papers – no class	
May	28	Paper Presentations	All papers due
	3	Paper Presentations	
	5	Paper Presentations	
	10	Review	
	12	Review	
	17	Final	

Classroom Rules: Class starts on time. If you come in late please do so quietly. Turn off all electronic devices including cell phones – no talking or texting during class.

Course Structure: Class will consist of lectures with time allowed at the end for questions. There will be 4 lab experiences throughout the semester to help reinforce the material presented. Labs will be worth 50 points each and must be done in class. **There is no make-up for the labs.**

There will be three exams. Exam questions will be of the short answer variety – no multiple guess or T/F. Where asked, you will be expected to write complete answers in proper English using the correct terms as presented in class. Exams will be worth 150 points each. Exams 1 & 2 may be made up within one week of the exam date with a -10 point penalty assessed providing you have made arrangements **ahead of time** with the instructor. Emailing or calling the morning of the exam is **not** “ahead of time”. Exams 1 and 2 may be taken early by arrangement with no penalty. Exam 3 is the final and must be taken as scheduled. No make up will be allowed for Exam 3. Cheating in any form during the semester will result in a failing grade in the course. Any student with special testing needs as determined by counseling should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss arrangements.

100 points will be given for the class project which will consist of a research paper on an historic natural disaster from the list provided. Selection of topic will be on a first come first served basis. Topic selection must be made before the first exam or it will be assigned. 10 points of the 100 for this paper will be assessed based on the use of correct English grammar, sentence structure and the proper use of terminology. The paper will be a minimum of 5 pages long, typed, double spaced, standard formats will apply; margins may not exceed 1 inch. 10% of the paper grade will be on the correct use of English grammar and spelling. In addition you will have a complete list of references (5 minimum) that have been used. Note that Wikipedia and Answer.com are NOT suitable references. The college has several online databases with excellent reference material. You would be well advised to make use of this resource which is available from your home computer. Quotes from references are permitted as long as they are correctly cited and do not make up a major portion of the paper. Everyone will give a 5 – 10 minute summary presentation to the class at the end of the semester on their chosen topic. The presentation is required, but will only affect the 100 possible points if you fail to do it. Failure to present will result in an automatic loss of 50 points. Presenting without turning in your paper will result in 0 points for the project. Plagiarism on the paper will result in a loss of the 100 possible points and a failing grade for the entire course.

50 points are given for attendance and participation. 5 points will be deducted from the 50 for each absence beginning with the third (you get the first two free).

Extra Credit: None – this is college. You need to spend your time learning the assigned material, not depending on other work to make the grade.

Grading: Note: No W's will be given in this class. If you think you are not achieving the grade you want, it is your responsibility to withdraw before the deadline.

4 Labs (50points each)	200 points	800 – 720 = A
3 exams (150points each)	450 points	719 – 640 = B
Paper/presentation	100 points	639 – 584 = C
Attendance & Participation	<u>50 points</u>	583 – 504 = D
Total	800 points	503 - = F

Grading example:

At the beginning of the class you have 800 points. You got the full 50 points on each of the first two Labs, and on the first exam you receive 132/150 (88%). You then have 782 points – still an A. You earn 127/150 (85%) on the second exam. You then have 759 – Still an A. You've come to class and participated so your 50 points are probably not in danger. You can lose a total of 39 points on the remaining labs, the paper and the final and still keep your A, but at this point you will be wishing you had studied more in the beginning. Don't wait!! Remember, the points you end up with determine your grade at the end of the semester. **Once you lose them, the points are gone**, so study now and ask questions on anything that isn't clear. **It is not advisable in this course to wait until late in the semester and hope to "pull it out" at the final – it won't happen.**